Dance concert to examine musical impressions

By Jim Hanna
Staff Reporter

The qualities that music can bring to the ear are often translated into images that can delight the eyes.

With that truth firmly tucked into their toe shoes, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Contemporary Dance Theater plunges into their first dance concert of the year, "Images of Jazz."

The varied sounds of jazz music will accompany 25 UNL dancers who take to the Howell Theater stage this Thursday, guided by the choreography of dance faculty members Lisa Fusillo, Dee Hughes and Laura Milan.

Fusillo, who is the head of the dance program, said that the concert, through dance, takes a look at the varied impressions created by jazz music.

"(The concert) was a vehicle to not only explore different dance styles for the students to experience, but the jazz itself has quite a variety of styles within that medium and these are all explorations of how the jazz music can be interpreted and what images can be evoked from that jazz," she said.

The images evoked for the choreographers translate into several pieces crafted independently by each. While the choreographers worked alone on each piece, they have all come together for one concert that celebrates the distinctly American sound of jazz.

"All the pieces are still independent," Milan said. "The only thing that's whole is that they appear on the same program."

As an example of the type of dance the concert presents, Milan offered her piece entitled "Solifluxion."

"Solifluxion is a geological term that refers to the action of gravity on dirt particles on a hillside," Milan said. "So if you break down the word, it's the flow of solids as opposed to the flow of liquids, so the piece is about a slow and controlled giving in to the inevitable force of gravity."

The piece is performed to the jazz

dance PREVIEW

of Miles Davis, but the style used is modern dance as opposed to the more regimented style implied by jazz dance, Fusillo said.

"Everything has a jazz base musically, but you're going to see very, very different things movement wise," Fusillo said. "We want to give the students an opportunity to perform varied styles."

In adapting these varied dance styles to the music, each choreographer worked alone using her own techniques to create a piece. Hughes, a professor of folk dance, has a specific method she often uses when choreographing.

"The way I work is I try to get an idea of how it (a piece of music) begins, what's going to happen and how it might conclude," she said. "I need to know how much music I have, what the phrasing is like where the accents are, where the dynamics are so I have a whole sense of the whole piece before I even start to choreograph."

Hughes said that she doesn't always start with a piece of music and create the dance based on that music. Sometimes, the process is the exact opposite, beginning with a concept for the movement and finding the music to go along with it. This was the process Milan used for "Solifluxion."

"I had the idea for 'Solifluxion' and then I had to find the music that was appropriate to the idea," she said. "That sometimes takes a long search but other times you hear the music and it inspires you what to do."

Regardless of the process used to generate the movement, each choreographer worked alone while always remembering the entirety of the desired finished product. At times, this led to one choreographer making suggestions for improvement to another, Fusillo said.

"Sometimes I find it very invigorating to collaborate in that way," she said. "Other times I find — or Laura might find — in a piece like this (Solifluxion) that her idea needs to follow her own intention and therefore a secondary collaboration is really not warranted."

Some of the UNL students who make up the dancing corps appear in more than one piece. Working with three different professors using a variety of choreographic techniques could lead to frustration for a dancer but such was not the case for UNL sophomore, Jim Benson.

"I take things lightly," he said. "I'll do anything a choreographer asks me to do and I'll put 100 percent into anything she wants me to do."

In addition to varied dance and choreographic styles, the cast of "Images of Jazz" is also quite varied both in terms of skill level and academic major. Only about half of the performers are dance majors, Fusillo said.

"It really enhances the whole spirit of the program to have a unified group, no matter what your major, that are there to work toward the goal of performance," she said.

"Images of Jazz" runs Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Temple Building's Howell Theater, 12th and R streets. Tickets may be reserved by calling the University Theater and Dance box office.

