



Jeff Haller/DN

Neil Munson, a retired UNL professor, has work on display through Sunday at Gallery 9. The gallery is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

## Wood beauty

### Retired professor's work on display at Gallery 9

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Editor

If art had a fast lane, Neil Munson wouldn't know where it was.

The retired UNL education professor doesn't rush — he isn't in the studio day and night. In fact, he turns only about three pieces a year.

Munson builds his woodcraft pieces for show, but from his words he almost sounds uncomfortable with them on display.

Had it not been for another artist resigning from Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St., before their showing, Munson's woodcraft would not be on display now.

"It was a fluke," Munson said with a laugh. "I'm actually a non-displaying member (of the gallery)."

Sitting across the large display room, Marilyn Bower, of Seward, looked up after Munson's comment.

"He's actually being modest," she said. "His work is so unique ... and he has done so much work for the gallery."

The work is a combination of beauty and function, logic and art. His woodcraft ranges from ornate wooden chairs to plates with a pattern of dancers to cut-away pieces of sculpted

wood intertwined.

The pieces displayed in the front room of Gallery 9 all were made on the UNL campus and span from his first work started in 1977.

Munson started teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1947 as an industrial education instructor and retired in 1988.

His main area of instruction was wood, and with many of the classes, he gave his students

a project that let them spread their creative wings.

"It was the fact that I was involved in students working that it got my appetite whet for doing my own," Munson said.

In 1977, 30 years after his start in teaching, he turned his first piece and showed it with the Nebraska Crafts Council.

He worked on weekends and over brown bag lunches, where he would sit and sketch ideas. It was on Saturdays that he would get into the lab to work on the piece.

And now that he has retired, one would think he would be working more. Not so, he said.

"I can't be classified as a very productive (artist)," he said. "I don't think I have given up turning. I'm just happy doing other things."

## Colonial room serves it up bland, plentiful

By Mark Baldrige  
Restaurant Critic

The Colonial Dining Room in the Nebraska Union offers food in a Midwestern tradition: bland, and plenty of it. The food is unremarkable; the menu is limited.

Nevertheless, the Colonial room, open Monday through Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., has something to offer to the student on the run — time.

While the food lines in the union stretched all the way out to the fountain — or almost — and hungry would-be diners peered over the shoulders of their fellows at indistinct menus already memorized by routine, I sat down to an empty table in an almost empty room.

For 20 minutes, I ate in total silence — only to be joined, finally, by another lone diner.

We shared a room that might have seated 70 people, at tables with actual cloths.

Just a few yards away, a mass of students surged toward tables where they would hunker, almost touching. Stretch out for a moment and you brush your neighbor's hair — or worse.

I and my lone dining mate went back for seconds in the time it took one of the poor hapless kids in the hall to get from the back of the line — he hopes it leads to Amigos — to get close enough to hear "D'you want Mexi-fires with that?"

I had the full deal: Buffet with coffee.

The salad bar was passable, and in fact the best thing about the Colonial room.

The cherry tomatoes, at least, were still firm — which is always

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## Crib undergoes transformation

By Gerry Beltz  
Senior Reporter

Last Thursday, there was comedy. Tonight, video karaoke and disco lights.

Thursday-night programs in the Crib (south side of the Nebraska Union) have begun for the fall semester.

Rich Caruso, coordinator of Campus Programs, said last week's Comedy Night, headlined by Elliott Threatt, was a major success.

"We packed it out," Caruso said. "Every seat in the Crib was filled."

This type of programming actually has been in the planning for the last couple of years, Caruso said, and was brought up by concerned students.

"They looked at the social culture of university students," Caruso said, "and noticed that a lot of the students were going out drinking."

"I don't think that drinking is necessarily bad, but we wanted to present an alternative for, number one, those students who don't drink, and num-

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**DARYL SWANSON**

Union director

ber two, just for another alternative altogether."

Caruso said the Thursday-night programs were free to students, something he hopes will generate interest.

The close proximity to students is another factor, Caruso said.

"It's right here on campus," Caruso said. "Students can just come right down here from the residence halls."

One regular piece of programming will be a double feature of "Friends" and "Seinfeld" on the big screen in the Crib, from 8 to 9 every Thursday night. Other events will begin at 9, some lasting as late as midnight, Caruso said.

Next week, however, will be an

exception — the Nebraska-Oklahoma State football game will be broadcast.

"We really didn't think we could compete with the Huskers," Caruso said.

Tonight, the Crib will be the site for Disco Night, Caruso said.

"We will transform the Crib into a disco," Caruso said. "We're bringing in the disco lights and those big, mirrored balls."

A 15-by-15-foot dance floor also will be brought in, Caruso said.

"They won't have to cut a rug on a rug," he said.

Although these changes to the Crib are temporary, Daryl Swanson, Director of Nebraska Unions, said some permanent changes may be under way.

"We are trying to do something to change the character of the Crib," Swanson said, "and we wanted to mark the occasion of the expanded programming in the Crib."

Swanson said there were plans to

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