

## free for all Friday

Gerry Beltz

### Dreaming of video paradise



I have had a vision.

Last night, I did one of those self-imploding mega-sneezes while I hiccupped and burped at the exact same moment, and thus my vision began.

Quentin Tarantino appeared before me, dressed in his gangster-style tuxedo. It began to rain, so I found shelter under his chin.

We stood there, in the pouring rain, and we watched the world's perfect video store being constructed.

The new-release shelves had movies rotated off them on a regular basis — every two months — instead of letting them gather dust over a year's time.

The movies in this store were sorted in some semblance of order — nothing like the mess one certain nationwide video chain has decided to utilize.

And movies were logically sorted to the category they should fall into. So, for example, movies such as "Weird Science" and "The Breakfast Club" didn't end up in the action-adventure section, and "Bram Stoker's Dracula" didn't fall onto the mystery shelves.

This store carried both R-rated and unrated versions of the same movie on two-pack specials, so customers could find those vital 18 seconds of extra buttock footage.

There was also a separate room in the back carrying adult films. This room was monitored at all times with an ID-checker on the outside. No one under the age of 18 — or without proper ID — was admitted.

If people didn't like this type of entertainment, they didn't have to go back there. It was — and should be — that simple.

The employees of this store were unique from most other video stores. They had an extensive knowledge about movies, greater than what one usually finds in today's average video store clerk.

For instance, they knew that there were only three "Star Wars" movies, and that a "letterboxed" movie didn't mean it came in a box with a letter to the customer.

(No, I'm not kidding. These things have happened.)

If a movie had not been returned on time, these employees called the customer within 24 hours to politely remind him/her, instead of just letting the customer rack up two weeks of late fees.

Most of all, this perfect video store had the perfect customers. People knew what time their movies were due back, and they didn't look to employees to be babysitters and janitors for their kids.

But just as the final tiles were being placed on the roof of my vision, a bolt of reality came crashing down to the building, turning my vision into what it is — nothing.

And Quentin went away.



Courtesy of New Line Cinema

Detective David Mills (Brad Pitt) and Lt. William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) investigate a series of bizarre murders in the new mystery-thriller "Seven."

## Film's violent realism worth seeing

By Gerry Beltz  
Film Critic

To merely say that "Seven" is intense and violent would be the epitome of understatement.

Director David Fincher ("Alien3") leaves virtually no stone unturned — and no boundary left untested — with his latest film. How this film got by with only an "R" rating is quite a mystery, considering the quantity and intensity of several of the sequences.

Yet, it is that intensity which makes seeing the film so worthwhile.

Lt. William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) is a homicide detective who has seen everything too much. He is less than a week from retirement when he's partnered with the younger, gung-ho Detective David Mills (Brad Pitt).

Together, they must find and stop a serial killer who is basing his murders on the seven

deadly sins — envy, wrath, lust, greed, pride, gluttony and sloth.

This guy isn't just off his noodle or a couple of sandwiches short of a picnic. He is just really "out there." And to make matters worse, in terms of viewing a crime as a piece of perfection and artwork, he makes an afternoon with Hannibal Lector look like a peaceful bike ride.

The film itself is excellent. Fincher utilizes several different camera techniques and styles, giving the film a very music video feel at first. But it eventually fits the erratic, hypersensitive atmosphere of the film. The opening credit sequence is particularly freaky, and the use of hand-held cameras during an incredible chase sequence was excellent as well.

Pitt, unfortunately, is a disappointment. His performance shows only few spots of hope, but it's not a total waste, either.

Freeman is great, going from a burnt-out cop to a man driven by emotion and dedication. Watching these changes in his character as the film progresses is a real treat. He probably won't get an Oscar nomination for his work, but it is still well worth enjoying.

### Movie Review



### The Facts

**Movie:** "Seven"  
**Stars:** Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt  
**Director:** David Fincher  
**Rating:** R  
**Grade:** B+  
**Five words:** Psycho kills using seven sins

One major point to reiterate: This isn't a movie for the kids. This isn't a date movie. This is a movie with probably one of the bloodiest — and most realistic — autopsy sequences in any film this critic has ever viewed. The "sloth" sequence is also very disturbing, even for the most iron-clad of stomachs.

This film will stay with you long after you leave the theater, and it will make you think. Go see it.

## Dynamic Duo

### Couple joins in music, marriage

By Jeff Randall  
Senior Reporter

If Mark Clinton and Nicole Narboni seem to communicate particularly well during their duo piano performance Sunday night, it probably is not a coincidence.

The duo, both new members of the School of Music faculty at UNL, are partners not only in music, but also in marriage. Clinton is assistant professor of piano and co-chair of the piano area, and Narboni is assistant professor of piano.

"It's a lot like marriage," Clinton said of duo performance. "It's an exercise in the art of compromise."

Music fans who are hoping to see Clinton and Narboni perform will get the chance Sunday night when the two take the stage at Kimball Recital Hall.

The program will feature works by composers ranging from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Johannes Brahms to modern musicians such as Norman Dello Joio. The performance will begin at 8 p.m.

After meeting while attending college at Rice University in Texas, the pair discovered their compatibility offstage and were married.

They first decided to formally see if their relationship could transfer to music in 1993, when they formed the Clinton/Narboni Duo.

"We realized that we could make a lot more money performing together than we could as soloists," Narboni said, "especially because duo piano is such a novelty."

As a performance duo, Clinton and Narboni have enjoyed a number of successes, including winning the 1994 ProPiano New York Recital Competition and the 1995 National Federation of Music Clubs Ellis Duo Piano Competition. They made their Carnegie Hall debut in February of this year.

Clinton and Narboni are currently working on recording their first compact disc.

But despite their successes, Narboni admitted to being somewhat wary of duo performance at first.

## NU premieres 'Chinoiserie' this evening

By Sean McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

"Chinoiserie," part two of Ping Chong's three part trilogy about the relationships between East and West, will world premiere tonight at the Kimball Recital Hall.

Starting with Britain's first major trade meeting with China in 1793, "Chinoiserie" will examine the West's fascination and misconceptions about Chinese culture. The performance will integrate world issues, such as the 19th century Opium war, and more personal issues, such as Chong's experiences growing up in New York City's Chinatown.

The past, present and future are totally connected in "Chinoiserie," Chong said, and the performance is not set up in chronological order.

"It is more like a puzzle," he said. "You