

Get bent



COURTESY PHOTO

If high-energy garage rock is your bag, the Zoo Bar is the place to be. The Bent Scepters, a garage band with a lounge act mentality, arrive in Lincoln tonight via their hometown of Iowa City, Iowa. They will perform at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., in a 21-and-over show. The music begins at about 9 and there is a \$3 cover charge.

Critics select favorites for Oscar wins

OSCARS from page 12

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Gerry: I sprained my tongue on Armin's last name and Norton was in a Richard Gere film, so they're both out. Cuba hasn't paid his dues yet, and a used-car dealer cannot garner an Oscar nod. I'll go with the recognizable Woods; despite his portrayal of a 90-year-old racist, he has certainly paid his dues ... oh, and he did a good job, too.

Bret: Don't let Gerry fool you, that's not how he sprained his tongue. Regardless, something about the name "Cuba Gooding" seems a bit too contrived, even for Hollywood, not to mention he is responsible for this

year's most annoying and cliched catch phrase "Show me the money." Because of my personal affinity for tyrannical father figures, my pick goes to Armin Mueller-Stahl for his riveting performance as an obsessed and abusive parent in "Shine."

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Gerry: This category has always sucked for me. Year after year, I never can get it right, so I'll just blindly guess Juliette Binoche because it'll keep a major streak running for "The English Patient." Bacall and her long-time devotion to cinema also give her a good chance.

Bret: I agree; you have always sucked in this category. Personally, I never

liked the relationship between Bacall and Bogie; "The Mirror Has Two Faces" could easily be the title for a movie about their marriage. Barbara Hershey's spirited yet dubious character in "The Portrait of a Lady" was executed with brilliance and subtlety, earning my choice for this classy and long overdue actress.

Abstract expressionist dies after prolific career

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Willem de Kooning, whose swirls and slashes of color helped define abstract expressionism and made him one of the 20th century's greatest painters, died in his studio Wednesday. He was 92.

De Kooning's abstract expressionist works included traces of the earlier surrealist movement and prefigured pop art. Along with Jackson Pollock, he led the group of artists who helped New York replace Paris as the center of the art world in the years after World War II.

"I don't paint to live, I live to paint," he said in his 80s. "It's a nice thing to look forward to."

De Kooning painted daily until the late 1980s, even after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. In 1989, after a bitter court fight, he was declared mentally incompetent and control of his estate was given to his attorney and his daughter, Lisa, who is his only survivor.

Among his meticulously composed canvases was his 1944 "Pink Lady," which brought \$3.63 million at an auction in 1987. Two years later his 1955 masterpiece "Interchange" sold for a stunning \$20.6 million. Vintage works consistently sold for more than \$1 million.

Born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, he was the son of a wine and beer distributor and a barmaid. They divorced when he was 5 and his father got custody, but his mother took him away by force — a fact that critics made much of in later years.

He decided to emigrate to the United States and, stowing away on a ship, ended up in Hoboken, N.J., in 1926. He learned English while working as a house painter and commercial artist.

His first one-man show came in 1948 at age 44. When his canvas "Excavation" won the major prize at the Art Institute of Chicago's 1951 exhibition, it was viewed as a vindication for abstract expressionism, the movement that stresses the depiction of emotion through shapes and colors.

De Kooning was married in 1943 to fellow painter Elaine Fried. They separated later and when he was 52 he had daughter with Joan Ward. But he never divorced Elaine and in 1978 she returned. She helped him stop his heavy drinking and handled his affairs until her death in 1989.

De Kooning was known for having difficulty declaring his paintings complete, but his output increased in the 1980s, when he produced more than 300 works. In a 1989 interview, Rose Slivka, an art critic and old friend of de Kooning's, commented on his vitality.

"It's very exciting to watch him paint," she said. "As always, he brings his whole body into it. ... It seems to flow out of his fingers, his way of touching the canvas as if he were following the color lines, as if he's feeling into a very deep part of his life."

A funeral was scheduled for Saturday afternoon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in East Hampton. A public memorial service will be held later.

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