

# UFO movie takes fresh angle

## "Living in the Future"

with Sam Kepfield

In a 1990 survey, roughly 14 percent of Americans said they had seen a UFO. The survey's respondents included such luminaries as Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, John Lennon and astronaut Gordon Cooper. Increasing numbers of Americans also believe they have been abducted by extraterrestrials and band together in support groups.

While the support-group notion may strike some as downright lunacy, after viewing "Fire in the Sky" (East Park 3, East Park Plaza Mall), one has to wonder.

On Nov. 2, 1975, Travis Walton (played by D.B. Sweeney), an Arizona logger, was abducted by a UFO in the White Mountains of Arizona. Five co-workers stood by and watched; then they fled the scene.

Walton disappeared for five days, then was found naked and huddled in an empty gas station by his crew boss and brother after he made a phone call telling them where to look for him. Initially he remembered nothing; the particulars of the abduction returned to memory slowly. In the meantime, his co-workers were suspected of murdering him.

"Fire in the Sky" is based on Walton's book, "The Walton Experience." It can't be classified as SF in the tradition of "The Day the Earth Stood Still" or "Close Encounters," both of which were first-contact stories. Neither is it in league (thankfully) with the television movies made on the subject.

The focus is not on the science or the aliens — we don't even find out until near the end of the film exactly what happened to Walton while in the spacecraft.

The actual abduction sequence is the film's most powerful moment, approaching the terror of "Alien." It may even be scarier since we can imagine ourselves in Walton's shoes — a denizen of 20th-century America taken prisoner aboard a craft completely beyond our understanding for an unknown purpose. The medical procedures are definitely not for the squeamish.

"Fire in the Sky" takes a refreshing approach, telling the stories of Walton's co-workers and a small Arizona town's reaction to the inexplicable.

Robert Patrick ("Terminator 2") plays Walton's crew boss and best friend, racked with guilt about leaving Walton at the scene. Craig Sheffer ("A River Runs Through It") gets a few laughs as the smart-aleck bad apple of the



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Travis Walton (D.B. Sweeney) gets beamed aboard an alien craft in "Fire in the Sky."

bunch, and Henry Thomas ("E.T.") also stars.

Perhaps the best performance is turned in by James Garner, of "Maverick" fame, as a state investigator brought in to solve a murder; even after Walton returns and the crew passes a polygraph, he still does not believe them.

Directed by Robert Lieberman, with a script by Tracy Torme, "Fire in the Sky" may convince you; at the very least it will make you think the next time you're out on a clear, starry night.

— Sam Kepfield

## Festival set to celebrate vegetarianism

### Cheap & EASY

The second annual Vegetarian Awareness Festival will be this Saturday at the UNL Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St.

The festival features a vegetarian lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The meal is all-you-can-eat and costs only \$3. Tickets are available at the door.

"Diet For a New America: Your Health, Your Planet" will be shown. The premises of this remarkable film are startling and its arguments are compelling.

The festival is a yearly event sponsored by the Nebraska Vegetarian Society. The food at the group's gatherings is always delicious and there will be lots of opportunities to pick up free recipes.

The celebration is part of "The Great American Meatout," a national annual grass-roots campaign.

Live music will be provided by Emerald Fyre, a local Celtic band.

Door prizes will be given away as well.

For more information on the NVS, contact the Nebraska Vegetarian Society, P.O. Box 30631, Lincoln, Neb. 68503.

—Mark Baldrige

## Charity concert set for Sunday

The Millions, Love Cabal, Cryin' Heart and the Perv Tones will play Sunday at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., from 5 to 10 p.m.

All proceeds will be donated to the Lincoln Action Program's (LAP) Education Outreach.

Education Outreach assists low-income, primarily minority, junior high youth who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Services include tutoring and career counseling. The program served over 130 kids during the 1992-93 school year.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Twisters, The Mill, the Zoo Bar or Way Home Records and Gifts.

Door prizes will be raffled off.

## The BIG City

This weekend in the Big City stretches into a week for UNL students on spring break.

If you're stuck here, you might as well get out a little.

**Friday and Saturday:** "The Crucible" plays at Howell Theatre.

An AC/DC laser light show tears it up at Mueller Planetarium.

**Saturday:** Don't miss the 20th anniversary retrospective of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" on NETV at 11:10 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday:** "Rocco and His Brothers" shows at the Mary Rieppa Ross Film Theater.

The Jewish Cultural Arts Council hosts the annual Kallah Weekend, featuring Professor Eytan Gilboa of the Hebrew University as guest speaker.

**Sunday:** "The Hobbit" debuts on the Lied Center stage, brought by the Theatre Sans Fil ("Without Strings") using life-size puppets.

Phil Collins is up in lights at the planetarium.

The 48th annual Sesostri Shrine Circus goes all-out at Pershing Auditorium.

There's lots to see and do in the Big City; don't let it get you down. Florida's probably rainy anyway.

## Sheldon Gallery to host concert by Eroica Trio

### concert

PREVIEW

The Eroica Piano Trio will perform as part of the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music 1992-93 season today at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Sheldon Art Gallery.

Each member of the trio is an accomplished and recognized musician in her own right. Violinist Adela Peña has appeared as a soloist with the English Chamber Orchestra and the Caracas Symphony, cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio's solo work earned her a 1991 Grammy, and pianist Erika Nickrenz has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in festivals like Marlboro, Tanglewood and Spoleto. They have performed together officially as a trio since 1986, earning attention and praise from all quarters.

The program for tonight's performance includes Beethoven's Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, no. 3; Martinu's Five Short Pieces for Piano Trio; and Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor.

A reception for the artists will follow the concert.

The Eroica Trio will also conduct a small Masterclass with the School of Music at 10:30 a.m. today.

Tickets for the concert are available through the Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music. They are \$18 for non-students and \$5 for students.



Courtesy of Eroica Piano Trio

Eroica Trio: Pianist Erika Nickrenz, cellist Sara Sant'Ambrogio and violinist Adela Peña.