

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Matt Woody

Web games add sparkle to mundane

Often, I find myself sitting in front of the computer and roaming around the World Wide Web.

At these times, I think to myself, "Matt, don't you have a life?"

But that thought gives way to another one: "How can I waste a few hours online today?"

Recently, I stumbled across something new — games.

I've spent plenty of time playing a game as boring as solitaire just because someone made a computerized version.

But now that I have access to the World Wide Web, games that normally would be even more mundane are even more exciting.

Take, for example, Connect Four. Remember all the fun you had as a child trying to line up four checkers of the same color?

Well, play that game online, at <http://csugrad.cs.vt.edu/htbin/Connect4.perl>.

In the mood for something requiring an actual thought process? Ahoy, mateys, get aboard online Battleship.

Find it at The Gameroom (a poor name if I ever heard one, since it only had Battleship and Tic-tac-toe) — <http://csugrad.cs.vt.edu/~jfk.gameroom.html>.

A good time, and truly mindless entertainment, can be had by all at the Internet slot machine. With a click of the mouse, new symbols pop up on the display (unfortunately, they don't spin around like the real slots).

If you ever win, you've done better than me. The five minutes I spent trying to win are five minutes I'd really like to have back. The time disappears at <http://www.datawave.net/cgi-bin/leverpull>.

To my English professor, I dedicate my discovery of the online MadLibs. This site on the Web asks only for simple nouns, adverbs, etc., and not adjective phrases or restrictive noun clauses.

The online MadLibs can be found at <http://hel.uns.tju.edu/madlib>.

One of the most interesting Web games is the "3D riDDle," a collection of stereogram puzzles. Stereograms are the pictures that can only be seen when one unfocuses one's eyes.

Good, old-fashioned, cross-eyed fun is available at <http://cvs.anu.edu.au/andy/rid/riddle.html>.

One other place that deserves a quick mention is the Riddler. This site is perhaps the most famous game site on the Web, and it even advertises in some computer and Internet magazines.

Possibly what makes Riddler so popular is that players can win actual cash. Everyone must register (it's free) before playing, but an address is required so winners can receive their prizes.

The Riddler at <http://www.riddler.com> has four different game options, including trivia and puzzles.

And if you find yourself feeling like you don't have a life, don't worry. It'll pass.

Cyberscape is a weekly column focusing on computers, with a heavy emphasis on the Internet. Send ideas, questions or comments to Matt Woody at dn@unlinfo.unl.edu

Superman

Jim proves he's jack-of-all-trades

By **Gerry Beltz**
Senior Reporter

There's more to Jim Danielson than meets the eye.

From popcorn to cars to programming to home brewing, the mild-mannered director of program development for Great Plains National, a service agency of Nebraska ETV at UNL, has his hands in a little bit of everything.

"I've got a lot of irons in the fire," Danielson said.

One iron that has been burning for 15 years is Rock Bluff Vineyard, which Danielson opened, owns and operates. He said he was a trendsetter 15 years ago.

"There were no other commercial vineyards in Nebraska at the time I opened mine," he said.

Growing grapes in Nebraska was uncommon at the time, Danielson said. Its success is evident as Rock Bluff has continued to grow and prosper.

"It has taken 15 years of experimenting to get to this point. I think the part that said 'can it be done?' has been answered," he said, "and the answer is 'yes.'"

Caring for a vineyard can be an arduous task, Danielson said.

"Vineyards are very labor-intensive because each plant must be cared for one at a time," he said. "You have to touch each one individually, every year, several times."

Danielson makes his own wine and beer and said home brewing had its advantages.

