

## Jerky Boys prank their way to fame

By Joel Strauch

Senior Reporter

The Jerky Boys have prank-called their way to fame.

Battling bad impersonators and beating the odds, the offensive duo's second album (appropriately named "The Jerky Boys 2") debuted at #12 on the Billboard Top 200 Albums Chart, higher than any other comedy album in history.

The prankish pair will also be starring in their own feature film.

So I was a little leery about getting a phone interview with two guys who made it big by defaming the people that they called. But they were nice, sort of.

I answered the phone, and the first thing that Kamal said was, "You're from Nebraska? Aren't you guys the cornstalks or something? Cook me a piece of corn."

Johnny B. pondered about famous people who had come from Nebraska.

"That's the home of Johnny Carson, isn't it?" he asked. "And that book, 'My Little Antonia.'"

After they had finished simultaneously demeaning me, impressing me with their knowledge of Nebraska and yelling out random phrases ("One coconut custard cream pie," Kamal screamed), these guys were really nice.

Kamal said that their success stemmed from Johnny B. emulating everything that he did.

The eccentric characters that the pair use when pranking their unsuspecting victims are based on members of both of their families.

"Frank Rizzo is a lot like me, but he's also a great portrayal of my father," Johnny B. said.

"Sol Rosenberg is my mother and uncle combined, and Jack Tors is my Uncle Thomas," he said. "Pico is just a friend of the family."

Kamal explained his characters' origins. "My father is from Bangladesh," Kamal said. "So the Indian character is based on him and his friends."

"Kissel is one of those old World-War-II-type of New Yorkers that's always complaining."

The Jerky Boys' movie will be coming out Feb. 10.

"We've thought about a title for several months, and we finally decided on 'The Jerky Boys,'" Johnny B. said. "What else are



James Meshling/DN

we gonna call it?"

The basic premise of the movie is Frank Rizzo calling the mob and getting the Jerky Boys in trouble; then the Jerky Boys have to use their characters to get out of it, Johnny B. said.

The movie promises to have the ultimate soundtrack of the year, Johnny B. said.

"It's got Ozzy, Helmet, Green Day, Collective Soul, The Breeders, the Beastie Boys, Coolio and House of Pain," he said.

The movie, like their phone calls, is very slapstick-oriented, Kamal said.

"It's got a real Three Stooges, Abbott and Costello feel to it," Johnny B. said. "It's

about time somebody brought this form of comedy team back.

"It's a lot similar to the old comedy routines, but we put a modern twist on it."

The Jerky Boys said that they had been treating their success pretty lightly.

"The main thing we have to remember is our fans and our families," Johnny B. said.

"The success is great, but you have to take it with a grain of salt. You gotta have peace of mind."

The comics said that they had no specific goal in mind when they made their prank calls.

"We just try to make a funny call," Kamal

said. "It's all spontaneous."

"We think while we run," Johnny B. said. "We only have about 95 calls to date for both albums and the bootleg. It's just a silly gift that we have."

"We get together about once a year and do eight or 10 calls," he said. "We like doing it, but sometimes we'll do something else like throw the ball around."

The Jerky Boys said that their plans for the future involved a third album.

"Our fans dictate what we do," Johnny B. said. "I just want to say hello and thanks to all the fans. They are people who can take it for what it is — it's a joke."

## Keanu good, Mac bad in new video releases

By Gerry Beltz

Staff Reporter

This week's new video releases present three choices — drama, bad romantic comedy, and yet another Culkin-clunker. The pick-of-the-week is a decent helicopter adventure flick.

"Little Buddha" (PG) — This one was released to the theaters the same weekend as "Speed." Both star Keanu Reeves. Guess which flick more people went to see?

"Little Buddha" is a good film that got trampled over by the glut of summer releases. In it, Buddhists track down a grade-school kid, claiming that he is the reincarnation of a lama (a Buddhist monk). The story is told in flashback, and Reeves is perfect in his role.

Bridget Fonda and Chris Isaak also show up as the kid's parents, and the film works well, despite some slow pacing.

"The Favor" (PG) — One of those failed romantic comedies that leaves your VCR feeling used and discarded, "The Favor" is such a film.

Nebraska-grown Harley Jane Kozak stars as a married woman who wants her best friend (Elizabeth McGovern) to go to a

high school reunion to meet and sleep with Kozak's old boyfriend (Ken Wahl).

Other stars of the film include Bill Pullman and Brad Pitt. There are a few funny moments, but overall, "The Favor" is a sex comedy that leaves the viewer ultimately unsatisfied.

"Getting Even With Dad" (PG) — Macaulay Culkin has two flicks coming to the movie theaters before the year is out, so don't spend your money renting his other movies!

This one has Mac playing the neglected son of his small-time felon father (Ted Danson, who looks cosmically stupid with a ponytail). However, Mac outsmarts the adults (Gasp!) and blackmails his dad and his two buddies to take him out to do fun things.

Mac, here's a piece of advice. Fire your father and hire a real manager, and talk to Elijah Wood about being a young actor without ego or typecasting.

**PICK-OF-THE-WEEK** — John Badham ("The Breakfast Club") did a great job with the action-adventure flick "Blue Thunder" back in the early '80s.

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## Those who can't make it to Mom's can still get some Thanksgiving fare

From Staff Reports

Students unable to go home for a juicy Thanksgiving turkey, Mom's pumpkin pie and homemade stuffing can dine out at Lincoln restaurants offering Thanksgiving Day specials.

Very few restaurants are open on Thanksgiving Day, but those that are will offer traditional Thanksgiving fare.

The Haymarket Restaurant, 141 N. Ninth St., will offer a brunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The buffet will feature roast turkey, ham, dressing, chicken, vegetable quiche, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and a variety of salads for \$8.95 for adults. Reservations are required.

Lincoln Bonanza restaurants will offer a traditional Thanksgiving dinner that includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie for \$5.99 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spike & Olly's, 52nd and O streets, will be open from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a

buffet featuring turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and a variety of salads, pies and cakes. The buffet is \$10.95 for adults and includes a beverage. Reservations are required.

Bishop Buffet at Gateway Shopping Mall will offer a traditional all-you-can-eat turkey buffet with a variety of desserts and salads from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. for \$6.99.

The Cafe at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St., will offer a buffet from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. that features roast turkey with gravy and a sausage pecan stuffing, cured ham with honey mustard, candied yams and a variety of salads, desserts and beverages for \$10.95 for adults.

The Garden Cafe at 70th and A streets will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, but will offer a Thanksgiving dinner special on Friday that includes roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, a vegetable and dinner roll for \$5.99. A slice of pumpkin pie is \$2.69.