Thursday, June 10, 1993

Daily Nebraskan

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## Dinosaurbook has action; short on reality, humans

"Jurassic Park" Michael Crichton Ballantine Books

#### By Mark Baldridge Staff Reporte

Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park" is a book with everything you could ever want; sexy blondes, brilliant scientists, chaos theory and Tyrannosaurus Rex — the greatest meat eater of them all.

# Summer Reading

Not to mention apatosaurs (commonly called brontosaurs), a cute baby triceratops named Ralph and even some of those big kite-like pterodactyls

Then there are other, nastier, things with mean reptilian brains and killer instincts.

All that it's missing is humans. Crichton couldn't paint a realistic character if his life depended on it. Any reader listening for an authentic human voice will only get the hollow echo, "No one here but us cardboard cut-outs.

This is made worse by Crichton's prying literary style; at one point or another we get to ride around in each character's two-dimensional head.

It's tiresome. Instead of getting to know one cardboard figure well, we get to know all of them poorly — and

some of them are easy to dislike. The book runs rampant with oversimplifications of important ideas and confusing descriptions of mundane detail. Even the typos get out of hand. But so have the dinosaurs, and that

covers a multitude of sins. Anyone who has ever stood in wonder at the foot of a tyrannosaur skeleton, read the kid's books where

they show how many greyhound buses are equal to one brotosaur or just played with red, green and blue plas-tic dinos, will relish seeing these beasts alive and well and duking it out in the park

All your old friends are here and the only thing missing is the fight you always wanted to see, the greatest struggle of all time — the tyrannosaur and the triceratops, head to head.

Too bad the originals never met. You can bet they were separated by millions of years

But here in the park, built by a senile billionaire, you can see them all: together again for the first time anywhere.

So the book has it's redeeming features after all. It's not terribly demanding, action packed and (kind of)

informative, about dinosaurs anyway. The method they use to get dino-saur DNA — all the dinosaurs in the book are clones — is absolutely brilliant. And some of the discussions of chaos theory are pretty interesting, if awfully simplistic.

In all, not a bad book to take to the beach, or — if you're stuck with the rest of us in Lincoln — to the, I don't know, park?

"It's important for the people in

the public eye to take a stand for

something and I'm glad and proud to be able to do it. And hopefully, we'll have a big enough record and sell enough records that us, making

a stand for something like Farm Aidhasan impacton a lot of people. "A broken heartland," he said,

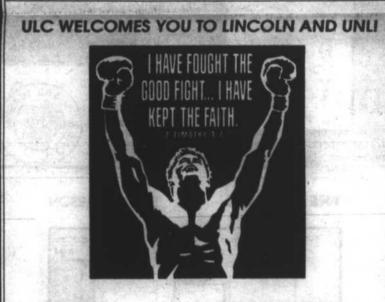
from its grisly fate of a dubious ending, along with being an all-around bad film.

"Guilty As Sin" should be skipped by DeMornay fans, but it's a must-see

for Johnson fans, and fans of suave

"still can be changed."





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### Laca

Continued from Page 10 down.'

The bands' activities include tours, festivals and recently, Farm Aid VI. Because of their own experience losing 10 acres of family land to bankers, Zaca Creek supports Farm Aid.

Sin Continued from Page 10

for acting.

Unfortunately, Johnson's great work is not enough to save this movie

Boy

#### Continued from Page 10

Under the influence of Senegalese musician Maurice Zou, Reilly co-wrote two compositions, "Nouwe O N'Mazei" and "Fire," a song rich in rhythm and blues and topped with a working of fine rocking refrain.

"Words Inside" reminisces lost loves and lost worlds, like the lost world of "Eldon Street." "Gone are the tall towers and fac-tories/Gone are the ships and the

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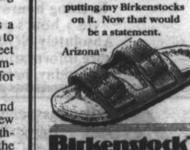
cinematic psychopaths in general. cranes/Day by day my river's getting cleaner/Who'll take the blame?"

childhood memories about a street once full of life, refineries and employment - now defunct, except for the pubs and the emptiness.

drummer Darren Ford explore new hooks and crannies, the result is nothing like you'd expect, but that's the beauty of Boy on a Dolphin, "Words Inside.

FOOD

When Reilly, Needham, Hiley and



inal comfort sho Fancy

476-6119

" A friend dragged me to the Modern Art Museum.

He tried to explain a tollet

bowl mounted on the wall

ultra hip shoes

hurt his feet.

While contemplating a

solid black canvas, I realized my

Birhanstochs were beautiful.

It must be the way they

cradle my feet because the only thing aching was my head from trying to figure out what this stuff meant.

Next we saw an empty pedestal. My friend called it, 'a statement.'

For a moment I considered

as soon complaining that his

Reilly wrote the lyrics, not as a satire on pollution, but as a requiem to