



William Lauer/DN

University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior Jacquie Gines founded the Black Poets Club to give African-Americans at UNL a forum for artistic expression.

### Helping male/female interaction

## Black poetry unites students

By Kim Spurlock  
Staff Reporter

African-American students looking for an artistic outlet have found one.

Thirty-eight University of Nebraska-Lincoln students belong to the Black Poets Club, which has been holding weekly meetings at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St., for the past month.

Jacquie Gines, a senior math major and the club's founder, said the purpose of the group was to unite UNL's African-American students

under one common bond — poetry.

"(The club) will help to enrich the understanding of all UNL students of the multidimensional nature of the African-American, through poetic expression," Gines said.

Gines said the male turnout for the club surprised her.

"One of the most encouraging things is to see the number of men interested in poetry. Poetry has been looked upon as a feminine type of thing, and it shouldn't be," she said.

"(Blacks) don't only talk about black issues in our poetry. That's not the only thing we think about," she

said. Gines said students' works, which can be poetry or essay, focus on topics ranging from manhood, religion and blackness to love, the concept of womanhood and male/female relationships.

Gines described the meetings as educational and encouraging. She said issues raised by the poetry spark discussions among group members.

"A lot is talked about African history. Some poems talk about the black experience and we begin to come to

See POET on 10

### Magical movie morbid, mythical



#### "The Ballad Of The Sad Cafe"



By Jeffrey Frey  
Staff Reporter

Anyone who has felt the unease, the morbid amusement or the all-encompassing consternation that a Flannery O'Connor short story can impose — and has liked it — has something to look forward to.

And anyone with even a mild appreciation of filmmaker David Lynch at his most twisted will no doubt cherish the potent and wonderfully odd events captured by director Simon Callow's latest film, "The Ballad Of The Sad Cafe" (Ross Film Theater). But even those unfamiliar with O'Connor and Lynch will enjoy this bizarre Gothic tale, which seems something like O'Connor's most eccentric characters stumbling along through David Lynch-land.

Director Simon Callow uses words such as "magic realism" and "mythic" to describe Carson McCullers' 1951 novella, from which the film was coaxed. The film can perhaps be regarded as magical and mythical, but only in the most non-traditional way.

See CAFE on 10



Courtesy of Merchant Ivory Productions

A tumultuous marriage explodes in director Simon Callow's "Ballad of the Sad Cafe," starring Vanessa Redgrave (right) and Keith Carradine.

## 'Marrying Man' sexy, but lacks heat, comedy



By Anne Steyer  
Staff Reporter

This week, home video is inundated with femme fatales. Choices range from the exotic (Kim Basinger) to the psychotic (Sean Young) to the very young (Jennifer Connelly).

"The Marrying Man" (R) This movie is billed as hot, sexy fun. Its co-stars, Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin, may be sexy, but there is no heat between them and subsequently, no fun for the audience.

Off-screen lovers Basinger and Baldwin don't generate enough heat on screen to inject any realism into their characters' relationship.

Baldwin ("The Hunt for Red October") plays Charlie Pearl, heir to a toothpaste dynasty and known in social circles as the "Toothpaste Prince." At the opening, he is engaged to a Hollywood debutante and daughter of a movie Mogul, Adele Horner (Elisabeth Shue of "Soapdish").

Pearl's buddies throw him a bachelor party in Las Vegas, where he meets lounge singer Vicki Anderson (Basinger of "Batman").

The two are immediately hot for each other and eventually get caught in bed together by Anderson's gangster beau, Bugsy Seigel. Bugsy insists Pearl marry Anderson and announces the wedding on the front pages of papers nationwide. This throws Pearl's relationship to Horner into turmoil.

The storyline has potential for humor and should create a little heat, but Basinger and Baldwin share virtually no on-screen chemistry. The script is disappointing, which is surprising, considering Neil Simon wrote it.

The high points are supporting players Paul Reiser ("My Two Dads") and Fisher Stevens ("Mystery Date"). As Pearl's buddies,

they have the best lines and steal every scene they are in.

Basinger does her own vocals and, while she can carry a tune, she doesn't have the emotional investment to carry off the smoky ballads. She is great to look at but she doesn't seem natural in any of her scenes. Her trademark pout can't even save the sensuality of her character.

Baldwin manages to give his playboy character some heart. But there isn't enough rapport between him and Basinger to make the story interesting.

The two are sexy enough but they can't deliver the kind of screwball comedy that "The Marrying Man" tries to be. (Available today)

"Career Opportunities" (PG-13) Teen life is again glorified in this film about a night stocker at a discount store who encounters the pinup girl of his dreams after hours.

Frank Whaley ("The Doors") is the clerk, a somewhat shy and reserved young man who comes alive when there is no one watching. He parades around the store in various garments, trying out the various toys and sports equipment.

However, there is someone watching, namely Jennifer Connelly ("The Rocketeer"), the daughter of the store owner. She sticks around to do a little late night shopping.

Connelly's prowess as an actress is overshadowed only by her physical endowments, emphasized throughout the film.

When Connelly and Whaley meet, their flirtations are interrupted by two would-be thieves, a la "Home Alone." This is not surprising considering this script was penned by John Hughes.

Following the Hughes formula, everything manages to wrap up nicely in under two hours. He attempts once again to capture teen angst but ends up with teen titillation instead. (Thursday)

"A Kiss Before Dying" (R) Sean Young ("No Way Out") is the most

See VIDEO on 10



David Badders/DN

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. "The Doors"                | 1. "Home Alone"              |
| 2. "Dances with Wolves"       | 2. "Dances with Wolves"      |
| 3. "The Hard Way"             | 3. "Awakenings"              |
| 4. "Oscar"                    | 4. "Sleeping with the Enemy" |
| 5. "Home Alone"               | 5. "New Jack City"           |
| 6. "New Jack City"            | 6. "Misery"                  |
| 7. "True Colors"              | 7. "King Ralph"              |
| 8. "He Said, She Said"        | 8. "Goodfellas"              |
| 9. "The Rescuers Down Under"  | 9. "L.A. Story"              |
| 10. "Sleeping with the Enemy" | 10. "He Said, She Said"      |



Recent and requested: "Cyrano de Bergerac" — courtesy of Blockbuster Video

Rising quickly: "La Femme Nikita" — Billboard Magazine