

Spellbound able to satisfy science fiction enthusiasts

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Spellbound — an unusual collection of necessities for mastering the world of science fiction and fantasy.

Vulcan ears, comics, books, dice games and even a tribble or two crowd the walls of Spellbound in the Reunion on 16th and W streets.

Scott Rhodes, one of the six owners of Spellbound, said the store was unusual in the way it was set up.

"We have a little bit of everything," he said.

Rhodes said each owner specialized in one aspect of the store's merchandise.

Owner Nate Watt said he specialized in role-playing, miniatures and board games.

"We try to carry a large selection of all fantasy science fiction stuff," Watt said.

"We have the largest selection of miniature figures in Nebraska."

Miniature fantasy armies with wizards, goblins and skeletons fight each other, he said.

Watt said the Dungeons and Dragons game series was a popular item, as was a card game called Magic.

Rhodes said he tried to stock as many comics as he could. Mainstream and independent titles are featured at Spellbound, he said. Valuable or rare comics are a specialty.

"I have a Valiant Solar first edition, Magnus Robot Fighter zero edition and a few of the X titles that are up in value," he said.

Rhodes said some of his rare comics could bring nearly \$115. The most popular comic is the 2099 series by Marvel Comics, he said, while Superman is still a favorite.

Although he had an interest in owning his own business, Rhodes said his interest in comics motivated his participation in opening Spellbound.

"I think (comic books) are a fun, quick read," he said. "Books are great too, but comics have a story and art together."

"A comic is a movie you can open up and read at any time. It's cheaper, too," Rhodes said.

Aside from offering science fiction and fantasy merchandise, Spellbound participated in the WinterCon '94 — the fifth annual gaming convention sponsored by Midwest Master — and the Gamer's Alliance of Miniature Enthusiasts last month.



Jay Calderon/DN

Nate Watt, a co-owner of Spellbound in the Reunion, holds two of the store's most popular comic books.

New book is one to 'select'

Mysterious medical institution provides backdrop for novel



"The Select"
F. Paul Wilson
William Morrow and Company

Best known for his novel "The Keep," and the horrible movie made after that book, F. Paul Wilson has been quietly putting out some of the best horror fiction for nearly two decades. His new release, "The Select," seems as if it might be able to match the success of "The Keep."

"The Select" is the story of Quinn Cleary, a young woman who desperately wants to become a doctor, but whose funds are very limited. Enter The Ingraham, possibly the best medical school in the United States, which provides free tuition, free room and board, free everything. The only problem is getting in.

Although Quinn does well on the entrance exam, she is not accepted, but later manages to weasel her way into the school. And from here

things go quickly downhill for Quinn.

The Ingraham is no ordinary school. All of the rooms are bugged, and SLI units are in every room, which play subliminal messages to the students at night while they sleep. Campus security is made up of ex-CIA operatives, and students have disappeared in the past without a trace.

As the semester goes by, Quinn and her boyfriend, Tim, slowly discover things that The Ingraham does not want them to know. Then Tim disappears.

The book's premise is very good. The Ingraham is owned by the Kleederman Foundation, a pharmaceutical company. By brainwashing students, Kleederman is able to use students to do experimental drug testing on human subjects. Wilson manages to keep the secrets of The Ingraham under wraps while still giving away enough tidbits to keep the reader interested.

The only real problem with the book is that for readers familiar with the genre, it may be somewhat predictable. The ending seems rather sudden, and all parties involved live happily ever after. Another downfall is that the characters never really seem to be in any true danger.

Those complaints aside, "The Select" is an entertaining read, and Wilson's writing, as always, is simple and matter-of-fact. He wastes no time jumping right into the story, which is very refreshing in these days of books with 50 pages of filler in every chapter. This is one book worth picking up.

—William Harms



James Mehlsing/DN

'Chronicles' is a winner

theater
review



By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Little did women know when they were burning their bras in the 60s that they would be wearing business suits in the 80s.

This disillusion of the women's movement was the focal point of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln theatre production of "The Heidi Chronicles" this weekend.

This emotional, yet comical, play took the audience through the life of art historian Heidi Holland from her high school years to her mid-40s. Heidi, played by actress Sharon Bigelow, embraced the true plight of the modern woman.

The fight for equal rights and equality was distorted in Heidi's view. Women didn't become equal; they became men. It wasn't an issue of "either you shave your legs or you don't" as her women friends kept telling her.

