

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, November 2, 1995

Page 9



Jeff Randall

City of sin tantalizes homebound

As winter descends on the Midwest and the wind howls day and night, a lot of Nebraskans, myself included, will be thinking about far-off lands where the sun is shining and loose-fitting threads are always in style.

That's right, kids, I'm talking about Las Vegas — the land of glitz and gleam, the city of sin and deprivation, mecca for the hopeful and oasis for the lucky.

But, if potentially losing your wages doesn't sound like an ideal vacation prospect — or if you have no wages to lose in the first place — you can visit the many facets of Las Vegas through the wonderful world of the Web.

You can start your adventure in the general information archives. The best of these is probably the appropriately titled Las Vegas Information Page <<http://snark.wizard.com/emg/>>

Containing Vegas-related information ranging from casino and hotel listings all the way down to the Las Vegas Bingo Club, the current weather and the city's illustrious arena football team.

Another appealing entry point to the world of Vegas lies within "Jon's Las Vegas Home Page" <<http://www.crl.com/~jhue/LasVegas/welcome.html>>

Run and maintained by an ordinary guy who just so happens to love vacationing in Fat City, this page contains a more realistic depiction of the city and its offerings than the usual Chamber of Commerce spiel. Dozens of pictures, travel tips and links to other information-saturated sites are present here.

In his later years, Elvis Presley made Las Vegas' stages familiar stomping grounds. Look up Elvis' home page <<http://sunsite.unc.edu/elvis/>> and browse through the world of the King. I can almost hear him crooning "My Way" right now.

Ring-a-ding-ding, baby! As the world's greatest living entertainer, Francis Albert Sinatra made Las Vegas a regular stop. Back in the days of the Rat Pack's glory, he could be seen at any one of Vegas' casino ballrooms on any given night. Check out Ol' Blue Eyes' home page <<http://www.io.org/~buff/sinatra.html>>

One of Las Vegas' lesser-known entertainers from the '50s and '60s was none other than Juan Garcia Esquivel, the father of lounge music. Retired now, but still as suave as ever, Mr. Esquivel's Web site <<http://www.state51.co.uk/state51/hottips/695/newsq.html>> offers up sound bites, information tidbits and the opportunity to send your questions directly to Esquivel himself.

Despite the proliferation of pornography, legalized prostitution and general angst present within the city limits of Las Vegas, the city still holds some mysterious charm for yours truly. Where else can you get married within a matter of minutes, order a prime rib dinner for \$5 and hear Wayne Newton sing "Danke Schoen" all in one exciting evening?

Nowhere else, and don't forget it. The glitter and glamour of Sin City are calling, so get online and find them for yourself.

Artist depicts ordinary in striking ways

By Gerry Beltz
Senior Reporter

An exhibit of the paintings of Tom Rierden, Northwest Pacific artist, opens Friday at the Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St. in the Haymarket.

Anne Pagel, Haydon Gallery director, said Rierden and the Haydon Gallery had been working with each other for about three years.

She said Rierden's work struck a chord in people for many different reasons.

"One reason is the bright colors and patterns he utilizes," she said. "People are immediately drawn to the intense colors."

"Also, he always uses figures facing away from the viewer, so there is no idea of the person's identity."

"They are read as the 'every-person,'" she said, "family people doing the ordinary things we do from day to day."

Rierden's work isn't just thought-provoking, but also remarkably unique, Pagel said.

"He has a very personal way of expressing himself that is unlike anything I have seen in this area," she said.

"Very few people use tempera because it is such a hard medium to work with."

"In Tom's case, he applies an egg tempera (egg and wax mixed with color pigment), then coats every layer of color with wax."

"It's a very painstaking process."

When not creating works of art, Rierden — who grew up in Lincoln — assists Seattle artist William Cumming and works as a well dig-



Courtesy of the Haydon Gallery

The work of artist Tom Rierden is featured in an exhibit opening at the Haydon Gallery Friday.

ger on Orcas Island.

