



Sandy Summers/DN

Mark Nissen, owner of Mark Anthony Upholstery, shows off a chair he is currently working on. Nissen, a modern language major, said he loves working on old furniture.

## Tailor-made

### Schoolwork, re-covering furniture keep student entrepreneur busy

#### SPOTLIGHT

By Anne Steyer  
Senior Reporter

UNL senior Mark Nissen has a terrific sense of style — and it's starting to pay off.

Nissen, 21, is a senior German major from Hartington and the sole owner and operator of Mark Anthony Upholstery, 126 N 16th St. Basement.

"My business is pretty new," he said. "They say if you can make it the first six months, it looks good for you."

Nissen said his shop opened June 15, so he's closing in on the six-month mark.

"I've been busy enough to pay my bills and take a little home," he said. "Business is picking up, so I anticipate it's going to fly."

The furniture upholstery shop was transformed from a dank, gray basement into a shop chock-full of style. The brick walls are now eggshell in color, and the molding on its concrete pillars is painted deep green with gold accents.

"You should have seen this place before," he said, feigning horror and fatigue.

Nissen's interest in sewing began while he was in the fourth grade, when his mother taught him to make clothes.

"I'm a tailor and a dressmaker.

I've been sewing my own clothes since the sixth grade," he said.

He honed his skills throughout high school and college. While enrolled as a music student in Yankton, S.D., Nissen worked part-time at a fabric store and an upholstery shop. Learning to upholster furniture was a snap, he said — he simply built on his knowledge as a tailor.

"It took a whole two months — it was just a variation on the theme," Nissen said.

When he came to UNL, Nissen said, he continued creating his own clothing, but found employment outside the sewing field. After that soured, he said, he decided to concentrate on something he knew he could turn into a successful career.

"I decided I could be making as

much money doing my own thing," Nissen said. "It was something I knew I could do, make money at and do well."

Some people are surprised at the cost of redoing furniture, he said. That doesn't surprise him.

"People think, 'Making your own clothes is economical,'" he said. "But they don't understand that having your clothes made for you is a luxury."

"The same is true of furniture." His fabric samples come from all over the United States, including New York, Chicago, Detroit and even Omaha. He said he had a set rate for each type of furniture.

Nissen said he enjoyed transforming old, worn things into new

See UPHOLSTERY on 10

## Movie buffs should catch Reiner's new movie parody



### "Fatal Instinct"



Although not quite up-to-par with its pun-filled predecessors, "Fatal Instinct" does have a few funny moments worth seeing — particularly for film buffs:

Director Carl Reiner ("All of Me," "Oh God!") adds his film to the ever-growing list of movie parodies, joining such hilarious films as "National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1," "Hot Shots Part Deux" and "Airplane."

"Fatal Instinct" stars Armand Assante ("The Mambo Kings") as Ned Ravine, a guy that thinks he knows everything about women, but has the IQ of a billiard ball.

By night, Ravine is a hard-as-nails cop who will do whatever it takes to catch a crook, but by day he is a slick defense attorney for the criminals he's just caught!

However, as successful as he is, he's still stupid. His greedy wife Lana (Kate Nelligan, "Prince of Tides"), with the help of her lover, the mechanic, has planned Ned's murder. Lana has planned the perfect crime, in an attempt to cash in on Ned's insurance money (see "Double Indemnity").

Meanwhile, Ned is also being pursued by Lola, (Sean Young, "Love Crimes") a seductress who becomes obsessed with Ned (see "Fatal Attraction"). The only person protecting Ned in any sense of the word is his secretary Laura, (Sherilyn Fenn, "Twin Peaks") who has fallen hopelessly in love with him.

Got all that?

Around these flimsy attempts at plotlines lie gags and spoofs on almost every decent detective/lawyer/cop film in the last thirty years, including "Body Heat," "Cape Fear" and "Chinatown."

Unfortunately, Reiner doesn't quite decide what he wants to do with the film until toward the end, and by then there just isn't enough steam to keep it going.

See FATAL on 10

## When in Rome's, enjoy cheap, authentic truck-stop fare

### New all-day cafe opens downtown



Rome's Bad to the Bone Cafe, 1819 O St., offers the finest in truck-stop dining 24 hours a day.

With breakfast available all 24 hours and reasonable prices, Rome's should be a real hit with the after-bar crowd.

You know the scene: pretty young waitress and 15 sleepy, road-weary customers — guys with sideburns that grow into their moustaches.

Everyone knows everyone else, and they all give the waitress a hard time.

I felt right at home among the black velvet paintings of cowboys and bald eagles.

I plunked myself down at the counter and asked the waitress what's

good on the menu.

I had the hot beef sandwich: Two pieces of Wonder Bread with roast beef, cut in half and served, smothered in flavorful brown gravy with a dollop of mashed potatoes from a box.

The kind of sandwich you eat with a fork.

It also came with a pretty good cup of beef and vegetable soup.

The whole thing cost only \$5 before tax and tip so I splurged for a slice of pumpkin pie for another buck.

The pie came in a pitiful little flat square which my waitress offered to top with whipped cream from a pressurized can.

If you judge a place by its pie then Rome's is a kind of dump.

If you judge a place by its mashed potatoes then it's another kind.

If you judge a place by whether you can still get a stack of pancakes with Texas toast and a side order of hash browns at 2 a.m., then Rome's is the place for you.

Actually, I'm not sure about the Texas toast.

Rome's is the only 24-hour cafe right there on O Street when you need



Sandy Summers/DN

Jerome and Gaila Engleman show off their homestyle cooking at Rome's Bad to the Bone Cafe. Jerome said the cafe is "a place where people can go and have a home-cooked meal at a decent price."

one. And it's the only one that's dimly lit enough that you won't mind suck-

ing up black coffee there when all the better places have already thrown you out.

In short, it's just what downtown Lincoln needs.

— Mark Baldrige