

## Artist offers sweet treats

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

As Alice strolled through Wonderland, so should a visitor to the world of Wayne Thiebaud.

The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery opens this world with "Wayne Thiebaud: Observations and Memories." The exhibit presents 50 Thiebaud prints dating from 1964 to 1991. The exhibit will run until Jan. 15.

Thiebaud, one of the most influential visual pop painters of the 20th century, captures the essence of domestic contemporary life from the freeway to the lunch counter.

His 1962 oil paint "Salads, Sandwiches and Desserts" is a featured work in the gallery's permanent collection.

The vibrant colors of cherry-topped parfaits and concentric black olives resting on the layered sandwiches make the painting come alive with happiness

and warmth.

Thiebaud's work spans various mediums, from colorful woodblock and oil prints to black-and-white etchings. He manages to create a smorgasbord of cakes, pies, candy, toys and animals and mixes those with his city and landscape depictions.

The stark simplicity of his shapes, combined with the contrasting black and white of the scattered etching lines, make his 1964 woodblock "Chocolate Pie" a sweet treat for the eye.

Thiebaud uses an interesting palate of color. He contrasts oranges, purples, blues and yellows in many of his paintings, including his 1970 painting "Gumball Machine."

Thiebaud has an affinity for circles, ranging from his shiny gum balls and pimento-stuffed olives to his 1979 work "Boxed Balls" and 1971's "Big Suckers."

Part of his world is like looking through a kaleidoscope into

a candy-land fantasy, where everything looks as if it has been kissed with technicolor.

Perspectives are turned to a different angle in works such as his 1989 "Van," in which the observer looks upward from behind a van on a dotted, yellow-line highway. His cityscapes and freeways curve and wind around the canvas.

All of Thiebaud's works are captivating and entertaining. They have an air of innocence and pleasure and are a delight to absorb.

Thiebaud spoke at the dedication of the College of Fine and Performing Arts in April. He said painting required a human being to look at an exhibit as if he were finding shapes in clouds.

If one were to see into any exhibit at the Sheldon Gallery this year, "Wayne Thiebaud: Observations and Memories" should be it.



Travis Heying/DN

Suzie Baer, right, talks about her documentary film "Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier" Sunday at the Mary Riepma Ross Theater. Baer was part of a panel that also included Eric Jolly, left, director of the affirmative action and diversity office at UNL, and John Snowden, a UNL law professor.

## Film depicts life of jailed 'Warrior'

By Jim Cihlar  
Staff Reporter

"Every one of you could be in jail like Leonard Peltier, if you had enough people mad at you," UNL professor John Snowden said.

The Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater was filled to the brim Sunday for a screening of "Warrior: The Life of Leonard Peltier" followed by a panel discussion featuring Snowden and filmmaker Suzie Baer.

"We all could be in the same position," agreed Baer. "It's really frightening. But you can't stop fighting."

Relying heavily on interview footage, the film methodically and effectively tells the history of Leonard Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe who is currently serving two life sentences at Leavenworth prison.

Featuring a barrage of talking heads, the documentary covers some of the same material as a made-for-television movie cur-

rently running on TBS. Relying on facts and real-life figures rather than actor portrayals and re-enactments, "Warrior" presents a more compelling narrative.

Peltier was convicted of shooting two FBI agents at Wounded Knee. One Native American was also killed during the standoff between federal troops and members of AIM, the American Indian Movement. Subsequent evidence has undermined strongly the decision of Peltier's case, leading to several appeals.

At the panel discussion after the movie, Snowden said that the appeals courts decided that there had been questionable government conduct in the case, but not enough to warrant a new trial. Peltier's only chance for freedom now is if the president grants him clemency.

After the film, Baer and Snowden answered questions from the audience in a panel discussion moderated by Eric Jolly, director of the affirmative action

and diversity office at UNL.

Baer said she was inspired to make the film after reading "In the Spirit of Crazy Horse," a book about Peltier by Peter Mathiesson, who she interviewed in the film.

British director Michael Apted has recently made two films about Peltier, "Thunderheart" and "Incident at Oglalla," but "Warrior" is the first to examine in-depth some of the potential reasons for keeping Peltier in jail.

The film shows that the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations were originally part of a huge territory set aside by treaty to be a sovereign Sioux land. But the discovery of gold and other natural resources led to the acquisition of Sioux holdings by corporations.

"The Indian Wars are not over," Snowden said. "They are being fought by lawyers and politicians."

See PELTIER on 10



Gerik Pamele/DN

Adam West, television's Batman, stands in front of a Batman clock while he talks to the media and invited guests on Friday at the Folsom Children's Zoo. West was in Lincoln promoting his new book, "Back to the Batcave."

## TV's Batman visits Lincoln zoo, talks about bats, series

By Joel Strauch  
Senior Reporter

Adam West, television's Batman, came to Lincoln's bat cave at the Folsom Children's Zoo this weekend.

West was just as impressive a figure as philanthropist Bruce Wayne and his nocturnal alter ego. He walked in and checked the "Batclock" that was behind his chair to make sure it was right.

"Superheroes are always precise," he said.

City Council member Cindy Johnson presented West a key to the city on behalf of Mayor Mike Johanns.

West said, "I hope I have a chance to use the key — not to get out of town, of course — many times in the future."

Johnson also announced that 27th Street from A to C streets would be renamed Bat Boulevard in honor of West's visit.

West then spoke about the importance of exhibits like the zoo's Masters of the Night display.

"Bats shouldn't terrify people, but I would have been out of business if they didn't scare some people," he said. "It is important that kids everywhere learn the importance of not only bats but other diverse species."

West was then honored by Secretary of State Allen Beermann. On behalf of Gov. Ben Nelson, Beermann made West an admiral in the navy of the state of Nebraska.

Beermann explained that Nebraska's navy consisted of two boats: Nikita Khrushchev's

power speedboat and the USS Nebraska, a Triton-class submarine.

West asked Beermann if his new status as admiral would get him out of a ticket.

Beermann said no, but he guaranteed West a free trial.

After that exchange West answered questions about himself and his TV series. He explained that when the series began in 1966, it ran twice a week during prime time and was in color.

He said the longevity of the series was due in part to its high entertainment value and the moral messages it provided.

"The show touches on everything from good dental hygiene to how to cross the street," he said.

West was asked what his favorite "Holy!" phrase was. He said he had always liked "Holy Guacamole!"

"The thing about the 'Holy!' phrases is they gave Burt Ward (the actor who played Robin) something to do," West said. "Burt would go through and try to think of better ones than the scriptwriters had."

West also talked about his favorite episode.

"I liked doing the pilot the best," he said. "I was fighting to make people understand what it was all about."

"The fun, the struggle to get it going right, was what I liked best," he said. "It was also great to see all the humongous props and the wonder of all the color and special effects."

West was asked if he or Ward

See ADAM WEST on 10