"He's been working as an artist since he was a student," she said, "but has become much more serious about it."

"His work has certainly grown and become more sophisticated."

An opening reception will be held on Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

at the Haydon Gallery, at which Rierden will be present. Regular hours for the Haydon Gallery are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Theatrix mocks Titanic

By Brian Priesman
Staff Reporter

Take one doomed trans-Atlantic steamliner, six unusual passengers, one missing iceberg, some dead bodies and a ... dildo, and what do you get?

Christopher Durang's outlandishly funny "Titanic," the latest production from Theatrix.

UNL's student-run theater troupe, Theatrix has long been known for pushing the limits of avant-garde theater. And "Titanic" is no exception.

The play is "lunatic comedy," production stage manager Amy Jirsa said.

Set on the ill-fated maiden voyage of the steamliner Titanic, Christopher Durang's play is a "drowning-room" farce about the nature of the American family and the disturbed society that nurtures it.

Over the course of the journey, all sorts of strange secrets and fetishes are revealed, many of the sexual kind — hence the dildo.

"It's just this thing that the captain does that's

normal to him," said Amy Rohr, who plays Victoria, one of the bizarre passengers.

Most of the characters are outlandish, but they all consider themselves normal, Rohr said.

"They're all pretty odd," she said.

The original Titanic, a deluxe steamliner that was supposedly unsinkable, sank on its maiden voyage after hitting an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean.

But in Durang's bizarre world, the Titanic seems unable to find the iceberg destined to sink it and kill hundreds of passengers.

"In the show, the Titanic does not actually sink, although several people wish it would," Jirsa said. "You think it's going to sink, you think it's going to sink, you think it's going to sink, but it doesn't."

"The people are so funny."

She added that "the presence of the dildo has been the most fun."

Rohr said the audience could expect "a pretty wild and wacky group of people."

"They need to forget about reality," she said.

"Titanic," directed by Channing Ross, opens tonight and runs through Sunday in the Howell Theatre, 12th and R streets. Showtime is at 8 each night with a 2 p.m. show on Sunday. Ticket information is available at 472-2073.

Effects make 'Vampire' a treat

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

"Vampire in Brooklyn" isn't a comeback film for either Eddie Murphy or Wes Craven, but it isn't a failure, either.

Both have suffered recent cinematic slumps ("Beverly Hills Cop III" for Murphy, "New Nightmare" for Craven), but this film is entertaining enough to help recapture some of their lost income.

Granted, they won't get much for this film, but it should help them out, at least.

See VAMPIRE on 10

The Facts

Film: "Vampire in Brooklyn"
Stars: Eddie Murphy, Angela Bassett, Allen Payne
Director: Wes Craven
Rating: R
Grade: C+
Five Words: Great effects, but predictable story

Soprano sings sacred music this evening

By Doug Kouma
Senior Editor

The UNL School of Music's Faculty Recital Series continues tonight at Kimball Recital Hall as soprano Margaret Kennedy presents a program of sacred solos for voice.

Kennedy, an associate professor of voice, said the wealth of literature available and the excellent church music program at UNL helped her decide to focus on sacred music.

The first half of the recital will contain 17th century baroque pieces, featuring accompaniment from reproductions of an historic harpsichord and a portable organ.

Kennedy said the instruments enriched the music.

"They have a tendency to underline the text, to fill in the text in a way that's very different from the modern piano," she said. "There are just a lot more color possibilities when you're using the older instruments."

The second half of the recital, Kennedy said, will comprise 20th century arias. Kennedy describes the modern music as having a bigger, more operatic sound that uses more range than the earlier music.

Kennedy said she was looking forward to presenting a program of sacred music.

"I enjoy it. I've never done a program of all sacred music, and I thought it was a good time to do it, because there's so much of it," she said.

"I think the students need to be aware of this literature, and they might not always have a chance to hear it."

Tonight's free program begins at 8 at Kimball Recital Hall.

