

Merger to change Cablevision

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

An upcoming merger of Cablevision and Time Warner Corporation will eventually change services offered to Lincoln cable subscribers.

Cablevision spokesman Rick Kielbasa said Time Warner would own two-thirds of the company. Time Warner will also handle the day-to-day management, he said. Cablevision's current owner, New House Broadcasting, will still own part of the company.

Dick Bates, Cablevision general manager, said the merging process had been under way for quite some time.

The merger should be completed by April 1, he said, and shouldn't bring too many immediate changes for Cablevision.

"I don't think it will change the name or many of the operational procedures," Bates said.

Kielbasa said the company might add some staff in the short term as Cablevision took on more duties.

"In the long term, we can look forward to the influence of Time Warner in areas like digital movies and video on demand," he said.

"They are also partly owned by US West, so they have a strong telephone background as well," he said.

Bates said Time Warner was extremely aggressive in all new types of technology for cable today.

"This will give us the capability to get into some of these businesses that are offering more advanced services and equipment," he said.

The cable industry was on the move, and it was necessary for Cablevision to keep up, Bates said.

"The way the industry is advancing today, and the capital that is required to stay with it is so high, we had to merge with a larger business in order to improve," he said.

The merger should give Lincoln residents a greater range of channels and

See CABLE on 13



Courtesy of Miramax Films

Dianne Wiest and John Cusack star in Woody Allen's "Bullets Over Broadway."

'Bullets Over Broadway' hits mark

By Chad Johnson
Film Critic

It's the Roaring '20s, Broadway is at its height, the depression has yet to hit and gangsters lurk behind the scenes. Enter Woody Allen.

Allen's comedy is about a struggling writer, David Shayne (John Cusack). Shane finally lands a big show on the Great White Way, but he wants to direct with no compromises.

As things turn out, the only willing backer is a local mobster who will back the production only on the condition that his "goil," Olive, gets a major part.

A conflict materializes between the writer and the fledgling star because she can't act. Throughout rehearsals, David is forced to go through re-writes suggested by Olive's bodyguard, Cheech. Cheech turns out to have a certain talent, and the play improves

The Facts

Film: "Bullets Over Broadway"

Director: Woody Allen

Stars: John Cusack, Diane Wiest, Chazz Palminteri

Rated: R

Grade: A

Five Words: Writer compromises art for gangsters.

with his suggestions. But David cannot compromise his work, and his loyalties are called into question.

The cast is brilliant. Jennifer Tilley, Diane Wiest and Chazz Palminteri all deserve their Oscar nominations. The edge goes to Wiest, who portrays a Norma Desmond-

like character whose on-stage and off-stage personae become increasingly blurred through a bootleg hooch haze.

Allen's skills as a director are in fine form. He moves easily from theater scenes to outdoor shots to shots in clubs that mark the heights of 1920s excesses.

Considerable credit must be given to co-writer Douglas McGrath. He and Allen create a snappy dialogue, which contrasts the artistic styles of the theater people with the gangster style of Cheech and his boss.

The film is a multi-layered, complex comedy that keeps viewers' attention throughout. You fear that if you are distracted for even a second, you'll miss something important to the plot.

"Bullets Over Broadway" will show at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater Thursday through Sunday and March 23-26.

The film took a while to get Lincoln, but it is well worth the wait.

Association revives orchestra

By Gerry Beltz
Senior Reporter

Jeth Mill has been busy during his first two months as the executive director of the Lincoln Orchestra Association, but he has no plans to slow down.



Mill

Mill said he hit the ground running when he arrived in Lincoln and has accomplished a lot in a very short period of time. He was able to do so because of the volunteers and board members who are deeply committed to the orchestra association, he said.

The association had been having financial problems, he said, but its members' dedication saved it from being lost.

"The board members could have easily said 'We're not going to try to resuscitate,'" Mill said. "Fortu-

nately for the community, they said 'We won't let it die.'"

Mill's first ambition was to calm the troubled waters of the association, he said.

"One of the first goals was to stabilize the situation and be able to operate on a business-as-usual basis instead of a crisis mode, and I think we have succeeded.

"Now that we have the patient stabilized, we have to get the patient up and walking."

He now faces the challenge of bringing in more people and filling more seats at orchestra concerts.

"The real strength is to build an audience and to sell more tickets for our '95-'96 concert series," he said.

"We have to look at other opportunities our audience members have and devise a program that fills the niche in the marketplace."

Mill said the orchestra hoped to do that with three offerings: a series of four symphony concerts, a three-concert chamber orchestra series and a three-concert pop series.

"While we believe there is some overlap, what we're trying to do is to cater to different musical tastes and define ourselves as distinct from other organizations."

Mill said he was happy with his new Lincoln home. He previously worked as the executive director of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic.

"We (Mill and his wife Donna) really love it. Lincoln is a very charming community, and we really enjoy the people and opportunities that are here.

"There certainly is a lot to love about this city... ranging from book and record stores to motion-picture theaters to cultural activities."

Two attributes of Lincoln make it a place where much is possible, he said.

"The fact that it is a state capital and home of a major university allows for opportunities here that one wouldn't find in cities of similar size," Mill said.

"I think the most important thing is the friendliness and openness of the people that live here."

Piper's antics to lure children of all ages

From Staff Reports

Audiences can flock to the Lincoln Community Playhouse Children's Theatre, 2500 S. 56 St., to see "The Pied Piper," starting Thursday.

Based on a poem by Robert Browning, this production is an original adaptation by Lincoln resident Ron Zank, who has given this familiar tale a new twist. The tale features a piper, a herd of rats and a town full of concerned citizens. The mayor and city council of Hameln, played by John J. Snell, Scott Raymond and Tracy Woodson, refuse to acknowledge the rat problem and are nearly ousted by the angry citizens before the Pied Piper, played by Steve Holliday, comes to the town's rescue.

The main question then lies in

the Pied Piper's motives, and whether he wants to save the town or serve himself or both. This mysterious element should keep audiences guessing until the very end of the play.

Original music by Lincoln musician Cynthia Christensen will accompany the performance. Christensen has previously worked in children's theater at the Old Creamery Theatre Company in Garrison, Iowa. She also directed the playhouse's Theatre Arts Academy in the summer of 1994.

The play will be directed by Linette Nelson-Schwinn, Children's Theatre director.

"The Pied Piper" will show Thursday through Sunday and March 23-26. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Reservations are suggested.