It was a real portrayal of women's issues, not a radical one. Heidi wanted everyone to become a humanist, not a feminist.

Aside from being an excellent and even disturbing look into what has happened to women in the past three decades, the play provided a touchingly real look into what happened to the baby-boom generation.

Through her journalist friend Scoop Rosenbaum, played by always outstanding actor Jonas Cohen, yuppies and cellular phones were born. Peter Patrone's (Patrick Tuttle) alternative lifestyle exposed Heidi to

the realities of homosexuals. In her executive "power-lunch" buddy Susan Johnston (Julie Fitzgerald), Heidi realized the destructive path women had chosen.

All the actors were strikingly convincing in their portrayals. The character relationships, a vital element in this type of play, were exceptionally strong.

Bigelow's performance was so calm and collected, allowing Heidi to come off as a girl who was being hit by all these elements, yet was holding it all together. In her final speech, the passion of a woman who felt stranded by society was emotionally overwhelming.

With all this passion and emotion, it seems as if people were crying in the aisles — maybe, but only when they weren't laughing. Although it addressed some very serious issues, the humor was always there to pull it along.

Cohen's performance of Scoop was the comic relief of the evening. Cohen undertook one of the greatest acting feats while addressing Heidi with "Are you a virgin?" at a McCarthy-for-president rally and keeping a straight face.

The analytical, arrogant and insultingly honest Cohen, who "grades" everyone he meets, "A plus personality, B minus attitude," brings out the willpower in a very shy Heidi.

Heidi's rather bizarre neofeminist friends, complete with bell-bottoms and love beads, gathered for a farewell John Lennon party which made me feel good to be a part of the 80s generation.

The "Heidi Chronicles" — A plus acting, A plus entertainment — will be performed again this Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Howell Theatre.



Beyond Books

A guide to this week's entertainment

Bars

Tues.: Zoo Bar-Acoustic Jam
Wed.: Duffy's Tavern-Mercy Rule and Ivan's
HoseZoo Bar: Spankin' Rufus
Thurs.: Duggan's Pub-11th & K: Lash LaRue and The RageZoo Bar: Terrance Simien & the Mallet Playboys
Fri.: Knickerbockers-901 O. St.: Lowlife with Heros and VillainsJ. Ryans-27th & Holdridge: Blue & Boogie Woogie Express Duggan's Pub: Lash LaRue and The Rage plus FAC Mike Douthit Zoo Bar: Kelley Hunt
Sat.: Duggan's Pub- Owen Mutch and The Debtors Knickerbockers-Karma with Cowtown Zoo Bar-Dave Alvin and the Guilty Men
Sun.: Duffy's Tavern-Sun Sawed in Half
Movies Cinema Twin-Reality Bites, Tombstone Douglas 3-Mrs. Doubtfire, I'll Do Anything, Blue Chips The Lincoln-Ace Ventura, Philadelphia, In

the Name of the Father Plaza 4-Blank Check, My Father the Hero, The Getaway, On Deadly Ground Ross Film Theater-The Long Day Closes, Women and Words Film Series featuring Mitsuye and Nellie: Asian American Poets Star Ship 9-3 Musketeers, A Perfect World, Dazed and Confused, My Life, Demolition Man, Beverly Hillbillies, Malice, Jurassic Park, Cool RunningsStuart-Schindler's List
Theater Wed-Sat. Talley's Folly 8 p.m., Studio 301, Temple Bldg. The Tues-Sat. Heidi Chronicles 8p.m., Howell Theater, 12th&R
Dance Fri. High Calliber 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Pla-Mor Sat. Sandy Creek and Kovar and Kerns 8 p.m.-12 a.m.—free dance lessons at 7 p.m.
Discussions Fri. 3 p.m. Burke Casari talks about Lady Isabel Burton: Victorian Woman of Letters and Wife of Sir Richard Burton Center for Great Plains Studies 2nd Floor, Love Library
Laser Shows Fri-Sat.-Aerosmith 8, 9:30 & 11 p.m., Mueller Planetarium Music Sat. 7 p.m. Korean
Music and Dance 7 p.m. Kimball Recital Hall
Sports Fri. 7:30 p.m. 1993-1994 World Cup Figure Skating Champions, Pershing Auditorium
Special Events Jack Gladstone, Native American Singer & Storyteller, 11:45 a.m., Nebraska Union, The Crib Event of the Week The Nylons, 8 p.m. Sat.
Lied Center Compiled by Sean McCarthy