

AIM HIGH

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Leadership Excellence Starts Here

FREAK from Page 12

protection. The next exhibition confirmed our suspicions that bigger is better when it comes to freaky animals. Not to be upstaged by a measly rodent, the Giant "Alive, yes, alive!" Killer snakes "from the death pits of Vietnam" were sixteen feet long and weighed 150 pounds. But anyone who could prove that Bloody Mama ("Able to swallow a child whole!") and friends were not alive would win \$10,000.

The next exhibit featured the World's Smallest Sisters. At "28 inches small," these 45- and 47-year-old siblings would have made easy prey for their reptilian neighbors.

For two coupons, these little ladies "will meet and greet each one of you. You'll remember these little ladies a long, long, time to come" promised the loudspeaker.

She may have been full-sized, but "voluptuous centerfold model" Robin Marks was lacking something -- and that something was a head.

After colliding with a semi-truck, Robin unfortunately was decapitated, bringing her career to a screeching halt. But through "the miracle of science," doctors managed to give the lovely glamour gal a chance to model the midways of the Midwest, minus her head.

Although the loudspeaker assured us that "she is still ALIVE!" the writing by the door revealed that Robin was simply "an amazingly real illusion." Was she a motorized mannequin in a wheelchair? Or just a skinny woman in a nasty protester dress in a wheelchair with a bag over her head? You decide.

Clustered toward the far end of the midway were the freak galleries, virtual museums of nature gone wrong. "Look! Look!" commanded the loudspeakers. "If Freaks of Nature offend you, please, do not enter." One of the freak galleries featured replicas of such amazing oddities as the Elephant Man, Ubangi savages and the Little People of Australia. For three coupons, one could thrill to

mannequins molded and costumed to look like the pages of National Geographic gone 3-D. Also included in the admission charge was the Alaskan King Crab, surprisingly similar to its cooked cousins as seen at Red Lobster.

Across the midway was another freak gallery that was a menagerie of "Amazing animals from around the world." A combination of living domesticated animals and stuffed and embalmed animal freaks (like the two-headed pig from Georgia jammed into a jar), this was a case for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals if there ever was one.

One sign inside the gallery said: "Have fun -- feed the animals!" One could wonder if this was the only food the Zonkey (half-zebra, half-donkey) and the elephant dog would get. Evidently, the species most prone to genetic mutation are goats, for the gallery featured several, including the Dumbo Goat ("You'll get a chuckle out of the old dumbo goat"). And once again, another giant rat from South America, actually a capybara, a large guinea pig-like critter from the rain forest. There were other instances of capitalizing on people's ignorance of zoology. For example, the half-turkey, half-chicken looked remarkably like a guinea hen. According to the loudspeaker, "You know most of these animals are alive because you can smell the aroma outside." We could, and it was the stink of sad animals forced to spend their sorry freakish lives on display.

Our appetites for the odd sated, we left the sideshow for an encounter with the nutritional freaks of nature, sno-cones and cotton candy.

The Hipsters return Saturday

From Staff Reports

The Hipsters, a veteran Nebraska bar band, is back for a return engagement at Bash Riprocks Friday and Saturday night. Drummer Gary Kathol says his band has gained popularity across the state by playing a mixture of familiar covers as well as lesser known tunes.

"We play all of the danceable covers that the college crowd likes, but we also do some songs that most people aren't aware of, but that they end up liking," he said. "We think that we have something to offer alternative-music fans as well."

Kathol formed the band four years ago with his brother Kevin on bass and cousin Vern, the group's lead guitarist. This summer, rhythm-guitar backing by yet another cousin, Chris Kathol, was added to complete the family affair.

The Hipsters have played in Omaha, Kearney and various small towns. They were well-received at Bash's last month, doing faithful covers of R.E.M., Replacements and BoDeans.

Kathol says he hopes that those who caught the band's last performance in Lincoln will come to see it again. He describes Lincoln crowds as being very appreciative.

Skate park opens

From Staff Reports

Lincoln's first indoor skate park, Fast Ramp Skate Park, opened Friday at 201 West P St.

The park, located in a warehouse, contains a 10-foot high ramp with a one-foot declension, a six-foot ramp and a spine ramp with a roll-through. A snack bar and video arcade are housed in the park.

The park is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and school holidays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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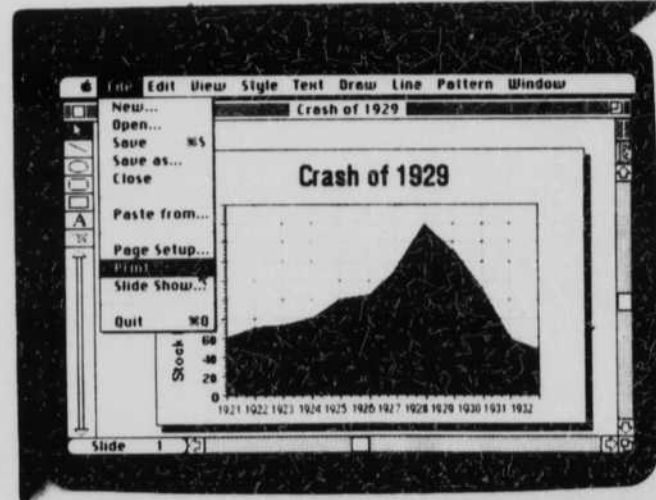
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