Brian Shellito/Daily Nebraskan

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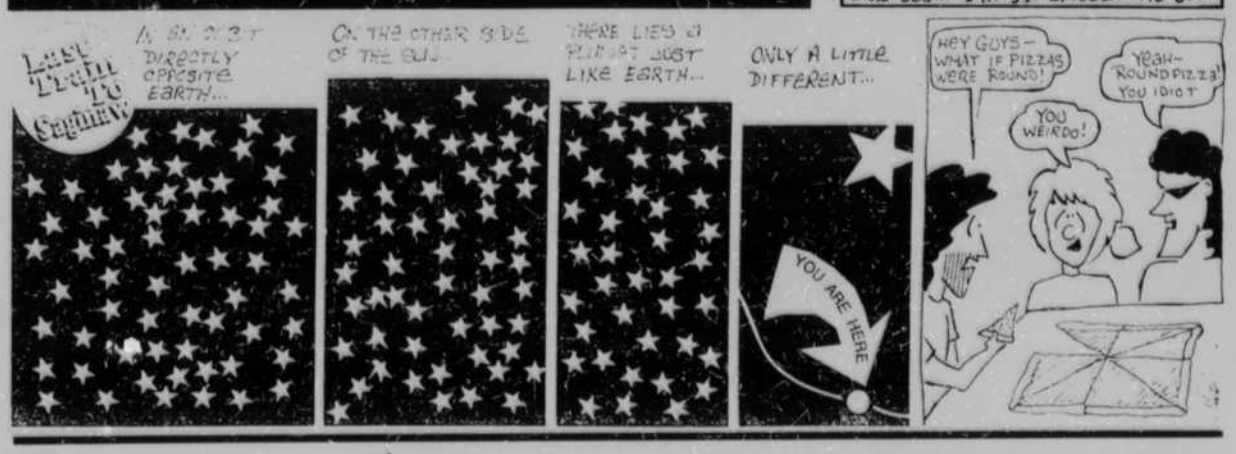
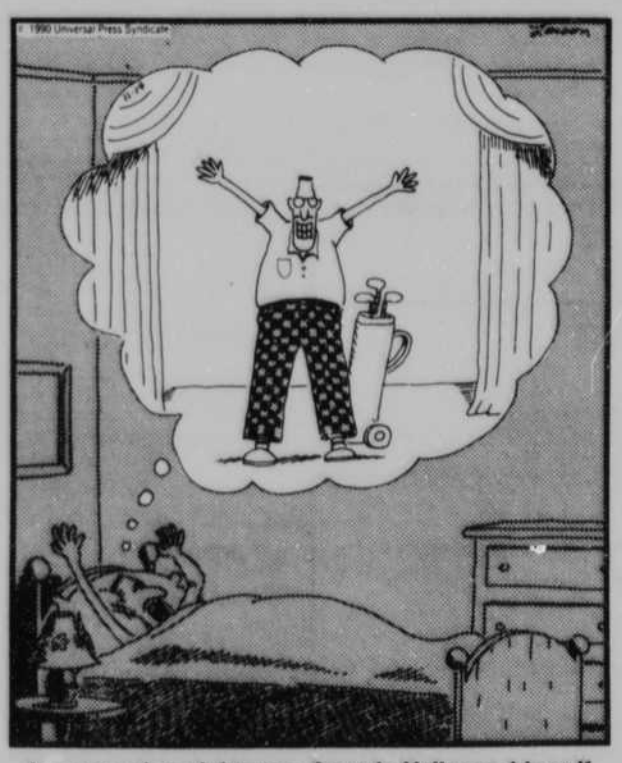
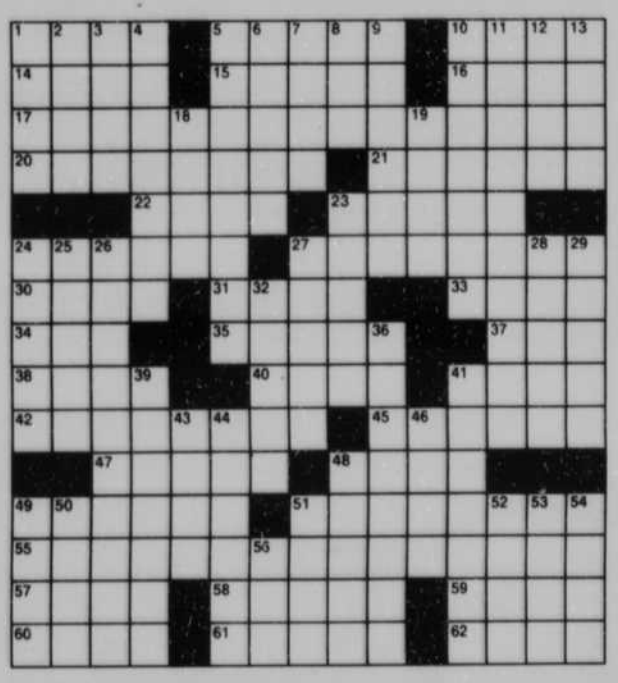


THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



In a recurring nightmare, Arsenio Hall sees himself walk onstage wearing golf clothes.

Crossword | Edited by Eugene T. Maleska



ACROSS

1 Deride
5 Princely
10 Zoomed
14 Magnum ——
15 Related through the mother
16 Al Jolson's last wife
17 Statement heard at the track
20 Cleveland or Duluth
21 TV fare
22 Defensive alliance since 1949
23 Kitchen tool
24 Soothsayer
27 Not quite a score
30 Honshu port
31 Fitted with pumps
33 —— - Coburg
34 "I love," to 25 Down
35 Clammers' concerns
37 Secure
38 Norms for Greg Norman
40 Use a coachman
41 Anna ——, first wife of Ziegfeld
42 Monogram
45 Lodgings
47 —— dancer, railroad-track layer
48 Flopsy's tail
49 Strong beer in Soho
51 Wall protector
55 Surprise champions, like the 1969 Mets
57 Azzazame, e.g.
58 Greek island
59 Expanse
60 Bank (on)
61 Be frugal
62 Marquee

DOWN

1 Dewlap
2 Samoan port
3 Kind of rock
4 Pith
5 Most isolated
6 Diciembre's follower
7 Edith ——, President Wilson's second wife
8 From —— Z
9 Exercise
10 Sonnet parts
11 Brought forth
12 Admiral Zumwalt
13 Regard
18 Iridescent stone
19 Site of Cork
23 Apple juice
24 Giraffe's relative
25 Caesar's wife, for one
26 Autochthonous
27 Complication
28 Literature's Philip Nolan, e.g.
29 Essentials
32 Like SW Ohio
36 Shore
39 "—— Your Man," Tammy Wynette hit
41 Uncomfortable position
43 "Natural Affection" playwright
44 Bedecks
46 Lancaster or Reynolds
48 Wise legislator
49 Blemish
50 Fatigue
51 Year in the reign of Justinian I
52 Darnel
53 Harbinger
54 High schooler's exam
56 Tuck away

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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