

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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"Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo" 1984

I am a child of cable.

Was it a coincidence that I was a child during the early days, when "Red Dawn," boxing and "Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo" were the only things on? I think not. It was fate.

And fate has a nasty way of making future events kind of messy.

"Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo" did it to me. I would try to spin on the kitchen floor until I got sick, moonwalk until the soles of my shoes were gone and do the wave until my shoulders were out of joint.

But that wasn't the thing that drove the wedge between me and my mother.

It was the middle of August, 1984. I was just about to go into the fourth grade and my mom and I were about to embark on that holiest of holy quests into the depths of male childhood hells, school shopping.

In fourth grade, I was no fashion lizard. The only criteria I had for my jeans was durability.

But when I stepped into J.C. Penney's at Westroads Mall in Omaha, I was transformed into a bad reflection of a French fashion critic.

I wanted parachute pants.

I saw them on the far wall. They were black nylon with what looked like 17 useless chrome zippers on them. And I was in love.

"No, they look stupid," my mother snidely (and probably correctly) said. "Besides, you'd destroy them in a week."

"Nu-uh," I shrewdly retorted.

Needless to say, I walked out of the store without my beloved parachute pants. And to add salt to the wound, a neighbor kid came over later that day to show off his new pair of parachute pants.

Jerk. I hope they melt to your legs.

Since then, I have needed therapy. Despite my parents contributing very, very heavily to the expenses of my college education, I have never forgiven them for not allowing me to know the wonders of nylon, zipper-laden pants.

— Matthew Walte, sophomore news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Former director donates to art series

By Jeff Hampl
Staff Reporter

A high school instructor first challenged Norman Geske to study art history.

Geske now plans to challenge others to discover the subject's importance. He and his wife, Jane, have set aside \$50,000 in their will to sponsor a University of Nebraska-Lincoln lecture series by arts historians.

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Geske became interested in the visual arts before he graduated from high school.

However, he said, "It became clear to me that I wasn't going to be an artist."

One of his teachers recognized his love for art and suggested he work in a museum. She made an appointment for him to meet with the director of the University of Minnesota art museum. Geske was so impressed with his visit that he decided to major in art history there.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Geske moved east, where he received his master's degree in art history from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. Although his thesis focused upon American paintings, he said he enjoyed European art as well.

Geske came to UNL in 1950 to be assistant director of the university art galleries. He became director in 1956.

He was involved in the creation of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and served as its director until his retirement in 1983.

Geske first considered an arts history lecture series two years ago while eating lunch with Larry Lusk, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Lusk said he wanted to recognize Geske and his wife for their commitment to the arts in Nebraska.

Together the three planned the lecture series, which will include historians not only of the visual arts but also of music, theater, dance, film and architecture.

The lecture series will begin in the fall of 1996 with Geske as its first speaker. A specific date for his lecture has not yet been set, but he has decided that his topic will be "Why Art History?"

"I have always believed that the history of art is an important and rewarding means of understanding and appreciating contemporary society," Geske said. "I thought that the lecture series was something the cam-



Scott Bruhn/DN

Norman Geske, former director of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, and his wife, Jane, have donated \$50,000 to sponsor a UNL lecture series by arts historians. Geske is currently writing a book and preparing lectures for the fall of 1996.

pus needed.

"A lot of people don't even know the university teaches art history."

Lusk is pleased that the planning stage for the series is occurring. The college will provide interim funding so the Geskes' recognition can be immediate and not just posthumous.

Honorariums for guest speakers can range from \$1,000 to several thousand dollars.

"We're trying to get the best," Lusk said.

Arrangements for the Geskes' donation were made with Theresa Klein at the University of Nebraska Foundation.

"The series is geared to the entire community and state. It will appeal to everyone," Klein said. Because of the series' importance, she said, the University of Nebraska Foundation is seeking additional funds to continue and expand the series.

Performance tonight pays Cather tribute

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

Willa Cather will be reviewing a chamber orchestra salute tonight at the Lied Center.

