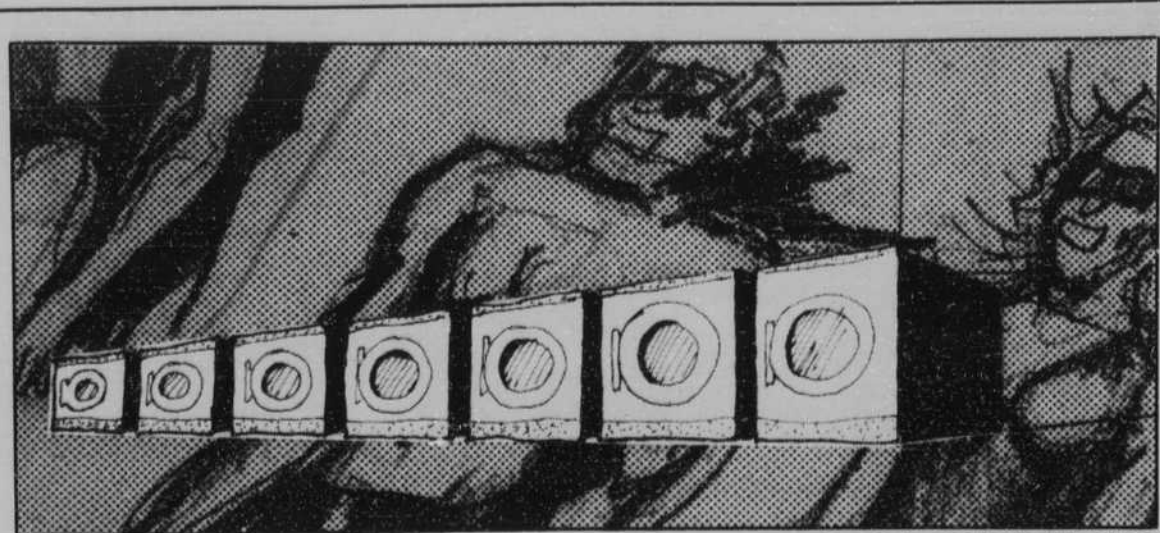


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Tan, tone at Laundryland

Amusements galore to be found

By Michael Deeds
Senior Editor

I've never really understood the appeal of exercise equipment in the middle of a laundry joint. It takes me every ounce of energy I can muster just to drag myself to the stupid place.

But when you stagger into Laundryland, 56th and Holdrege streets, that's what greets you. A big door that leads to the jungle gym stuff, plus, oooh, tanning beds for the sorority types.

These taut tanners take off all their clothes, toss them in the washer, then streak up to the tanning beds where they can relax in their fried nudity. At least that's how I imagine it happens.

I didn't see anybody naked when I was there, but heck, I didn't look. I was too busy demolishing all previous high scores on "Space Shuttle," a primitive but all-too-easy pinball

machine.

A few other nameless hunks of arcadia hang there, too, along with a pool table and about 500,000 washers and dryers, a drive-in size television, a snack

... taut tanners take off all their clothes, toss them in the washer, then streak up to the tanning beds ...

bar, a giant statue of a monkey, too many little TVs and some guy sweeping whose hair was too short to be pulled back.

I guess he felt cool.

But the bottom line on Laundryland is this: The King. This place is probably the biggest,

plushiest laundry place in town. It glows it's so clean, and little neon signs decorate the pastel interior.

And the best part is the digital washers -- robot washing machines -- that tell you exactly how much time is left in green LED lights. Flash Gordon does his laundry here.

And if the awful complexity of the dazzling future sends you reeling, take refuge in the "non-smoking quiet room." It's small, it's quiet, and it's glass, so everyone can look in at you and wonder what your problem is.

The washers are 75 cents, the dryers are 25 cents for 10 minutes, and overall, the place would need a mob to be crowded. There's plenty of stuff to keep you busy, and if you want to clean your clothes, you might as well do it in style.

And who knows what you'll see scurrying by on the way to that tanning room ...

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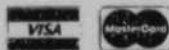


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TVs, stucco make City Laundry

By Jennifer Johnson
Staff Reporter

I have a laundry fetish. I think it's due to the fact that I used to sit in the dryer and spin when I was a child. This was not an activity condoned by my parents, but something I did secretly and managed to live through.

Sitting at City Laundry at 11th & Cornhusker Highway on Sunday (not in the dryer), I thought about how much I miss doing laundry at my parents' house. But, because my parents moved from Omaha to New York, I've faced the fact that it's Laundromats or nothing.

I've made my rounds in the Lincoln Laundromat circle, and City Laundry compares to the other modern laundry "meccas."

City Laundry's pink stucco exterior is easily spotted off Cornhusker Highway. The interior is equally as trendy and southwestern looking with its peach, blue and green walls and peach speckled Formica counters. Now how many moms have that atmosphere in their laundry rooms?

As has become the standard in popular laundromats, there are

televisions at each end of the washers at City Laundry -- equipped with cable of course.

I loved the luxury of having a television in front of my face while I waited for my clothes, but there was one small problem; not everyone watched the same channel so there was a volume war between the family watching the Charlie Brown special and the guys watching MTV. Liquid Tide take me away!

City Laundry's facilities at the Cornhusker location included 40 spinning dryers, 32 regular washers, ten double loaders, two heavy weights and vending machines on the side wall. (This kind of works with "The Twelve Days of Christmas" tune).

I was at the Laundromat at 5 p.m. and there were only 20 people there, so I didn't have to wait at all. The customers at that time were about 90 percent families -- families with children. But who doesn't love to watch kids having a spitting contest while they wait for their laundry?

City Laundry's prices are comparable to other laundromats. Washers are 75 cents and dryers are 25

cents for 10 minutes. But, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday, washers are only 50 cents at the Cornhusker location.

There are four other City Laundry locations in Lincoln, at 111 N. 27 St., 1547 S. 17 St., 1805 S. 9 St. and 6024 Havelock. None are as fancy as the newest one on Cornhusker, but all are clean and in convenient areas of the city. There are televisions at all locations except for Havelock, so go there to avoid the volume wars!

Basic prices at all locations are the same, but Cornhusker is the only location currently advertising 50 cents wash during the week.

City Laundry on Cornhusker is open from 7 a.m. to midnight, 17th Street and 27th Street from 6 a.m. to 1 a.m., Havelock from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 9th Street from 6 a.m. to midnight.

I will continue to envy the people who leave my apartment every weekend to do their laundry at home where they can leisurely do it for FREE, but I'm not bitter. I can go to City Laundry and wash my clothes -- even though I can't sit in the dryer.