

Bookstore designed for the exchange of ideas

SPOTLIGHT

Inviting environs
promote thought

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Mike Argello sells ideas, and he does it in the most comfortable atmosphere possible.

Argello, a lifetime Lincoln native, features used and rare books at Creative Ideas, 1233 F St., a shop he owns that is filled with literature, couches, plants, and, as he said, ideas.

"Everything we sell has an idea, and we share ideas in our meetings," he said.

Creative Ideas shares a great deal in common with other used-bookstores: comfy furniture and shelves burgeoning with books of all sizes.

But it also offers a bit of the unusual: a coffee bar, an extensive self-help section, incense and role-playing games.

Creative Ideas also sells new "remainders" — excess copies of first-run books bought from printing companies. The books are new, but already have made their major push at the regular bookstores.

The new additions improved the store, but "we built our store on used and rare books," Argello said.

Creative Ideas concentrates on four main book areas: science-fiction/horror, self-help, literature classics and art books.

But the store does offer the usual variety — everything a new bookstore offers — including classics, travel, health, and more. But there is one glaring omission: romance novels.

"I'm sure some of the classics fall into 'romance,' but I stay away from Harlequins and the historical romances — you can get overloaded with those."

An overload of comfort, however, is not a problem. The store is filled



Travis Heying/DN

Mike Argello is the owner of Creative Ideas. The store specializes in used books but also sells a large variety of other items.

with different sitting areas. Plants, big comfy, mismatched furniture and overstuffed couches seem situated behind every corner.

Just past one such chair is a large collection of books on the Civil War. The store doesn't have a large collection of history books, but Argello said that was a deliberate move.

"Other area stores have very strong history sections," he said. "We chose

to concentrate on other areas."

One of those areas is science fiction and horror, which Argello said was the store's "bread and butter."

"About 70 percent of Lincoln reads sci-fi and horror," he said.

Argello said he hoped to expand the store's section of Nebraska literature and Nebraska authors in the future, but expansion is a difficult task here.

"It's difficult to get people to part with their copies," he said.

Purchasing problems keep Argello on the road much of the time. He said he spent time traveling to Omaha and towns in Iowa looking for books. While the trips may seem relatively short, he said, he would like to be more self-sufficient.

Argello said he tried to keep his prices reasonable, and usually marked

books at half-price, except of course, old books that "go for many times the face amount" — such as first editions of Stephen King novels.

Argello said he was proud of Creative Ideas' diversified sales, from used/rare books to new books, games and incense.

"We're different from a lot of stores."

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Clean-air espresso bar brews up unique flavor

SPOTLIGHT

By Elaine Clair
Staff Reporter

There's a new place in town to get your caffeine fix.

Caffé Caper, 245 N. 13th St., just south of Taco Bell, has opened its doors to serve the caffieners of Lincoln.

But the Caffé Caper's owners, Becky Nelson and Jan Havranek, want people to know that their shop is not a traditional coffee house.

"We don't want to be known as a coffee house. We're really an 'espresso bar,'" Havranek said.

The Caffé's menu consists of both hot and cold beverages. They offer traditional espresso bar coffees, such as cappuccino and latte, as well as Caffé Caper originals like Hot Flavored Moo — hot chocolate, espresso, and steamed milk. They also offer a variety of other selections such as Italian sodas, tea and spiced cider.

The menu also offers a wide selection of edibles, including muffins, brownies, cookies and cheesecakes — which Havranek said was the store's speciality.

The Caffé Caper differs in other ways from traditional coffee houses.

"We don't want to be known as a coffee house. We're really an 'espresso bar.'"

— Havranek
co-owner, Caffé Caper

The atmosphere is modern art deco with a color scheme of black, grey, blue and mauve. The walls are still slightly bare, but an artist is currently working on that problem, Havranek said.

"(We) plan to have a mural on one wall and a picture on the other. The artwork will be spectacular," she said.

Nelson and Havranek said their goal in opening the espresso bar was to "offer a place for people who feel out of place at other coffee shops."

"Our average customers are 30 years old and up, but we also want college students," Havranek said.

The business offers yet another alternative to the average coffee house: clean air.

"We really wanted to offer a non-smoking atmosphere," Havranek said.

The Caffé Caper is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 7 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.



courtesy 20th Century Fox

Elijah Wood watches as Macaulay Culkin plays nice with the doggy in "The Good Son."

Mac's back, but this time he's bad



"The Good Son"



Okay, parents, let's see if we can get this right the first time:

"The Good Son" is NOT a movie for children.

Yes, it has Macaulay Culkin, who played the perpetually-cute Kevin in the "Home Alone" films. It also has Macaulay Culkin smoking a cigarette. It has Macaulay Culkin causing a 10-car pileup as a prank. It has Macaulay Culkin manipulating more people than a presidential candidate.

"Do we all understand? This movie has about as much in common with the "Home Alone" mov-

ies as "Jurassic Park" does with Barney, the annoying purple dinosaur.

"The Good Son" opens with Mark (Elijah Wood, "Radio Flyer" and "Forever Young") suffering the loss of his mother. He is sent to stay with relatives while his father closes a business deal out of the country.

Mark meets his cousin Henry (Culkin), and the two begin a friendship like that of most 11 and 12-

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