

## the Fine Print

By Cliff Hicks  
and Emily Wray

### British novel plays with Apocalypse

Shakespeare was right. People behave better than angels and worse than demons, sometimes at the same time.

The book of the week is Cliff's choice. "Good Omens, The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch," by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett, was written by two Brits who had nothing better to do.

Actually, both of them were working on other projects at the time (Gaiman on his "Sandman" comic and Pratchett on his next Discworld novel), but they took time off to write this joint effort.

Fans of Monty Python and Douglas Adams are used to the British style of comedy exhibited in "Good Omens." Of course, it's more fun than Monty Python. Instead of soaking up light rays from the tube, average readers MUST actively participate (use their imagination).

The book's main theme, the Apocalypse, always stays in the back of the reader's mind and leads to the book's climax.

The main character is Adam, the Antichrist, who happens to be a very nice 11-year-old British boy. Other major players include Crowley, (an angel who did not so much "fall" as "saunter vaguely downwards"), Aziraphale (an angel and part-time rare book dealer), Newton Pulsifer (Witchfinder Private) and Anathema Device (descendant of Agnes Nutter).

The supporting cast gives a good literary performance. Highlights include the four Apocalyptic Horsepersons. DEATH (WHO TALKS IN ALL CAPS), War (Remember all those WARS fought over women. Maybe it's just a coincidence War is female and maybe not), Famine (who now runs health-food joints) and Pollution (who replaced Pestilence after the invention of penicillin) make up the original Hell's Angels.

And then there's Dog (Satanical hellhound and cat-worrier). When the sources of Evil send a hellhound to guide and protect Adam, the Antichrist, the dog's name will determine its destiny.

Without giving away the plot, a couple of comments hit close to home for us. For poor Crowley, part of hell on Earth was his cassette tape collection. All tapes left in a car for more than about a fortnight metamorphose into "Best of Queen" albums. (Just imagine Tchaikovsky's "Another One Bites the Dust.")

With many smirks and a few groans, Emily finds this book better than any homework assigned so far this semester.

Cliff, on the other hand, thinks it's a tad bit better than that. His praises would have filled all the space allowed, but thank God...no, the Devil...no, Adam...for self-editing.

Hicks is a sophomore news-editorial and English major. Wray is a junior news-editorial major. Both are book lovers and Daily Nebraskan staff reporters.

## Storytellers bring craft back to mainstream

### Presentation to showcase performers in revival of defunct art form

By ANN STACK  
Senior Reporter

Dave Landis has a story to tell.

Actually, he and some friends have a few stories to tell — and they're telling them Friday night on the UNL campus.

Landis and the Nebraska Storytelling Festival are working together to present "Tell Us A Story" at 7:30 Friday at Westbrook Music Building. The presentation will be a storytelling concert featuring Steve Sanfield, Karen Libman, Landis and Four Bright Chicks, a troupe of tellers from Omaha.

"It's an outgrowth of the storytelling festival in Omaha," he said. "We haven't had one in Lincoln since the Flatwater Festival."

The Flatwater Festival was a fall art festival that has been defunct for four years.

Landis, a state senator from Lincoln, feels that storytelling is becoming a revived art form.

"It has an awareness that's relatively new, and that's caused by a backlash to television. TV socially has the effect of making listeners passive, unimaginative and with a shorter attention span," he said. "Storytelling is an antidote to all three. Listeners can create the picture themselves."

He also thinks it's a form worth preserving for its artistic integrity.

"It's a beautiful art form," he said. "You find when you go to a storytelling event that you're almost always re-



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

mindful of powerful stories in your life ... and of how we reveal ourselves in telling stories."

He said he chose the term "concert" to describe the event because that's how he would like the audience to view it.

"A concert has the focus of the audience, yet the return of variety," he said. "At a concert someone has to take center stage and deliver. With this, there's a connecting with the audience."

Landis is reading two short stories

in the 90-minute performance, "Jacobi the Shoemaker" and "Nalgiri," a story about India.

"The first is funny and touching. The second is insightful. It's about the power of inner calm," he said.

Another storyteller performing Friday is Karen Libman, assistant professor of theatre arts at UNL.

She's a professional storyteller as well, and is excited about the concert.

"I think storytelling is a recovering art form," she said. "It's made a big comeback since the early '90s — it's

vogue. There are festivals happening all over the country."

Libman will be performing a love story, as the concert is geared towards adults rather than children.

Steve Sanfield is a children's storyteller who has written more than 20 books. While in Lincoln, he will be doing storytelling in the public schools as a guest of the Arts Are Basic program at UNL as well.

Admission is \$3 for students with IDs and \$5 for the general public. Advance tickets are \$4 and can be obtained by calling 466-9352.



COURTESY PHOTO

"AFTER THE SHOWERS," by Roy Strassberg, is one of the works displayed at Richards Hall until Nov. 21.

## Exhibit brings ceramic art to life

By FRED POYNER  
Art Critic

Ceramic forms sprout from the walls and floor in the latest show at the Richards Hall Gallery, the venue for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Art and Art History.

"Handle Spout Story Shrine," an exhibition of works by 18 artists, purposefully moves away from the craft association the medium can invoke in the minds of many viewers.

The show was curated by UNL ceramics professor Gail Kendall, who currently has a show of her own at the Haydon Gallery. Many of the pieces in "Handle" combine organic and geometric elements in creating lifelike vessels, towers, hangings and assemblages.

Several artists approached the medium through an exploration of the fantastic and bizarre. Jake Jacobson's Earthenwares are whimsical as distorted and colorful derivations of modern tableware, while Joann Schnabel's

man-sized sculptures are menacing and surreal.

Several upcoming events complement the quality of this exhibition, including studio demonstrations by ceramic artists Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in 104 Nelle Cochrane Woods Art Building, and a slide lecture the same day in 225 Richards Hall at 7:30 p.m.

"Handle Spout Story Shrine" will be on display through Nov. 21 in 102 Richards Hall.

## Concert Review

### Ozzy, Danzig rock Pershing with old, new

By ANN STACK  
Music critic

Everything good comes back around, and Ozzy Osbourne is no exception.

Ozzy and company put on a rockin' show Tuesday night at Lincoln's Pershing auditorium, despite a slightly hoarse voice.

The Madman seemed in near-top form as he belted out all of his old classics, plus a good mixture of new material. He's still on the road touring in support of his 1995 "Ozzmosis" release.

He opened to a chant of "Ozzy! Ozzy!" with "Paranoid." He then challenged the crowd of sweat-soaked moshers to do "whatever the (expletive) you want" to earn a backstage pass.

Ozzy had some familiar faces on stage with him. The drummer for Faith No More and bassist Robert Trujillo of the former band Suicidal Tendencies have both taken spots with Ozzy.

Mixed between classics "Goodbye To Romance," "Suicide Solution" and "I Don't Know" were some Black Sabbath songs, includ-

Please see OZZY on 17