

It's hard to be intellectual

It's getting pretty damn hard to be an intellectual these days.

It suddenly no longer seems hip to admit that you laugh at subtle humor, weep at art exhibits or enjoy watching PBS.

Case in point, the most hotly debated issue to hit this campus in many years: Jim's Journal.

Now, I've already made it clear that I like this pedestrian little comic strip. Although it occasionally stinks, I usually find it a humorous, insightful day brightener.

Unfortunately, I learned that I probably only like Jim's Journal because I'm a pretentious, haughty, Birkenstock-wearing, pseudo-intellectual. Rats.

And I thought I liked it because it was funny.

Somehow, somewhere along the line, it became cool to admit that you aren't an intellectual. Many have become pretentious about not being pretentious.

I personally don't consider myself an intellectual. I do like Jim's Journal, and my SAT scores were OK, but I fail to meet many of the other intellectual criteria.

For instance, I haven't seen a movie at the Sheldon Art Gallery for more than a year. I also don't know how to play backgammon. And most importantly, I don't like going into the Coffee House, the litmus test for intellectuals in this city. I'd rather buy a Pepsi from a machine than shell out mucho bucks for pricey Sanka.

Intelligence has very little to do with being an intellectual. Some of the dumbest people I know are members of the intelligentsia.

If you really want to know if you qualify as an intellectual, answer the following questions. Don't worry, there are no right answers. Just answer the questions honestly and by the end, you should have a pretty clear idea as to

whether you qualify as a full-fledged, red-blooded intellectual.

1. I thought the movie "Dangerous Liaisons" was:

A) a beautiful, well-crafted film that moved me to my intellectual core.
B) a tedious, hard to follow movie that put me to sleep (but the



Jim Hanna

costumes were pretty cool).

2. I've always wanted to visit:

A) Paris, in the springtime.
B) Akron, during the soap box derby.

3. The comic strip Beetle Bailey:

A) is a juvenile exercise in simplemindedness that glorifies the military.
B) makes me laugh 'til I pee my pants.

4. My favorite humorists are:

A) Art Buchwald, Donald Kaul and Steve Allen.
B) Larry, Moe and Curly.

5. I find MENSA to be:

A) an invaluable organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of the intellectually superior.
B) What's MENSA?

6. In noting the impact of thinkers like Rousseau, Descartes and Marx on current fluctuations in the philosophical infrastructure of Eastern Europe:

A) we find that this impact is inexorably linked with political trends in the developing nations of South America.
B) Huh?

7. The most underrated television program is:

A) The MacNeil/Lehrer News hour (although I generally do not approve of television).
B) that one show that Scott Baio and Willie Ames star in . . . oh, what's that called . . . um . . . "Charles in the Lead" or "Charles is the Head" or something.

8. I find Monster Truck Racing to be:

A) a pointless waste of increasingly scarce fossil fuels.
B) just plain awesome.

9. The capitol of Great Britain is:

A) London.
B) Russia.

10. If I won a million dollars in a lottery I would:

A) donate 10 percent to charity and write it off on my tax returns and invest the rest in high-yield money markets and tax-deferred IRAs.
B) blow it.

To score, give yourself five points for each question to which you answered "B" and zero points for each time you selected "A." Add it up. If you can't add it up, you're probably not an intellectual. If you can, figure your score on a scale from 0 to 50.

The closer you are to zero, the more likely that you're an intellectual. A perfect 50 means you're nowhere near intellectual status. The ideal score is somewhere around 30 to 35 . . . this means you're probably a normal, well-adjusted human. Congratulations.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU DRINK



Paul Chandler/Daily Nebraskan



Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

Low ticket sales prompt cancellation of 'Remote Control,' producer says

By Gretchen Boehr
Senior Reporter

"Remote Control" cancelled tonight's performance at Lincoln's Pershing Municipal Auditorium due to lack of ticket sales, according to Lisa Protter, producer and tour manager for the show.

The hit MTV game show's "Out of the Basement Tour" performance in Nebraska was cancelled in a joint decision between the show's promoter, Contemporary Productions, and producer, MEGA, Protter said.

Protter blamed lack of time to promote the show as the reason for low ticket sales.

"It was a last-minute thing," Protter said.

"All of a sudden we found the University of Nebraska-Lincoln wanted to have the show and we tried

to accommodate them," she said. "We tried to make it work, but we just didn't have enough time."

"When booking the show in Lincoln we thought we could do it, but sometimes in trying to accommodate everyone you make a mistake."

--Protter

Protter said "Remote Control" relies on a large audience.

"A large audience is very important to the show because we have a lot of audience participation," she said.

The audience cheers for its favorite contestants who are strapped to recliners and answer off-the-wall questions about TV sitcoms and other wacky subjects.

During the "Out of the Basement Tour," 18 students from local universities are chosen as contestants, Protter said.

Sometimes audience members are chosen to ask the contestants questions, Protter said.

"And at one part of the show the stars, Ken Ober and Colin Quinn, come down and get everyone in the audience to dance and sing," she said.

"Remote Control" cannot be re-

See REMOTE on 7

UNL faculty member learns from teaching, performing

By Stacey McKenzie
Staff Reporter

Professor Larry Lusk said of all the places he has performed -- from New York to Washington -- Lincoln is his favorite stage.

music PREVIEW

"The concerts I care about the most are the ones in Lincoln, because my friends and colleagues will be there," said Lusk, a piano professor and associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

Lusk will be featured in part three of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Recital Series tonight in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. The 8 p.m. concert is free and open to the public.

Although Lusk plays on television and across the United States, he said he still gets just as nervous and still plays just as well.

"Every concert is a special affair," he said.

Lusk teaches a class called The Arts Today, which is about the latest in dance, theater, art, music and architecture. Having performed in about 30 faculty recitals, he said he likes a combination of performing and teaching.

"I like performing because I like communicating feelings and strong points," he said. "I like teaching because it keeps me sharp and keeps me with the kids. I learn as much from

teaching as I do from playing."

Lusk said he practices an average of three hours a day and that concert preparation takes the same kind of mental strength an athlete or comic would need.

"The No. 1 thing is to have it in your head, your fingers, and your heart," he said.

Lusk said his style is one of communication.

"It's a challenge to make things happen the way you want them to happen," he said. "You always have a mental picture. If the audience is quiet, you know you're coming across."

In his years of experience, Lusk said he has had pianos move on stage during performances and he once had two strings tied together while playing in a concert in Grand Island. He didn't quit, though.

"The name of the game is to just keep on going," he said.

Tonight's performance will include a work titled "Tarantella", which was dedicated to Lusk by Randall Snyder, professor of theory/composition. Also featured will be a Prelude by Bach, a Mozart Sonata in F major, Images by Debussy and three works by Chopin.

In choosing what to play, Lusk said he picks something he has been dying to play and builds around it. He said he chose the work by Debussy called "Reflections in the Water" because it sounds like raindrops falling.

"Hopefully they (the audience) will forget that I'm up there and will just listen to the music," he said. "I'm playing some beautiful stuff."