

Singers spread good will Group stirs pride

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

As they finish their 18th year of performing, the Scarlet and Cream singers and dancers have made the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the state of Nebraska proud.

According to Barbara Wright, director of Student Programs/Reunions, that is why the singing group has the unofficial title of "Ambassadors of Good Will."

"When we were in Japan touring, we were certainly there as ambassadors not only for our university but for the entire state of Nebraska," Wright said. "And that's true whenever we leave the state."

Scarlet and Cream will stage its final public performance of this school year at Kimball Hall today and Saturday at 8 p.m.

The singers, dancers, musicians and technicians are part of an elite and polished group that must go through difficult auditions to be chosen for Scarlet and Cream.

Third-year member Mary Penner said she felt there were several things that made being in the collegiate show worthwhile.

"It's a combination of the experience and the friendships at the same time," Penner said.

"It's hard and difficult, but we learn as friends, and we learn as professionals."

Penner said that because of those aspects, she would recommend auditioning for the group to anyone that was interested.

The Scarlet and Cream singers do get a lot of exposure and travel time. The group mainly travels to cities in Nebraska to perform for high school and alumni associations, but Wright said the group is asked to perform for other events as well.

"We're contracted by arts councils all over the state," Wright said. "We're contracted by several large companies and corporations to be their main entertainment at their banquets, conventions or conferences."

For many members of Scarlet and Cream, love of music and love of performance is why they are in the group, because, Wright said, they receive only a "very small honorarium scholarship."

Penner said that besides the travel experience, she has learned about people during her tenure with Scarlet and Cream. Part of this is because when the group travels, they stay in UNL alumni's homes or with other people in

See SCARLETON 13



Courtesy of UPC

Musician Robin Crow will perform at the annual Cornstock festival today on East Campus.

Theater group to take play onto global stage in Japan

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

When a play is considered for production by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, its directors usually have to worry about how it will affect Lincoln.

Now these concerns have gone global. Ronald Wainscott, the director of UNL's production of "A Streetcar Named Desire," will present Tennessee Williams' play in two different theaters in Tokyo at the end of May.

Wainscott said he wanted his play to be something that he was proud of, as well as something that the Japanese people would understand.

"We spent a lot of time discussing what play it should be, and what play is going to be comprehensible to the Japanese," Wainscott said, "as well as fairly represents something from the American repertory, as well as represent a play that we think that our students will do well in and represent the department well."

Tice Miller, chairman of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, said performing well is important — but he hopes the actors and actresses will take time to appreciate the culture they will be experiencing.

"My feeling would be in addition to doing the play well and feeling that this is communicating with that audience, I think just the chance for 10 or 11 days of exposure will be such an exciting experience to these students, that they will have a wonderful time," Miller said.

Wainscott agreed with Miller, saying that the cultural exchange that will take place — as

well as the touring experiences — is immeasurable.

"The touring experience for student actors is always very important, because it requires a lot of things from you that you never have to put out when you're only performing locally," Wainscott said.

John Lepard, a senior theater major playing Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," said that since he hasn't ever been out of the country, adjusting to life in Japan will be something that he is conscious of.

"I just think it's going to be a culture shock when we first go over there, not knowing what to expect," Lepard said. "They probably won't know what to expect from us."

Wainscott said Williams' play is important because of ideas it presents.

"Williams forced us in the '40s and '50s to take a look at ourselves in ways that no American playwright has before," Wainscott said. "He was trying to dig very deeply down emotionally and into territory that most people find taboo."

Miller told of a Japanese audience member who saw the play on opening night and enjoyed it. This member also shared his opinions on how he thought the play would be received, Miller said.

"He said the young will like it and understand it, but the old might be a little bit shocked by it," Miller said.

"For these students, it's a once in a lifetime experience," Miller said. "They'll never be the same after going. That's just what travel does to you."

Cornstock legacy goes on with new twist in music

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

In the late '60s, thousands of hippies gathered in a farmer's field in New York for a celebration of camaraderie, good drugs and even better music.

