

Author uses his talents to reach troubled youth

SPOTLIGHT

By Elaine R. Clair
Staff Reporter

Tom Frye: author, songwriter, storyteller, youth worker and video game wizard.

Frye's first book, "Scratchin' On the Eight Ball," was originally published in the early '80s. "Eight Ball" is a book based in the Havelock area of Lincoln, where Frye grew up and continues to reside. The book chronicles the lives of Reason and his friends, many of whom seem to be unable to stay out of trouble.

Frye's writing style and his ability to reach any audience, regardless of age, made "Eight Ball" successful. He was unaware of his success until he began receiving calls from people complaining about the unavailability of

the book, because it was always sold out.

Realizing the effect he had on his readers, Frye published the sequel in 1993, "The Kid the Cop and the Con." His second book was also successful, as it revived interest in "Scratchin' on the Eight Ball."

"The Kid the Cop and the Con" is the story of an older Reason and his adventures as he tries to clean up his act and stay out of trouble.

According to Frye, both books are kind of fictional autobiographies.

"Many of the characters in the books are me at different stages of my life," he said.

Frye also has had a third book published, entitled "The Jewelfolk." This book is the first book in "Legend of the Lion," a fantasy series Frye has been working on.

"The Jewelfolk" tells of good and evil in a way that makes the story appealing to both children and adults,



Tom Frye, a local author and storyteller, focuses his attention on today's youth. "I try to educate kids on drug abuse and juvenile delinquency. I use my art as a tool."

Sandy Summers/DN

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Damon Lee/DN

Emil Aluas directs the University Orchestra during rehearsal Tuesday afternoon. The orchestra will perform its semester concert Friday evening at Kimball Hall. Admission is free.

Ready to shine New conductor puts orchestra in spotlight

SPOTLIGHT

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Holding a note and a prayer, the University Orchestra spent nearly a decade getting little attention.

Now, with a new conductor and dedicated musicians, the orchestra is ready to shine Friday night at Kimball Hall.

Their polish came from internationally known Romanian conductor Emil Aluas. Aluas has spent the past year bringing the orchestra into the limelight.

Aluas, who has spent his entire educational career in music, was a guest conductor in Paris; Vienna, Austria; Indianapolis; Minneapolis; and other large cities. When Aluas answered the call to conduct in Lincoln, he was a little hesitant.

"I was very skeptical; I didn't know anything about this area," he said.

When Aluas arrived in the fall, he was in for another surprise.

"They were bad, very bad," Aluas said.

After holding orchestra auditions, he said he noticed several weaknesses, especially in the strings section.

"I'll have to confess, my first impulse was to get my luggage and leave," he said. "They were bad and everybody knew it."

Aluas said his past 16 years as a professional conductor wouldn't let him leave the orchestra in that condition.

"I decided to face this challenge," he said.

Fortunately, Aluas unpacked his luggage and started fine-tuning his

students. He covered everything from the essentials to the finishing touches.

"It was starting with teaching my students how to hold the violin, then teaching them how to play the notes," he said, "and then giving them as much information as possible from the music history point of view in order to pursue them to participate and realize the concept."

Organization, imagination and time were added to his formula for improvement. He said it was very tough in the beginning, but he soon noticed a change in the weakest section of the orchestra.

The strings were featured in a few opera performances later in the fall. Aluas said the audience response was positive.

"It sounded very good," he said. "That was the first moment I realized my work got some results."

Aluas had to earn the respect of his students, who started off somewhat scared.

"My style of working, being so aggressive, they thought I was some sort of tyrant," he said. "I'm not."

Aluas said he pushed his students toward success.

"They confessed later on that it was good for them. I was very demanding."

Aluas took a planned path to his goal.

"In my mind, I had a strategy of doing things."

He said he was pleased his students understood this strategy as a way of helping them.

"My students, they grew up. From the beginning, I imposed on them an extraordinary, extended, tough discipline."

Aluas said this was good because his students applied this discipline to their own lives and had more for

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BEYOND BOOKS

Bands

Feb. 9
Rosebud with Ditch Witch- Duffy's Tavern, 14th & O
The Roadhouse Rockers- Zoo Bar, 133 N. 14th
Feb. 10
Magic Slim & The Honkies with The Daily Blues- Zoo Bar
Feb. 11
Sam Lay & His Blues Band with Magic Slim & The Honkies- Zoo Bar
The Rumbles- Pia Mor, 6600 West O
Janitor Bob and the Armchair Cowboys with Strawdog- Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Feb. 12
R.J. Mischo & His Red Hot Blues Band with Magic Slim & The Honkies- Zoo Bar
They Came in Doves with TomFickeGroup- Knickerbockers
Sun. Feb. 13
Full Choke & High Caliber- PiaMor
Bob Evans & K.A.B.- Duffy's Tavern

Magic Slim & The Honkies with The Daily Blues- Zoo Bar

Laser Light Shows

Mueller Planetarium, Morrill Hall, 14th & U- Nirvana- Feb. 11-12; A Laser Valentine- Sunday

Special Events

Feb. 9: Music of Libby Larsen, guest composer at the Carson Theatre- Free Admission
Plains Indians and the Federal Bill of Rights: The intersection of Law, History and Culture: a lecture by John Wunder. Book signing and reception- 205 Love Library
Feb. 10: David C. Neely, violin and Shirley Irek, piano; 8 p.m. Kimball Hall- Free Admission
Feb. 11: University Orchestra under the direction of Emil Aluas at 8p.m. Kimball Hall- Free Admission
Feb. 12: Bella Lewitzky Dance Company- Lied Center
"The Griot," a one-woman performance by Kijana Wiseman; Great Plains Room of Nebraska East Union. UPC event in recognition of Black History Month. A journey through musical time from Africa to spirituals, gospel, classical, vaudeville and jazz