Actually, her comments and reviews of various artists and their works will be used to supplement the Lincoln Orchestra Association's salute to the Nebraska author.

Carolyn Rometo, the general manager for the Lincoln Orchestra Association, said the group would draw on pieces from the Lincoln Journal that Cather wrote when she was a drama, music and art reviewer for the paper.

"We'll be using her disembodied voice to introduce each piece," Rometo said.

The orchestra, along with the UNL University Chorale and Nebraska Wesleyan Women's Chorus, will be performing Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," Mozart's Concerto in A major for Clarinet and Pietro Mascagni's Intermezzo from "Cavalleria Rusticana."

"Cather either reviewed these pieces or made specific comments about the composers," Rometo said.

"Music was a big influence on her work and her life," she said.

The performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" will also include dramatic readings by English Professor Stephen Buhler.

"It will be a condensed form of the Shakespeare play," Rometo said. "The Arts and Sciences College has done a lot to help bring this together."

"It will be a multimedia event."

Chuck Kuba, the vice president of marketing for LOA, said he felt the combination of music and Cather's work was fitting.

"The crossover is appropriate because Cather was such a moving force in Nebraska and for the fact that she worked for a local paper," he said.

The salute will feature a pre-concert talk in the Lied Center's Steinhart Room at 7:05 p.m. entitled, "I Must Have Music."

The show will begin at 8 p.m. Student tickets are \$11 and \$13.50.

Romance differs for everyone

By Jeff Randall
Staff Reporter

With the coming of Valentine's Day, one question looms dark and heavy over every boyfriend, girlfriend, husband and wife — what is romance?

For some, it is romantic classics such as a quiet dinner, a dozen roses and a red foil-wrapped box of chocolates. Others prefer to go down less-traveled paths to their true loves.

Freshman English major Jennifer Rasmussen said she thought Valentine's Day was a good opportunity for those who usually were unemotional to express their sensitive sides.

"I think this is the one time of the year that my boyfriend will actually get me flowers," she said. "I usually have to spend hours talking him into buying dinner."

Brian Parker, a sophomore pre-med major, said he was a hopeless romantic, especially on Valentine's Day.

"I do all of the stupid things that you see in the old movies," he said. "I open the car door and pull out her chair for her at dinner. I bring flowers, the whole deal."

But Parker said his old-fash-

ioned ideas of romance occasionally backfired.

"I went out with this one girl who got really angry whenever I would hold open a door or something," he said. "She thought I was being sexist, but I was just doing what I have always done."

Although Parker believes his problems were caused by an excess of romantic behavior, ASUN President Andrew Loudon said his girlfriend didn't think he was romantic enough.

"She always gets mad at me around Valentine's Day," he said, "because I'm a very unromantic guy."

"My idea of a romantic dinner is going to a crowded restaurant where I can talk to a lot of people, but she prefers a more quiet setting."

Joy Nyhoff, a custodian at Selleck Residence Hall, was less specific in her idea of a romantic evening.

"Just dinner out at a restaurant," she said. "Anything I don't have to do myself is OK with me."

Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said his idea of a romantic evening was low-key.

"I think a candlelight dinner

with my wife would be just fine," he said.

And what would a candlelight dinner be without soft music in the background? Nearly everyone had a favorite love song to accompany their perfect evening.

"Lady In Red" by Chris DeBurgh was Nee's preferred tune.

Loudon made a selection most college students probably won't recognize.

"I'd have to say 'The First Thing in the Morning and the Last Thing Every Night' by Dean Martin," he said.

After dinner and music, a romantic movie was likely to follow for most. Old and new selections were popular.

"On Golden Pond," "Sleepless in Seattle," "Ghost" and "White Christmas" were named as favorites.

Parker had a less obvious, but somehow fitting, favorite.

"Any of the Dracula movies are good," he said. "A lot of people don't think of them as romantic, but Bram Stoker's story is one of the best romances ever."

"It all depends on how you look at them, just like anything romantic."