That party, named Woodstock after the town in which it was held, was such a good idea that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln developed their version of the party — drug- and alcohol-free, of course.

Cornstock began 21 years ago, shortly after and directly related to the real thing. And today, on UNL's East Campus, it will continue in the spirit of the party that rocked a decade.

Kate Gustafson, chairperson of the University Program Council's Major Concerts Committee, said she hopes the change in the style of music will be a welcomed modification.

"The feature act will be Robin Crow," Gustafson said. "He is kind of an alternative acoustic guitarist, which is really different for this year because in the past Cornstock has always been a hard rock or country show. So we're kind of offering a little more diverse music taste."

Those who have liked Cornstock's music in the past need not worry. The existing lineup will feature country music from the local band Fast Movin' Train as well as the hard-hitting music show of the headlining national act Nevada Beach.

The popular medley/revue show The Blues Brothers, composed of UNL students, will also perform. Gustafson said she hopes that the local acts will draw as good a crowd as the national acts do.

"I'm looking forward to having them (The Blues Brothers) there because they usually draw a really good crowd," Gustafson said.

The East Campus celebration will not only feature musical variety. Gustafson said special interest booths from UNL and the community will be set up as well.

Another change in Cornstock tradition is that this year there will be a \$2 charge for students and a \$4 charge for non-students. But Gustafson said she isn't as concerned with the charge as she is the weather and other external factors.

Saying that everything has been done and that she is now leaving it all up to the crowd, Gustafson complimented her colleagues.

"My committee and I and UPC have hopefully done everything we can to make this program successfully," Gustafson said. "And I'm kind of hoping that tradition will pull it through, because it's 21 years old."

Robin Crow will begin the afternoon's performance at 1 p.m. Fast Movin' Train will follow at 2:30 p.m. The Blues Brothers will play at 3:15 and the headlining act, Nevada Beach, will close up Cornstock at 5 p.m.

Alternative new album offers blessing to opponents of Top 40 replications

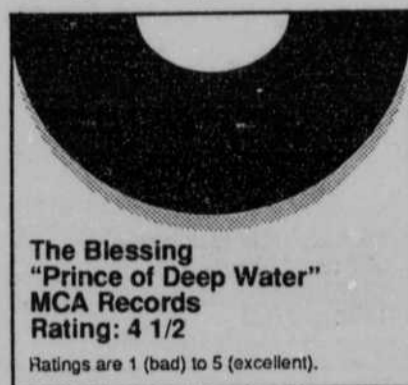
By Kristie Coda
Staff Reporter

The album, "Prince of Deep Water," demonstrates what can happen when good vocals, great lyrics and good music get together and explode into an impressive display of musical completeness.

The lyrics, all of which were written by lead vocalist William Topely, are poetic and vivid. They treat a variety of subjects from love, sex and war, and sometimes all three combined.

Topely writes and sings of the nature of conflict in relationships in many of the songs, but none so succinctly as in "Highway 5:"

"Well, love is power and I play to rule/ well, love is power and as an absolute corrupts entirely/all our minds and sets a course that we can't sail."



The Blessing
"Prince of Deep Water"
MCA Records
Rating: 4 1/2

Ratings are 1 (bad) to 5 (excellent).

The Blessing provides a variety of musical offerings within a single album, and the style always fits the word. The music runs the spectrum from driving rock to bluesy ballads, with a generous use of strings on many of the cuts.

And as talented a vocalist/lyricist Topely is, he is nothing without the backup of an equally able band.

Their musical ability is beyond reproach and is interesting enough itself to be considered separately from the lyrics. New twists present themselves on each listening.

The Blessing's sound is evidence of a fully integrated musical talent on all fronts. There are no holes in this bunch.

Their musical style on some of the tracks is comparable to some of Peter Gabriel's work, but with more guitar. They are by no means copycats. Their work is unique in style and content, a great improvement over the plastic rubbish that revolves incessantly on Top-40 stations. However it is not so odd that it is inaccessible to anyone

See BLESSING on 13



Courtesy of MCA