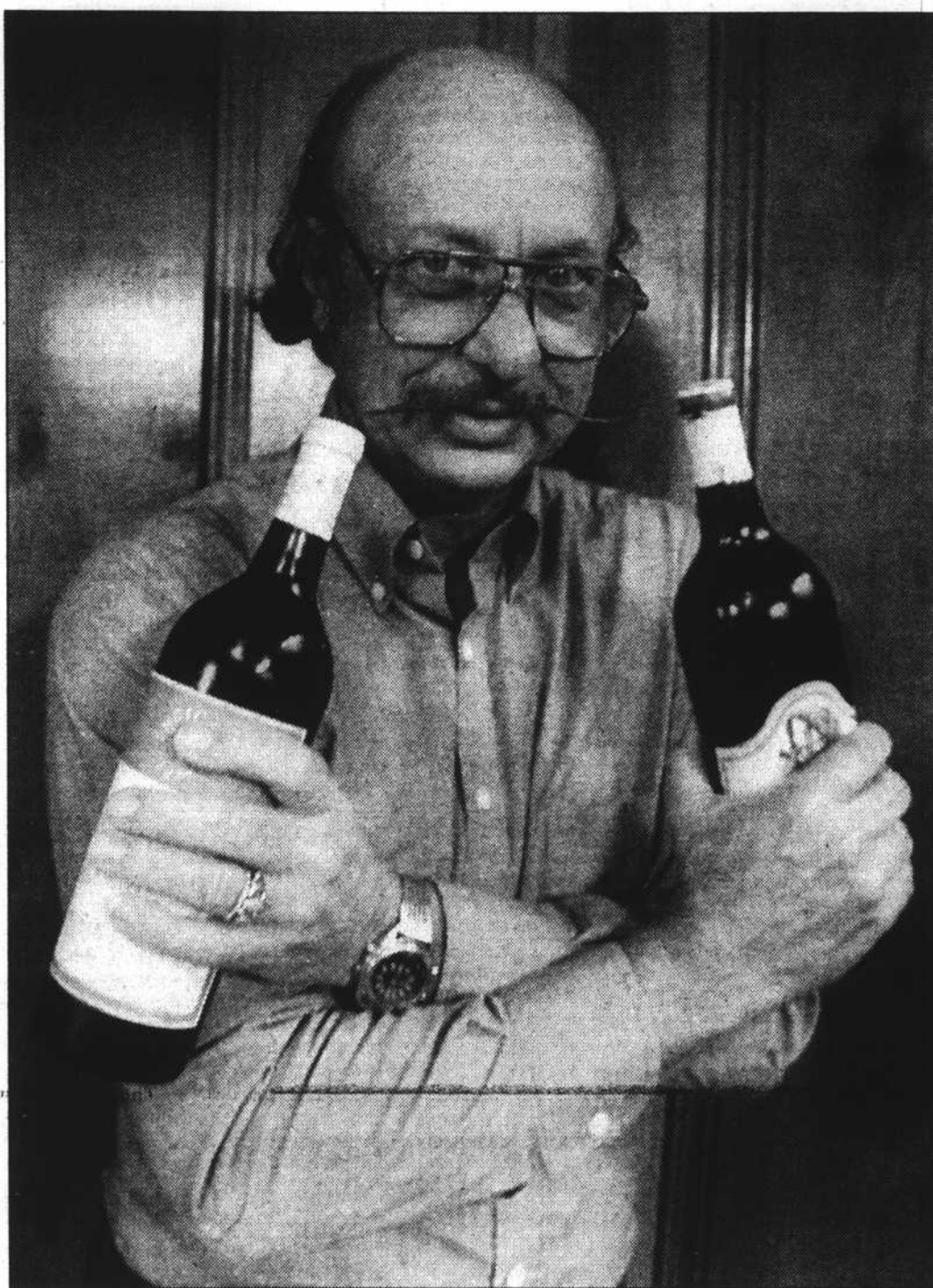
"It's fresh, has no preservatives, and tastes better. Almost anyone can make a good-tasting beer at home if they're careful."

And Danielson said he was particular about how he stored his beer, keeping it in pressurized, stainless steel five-gallon containers.

"Beer is a living thing," he said.

"The wonderful thing about home brewing is the number of things you can manipulate to show individuality."

Danielson has about 1,000 bottles of wine —



Jon Waller/DN

Jim Danielson has owned and operated Rock Bluff Vineyard for 15 years, making his own beer and wine at home.

See DANIELSON on 10



The Turtle Island String Quartet brings its innovative jazz style to the Lied Center for Performing Arts Saturday night.

String quartet dares jazz

By **Emily Wray**
Staff Reporter

The Turtle Island String Quartet prides itself on presenting a myriad of major musical melodies.

After numerous successful recordings, the quartet of violins, a viola and a cello brings its music to the Lied Center for Performing Arts Saturday night.

"Groups like Turtle Island really expand the

boundaries of chamber music and make it fresh and exciting," said C. Bruce Marquis, executive director of the Lied Center.

Jazz, blues and original works are the compositions of choice for the group.

In their original compositions, the musicians draw on jazz, blues, pop, bluegrass and other musical influences.

Playing jazz is unique for a string quartet,

See QUARTET on 10

Thriller neither thrills, chills nor entertains

By **Gerry Beltz**
Film Critic

Years ago, in the comic strip "Bloom County," Milo made the statement "No matter how thin you slice it, it's still baloney."

And a similar equation exists in the film industry: No matter how much talent you have in a cast, a bad movie is still a bad movie.

Such is the case in "Never Talk To Strangers."

Sarah (Rebecca DeMornay) is a no-nonsense clinical psychologist interviewing a serial rap-

ist named Max (Harry Dean Stanton) for a court evaluation.

(This has absolutely nothing to do with the plot, but I thought I would throw it in just for the heck of it — like the director did.)

Outside of work, Sarah is a lonely person, fending off the amorous advances of her upstairs neighbor Cliff (Dennis Miller), but she succumbs to temptation when she meets Tony (Antonio Banderas), a charismatic security expert who is hiding something.

They go back to his place, sip some wine, nibble on each other's fleshy parts. You know, standard first-date stuff.

But things begin happening to Sarah, like

See STRANGERS on 10

Movie Review

