

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Sheldon's new cafe adds to lofty ambiance

By Jason Gildow  
Staff Reporter

Art and coffee, seminal symbols of sophisticated intelligentsia, are being brought together in a major way at the Sheldon Art Gallery. The Sheldon is the home to a new coffee shop called the cafe.

The cafe promises to enhance the already lofty ambiance of the Sheldon with its exotic flavors of espresso, cappuccino and tea, as well as specialty art magazines to expand patron's horizons.

Located in the Great Hall of the Sheldon Art Gallery, the cafe will provide guests with a unique atmosphere for their relaxation and coffee-enjoying needs.

Some may wonder, though, with the proliferation of coffee shops in Lincoln whether students will choose the cafe.

"It will give students a place that is a lot quieter than the Union," said University of Nebraska-Lincoln student Jon Peterson. "However, I think there will be a lot of competition with the other coffee shops in the area."

Another concern may be the effect the entrance of the cafe may have on the overall atmosphere of the Sheldon. If the cafe attracts a large following, the calm aesthetics of the Sheldon could become compromised.

However, employees at the Sheldon Art Gallery said they don't see that happening. The Gallery directors see the Sheldon as a gathering place as well as an art museum—the role of the Sheldon is changing and the addition of the cafe is consistent with that evolution.

Sheldon director George Neubert said that

he believes the coffee shop is a necessary addition to the Gallery.

"We feel the addition of the cafe provides yet another amenity for the Gallery visitor," said Neubert. "In fact, food and beverage concessions are almost expected in today's museums."

The cafe opened July 18 and is a collaborative effort of both the Sheldon Art Gallery and Jax Restaurant of Lincoln. It will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Bagels, desserts and light lunches will be available as well as specialty coffees, teas and mineral waters.

The cafe is very versatile in its coffee choices. There are six varieties of flavoring for the espresso, cappuccino, coffee and latte. The cafe staff is also eager to accept alterations to their coffee offerings, such as a cappuccino with ice, not offered on the menu.

The opening of the cafe was relatively successful on its first day, said Lori Barr, coffee tender for the cafe.

"We had a great coffee crowd in the morning," Barr said, "and a great lunch crowd at noon."

"There were about 30 to 40 people here for lunch. The promotion that the Sheldon has done has brought the people in. I think word-of-mouth will spread."

The clientele was mainly UNL faculty and staff with Lincoln business people, art patrons and a few students thrown in.

"When I got here, nearly all the tables were full," said Rene Meaker, UNL English graduate student. "It appeals mainly to faculty, and I have seen some retired folks and art patrons."



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

The cafe, at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, provides a classy setting for a coffee break or lunch. From left, Kathy Thompson, Marilyn Filarsai and Eileen Brewster, Lied Center employees, enjoy a mineral water and bagels Tuesday.

However, Meaker said she didn't believe students would be frequent patrons at the cafe. "I don't think the cafe will have a big appeal to undergraduates; it's a little pricey. It is a place to while away the hours rather than just a stop between classes."

Meaker pointed out that in Europe, museums and cafes just naturally go together and a sea-

soned traveler comes to expect these services everywhere.

Barr concurred with Meaker's conclusion. "Midwesterners find it refreshing to find the kind of services that are found in big cities and overseas, like cafes in museums."

"I think that the cafe adds to the overall atmosphere of Lincoln."

## Seagal on wrong track at right time

### The Facts

**Movie:** "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory"  
**Stars:** Steven Seagal, Eric Bogosian, Everett McGill  
**Director:** Geoff Murphy  
**Rated:** R  
**Grade:** B-  
**Five Words:** Seagal deals with maniacal terrorists

By Gerry Beltz  
Features Editor

Okay Hollywood, I think we've gone through all the "Die Hard" variations on the list, so can we get on to something different now, please?

There's been "Die Hard on a Bus" ("Speed"), "Die Hard on a Plane" ("Passenger 57"), "Die Hard on a Ship" ("Under Siege") and now we have "Die Hard on a Train" with the release of "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory."

Seagal is back as Casey Ryback, the straight-faced, soft-spoken cook from the original "Under Siege" who has now retired from the Navy and is the owner of a very successful restaurant in Denver.

He goes on a train trip to San Diego with his niece Sarah (Katherine Heigl,

"My Father The Hero"), who is his only remaining relative after her father died just weeks earlier.

Of course, the train they take just happens to be the train that mega-genius Travis Dane (Eric Bogosian, "Talk Radio") and his terrorist goons take over so they can blackmail the good ol' USA for a billion bucks.

Naturally, Dane isn't just a genius, but he has a million one-liners as well as one standard cruel right-hand man in Penn (Everett McGill, "Heartbreak Ridge").

Gosh, will Ryback come through and save the day while displaying a minimum of acting talent or variant facial expressions? What do you mean he's done that before?

Yeah, but it works. Seagal lost his ponytail for "Under Siege 2," and it would appear that he lost several pounds for the role as well, but rumor has it that he was wearing a girdle.

Ah, who cares? This is one guy nobody would want to meet in a dark alley or get on his bad side in general. He starts cracking bones and bending body parts in ways they weren't meant to be bent, and the audience is happy.

Unfortunately, the cramped space of a train prevents Seagal from doing some of his best stuff, such as han-

dling groups of stupid terrorists with minimal effort.

(Here, he does them one at a time instead.)

Bogosian was a little too over-the-top as the bad guy, acting more silly than psychotic. Still, his jokes and puns help make the movie much more bearable.

McGill is actually pretty good as the devious Mr. Penn, and is surprising intelligent for a bad guy in a Seagal film, almost as good as Tommy Lee Jones in the first "Under Siege" flick.

The relationship between Sarah and Ryback isn't nearly fleshed out enough. It's as though the scriptwriters threw it in and later said, "All right, that's enough emotion. Let's hurt some people."

And, as usual, Seagal is an oak — with his acting. If his acting gets any more wooden, acorns are going to start growing out of his head.

Steve, buddy. Loosen up. Do the crossword. Try a different facial expression. It won't hurt (probably).

The action, thrills and fun make up for any acting shortcomings, and the Colorado scenery is well shot.

For an action flick, "Under Siege 2" fits the bill, and is on the right track for fun.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

Steven Seagal stars as ex-Navy SEAL Casey Ryback in "Under Siege 2: Dark Territory."