

Multitalented author visits UNL

BY JASON HARDY
Senior Reporter

School is expensive.
Experience is free.

Tonight Frank Conroy, a nationally acclaimed author and the recipient of this spring's University of Nebraska President's Distinguished Visiting Artist award, will conduct a free public reading of his work at the Westbrook Recital Hall.

Conroy, who is also the director of the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop, will be on campus today and tomorrow to speak with English and jazz classes about his work as a writer and as a jazz musician.

Kit Voorhees, coordinator of educational outreach for the College of

Fine and Performing Arts, said it was quite an honor for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to be visited by Conroy, who will visit the University of Nebraska at Kearney next.

"To have a writer who is not only a very successful novelist, but who also is intricately connected with the Iowa Writers' Workshop is about as fine a thing as we could get," Voorhees said. She said Conroy was a good example for UNL students to follow.

"He's a writer who is able to address many themes, not just one continuum. He doesn't conform to a formula for writing," Voorhees said. "I think that's something that's very good for our students to see being practiced."

Gerald Shapiro, associate professor of English, said he agreed that

UNL students could learn a lot from Conroy's work ethic and his ability to branch out into different genres of writing.

"He's someone who hasn't felt constrained by one genre. He's a novelist, a memoirist and a short story writer, and he's been very successful in all three areas," Shapiro said.

He said Conroy's success didn't come overnight.

"It takes patience because he hasn't been a wildly prolific writer. He's a person who's really stuck with it year by year," Shapiro said. "He's a craftsman, and I think the pleasure of the craft is apparent in all his work. That's a wonderful lesson for the students and the rest of us as well."

Voorhees said students also could learn from the way Conroy combined

his love for jazz music with his ability to write.

"There's an absolute connection," Voorhees said. "Learning the theory that's the infrastructure to jazz translates to learning the utilization of language. He takes language and improvises it into something very, very good."

She said students should take advantage of the opportunity to visit with such a renowned author.

"He's a man of ideas, and the university campus is a place of ideas, and it's a time in the lives of the students when they can see this within the rhythm of their lives," Shapiro said. "It's like eating fresh fruit when it's in season."

Conroy's reading begins at 7 p.m. in 119 Westbrook Music Building.

Music



COURTESY PHOTO
VAN HALEN, new frontman and all, returns to the rock arena today with the release of "Van Halen III."

Van Halen debuts 3rd lead singer

BY JIM ZAVODNY
Staff Reporter

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Van Halen is back.

The band debuts its third lead singer, Gary Cherone of Extreme, on the new album, which is its first record that contains new material since 1995's "Balance," Sammy Hagar's last album with Van Halen.

Stone Temple Pilots lead screamer Scott Weiland comes out with his first solo album today after his battle with drug problems that caused his temporary break from STP.

Two spoken-word albums debut today - from the influential poet Maya Angelou and beat generation writer William Burroughs, who died last year. Burroughs' best-of collection comes with four compact discs.

"The Complete Wailers" is part one in a series of Bob Marley and the Wailers material planned for release. Part one's box set contains three compact discs.

It's a rapper's delight this week as the soundtrack for Ice Cube's new film, "Player's Club," and an album from those clock-wearin' studs Public Enemy come out. "Player's Club" includes music from the Cube himself, Master P and Scarface.

New Releases: March 17, 1998

Maya Angelou: "Black Pearls: The Poetry of" (Rhino WordBeat)
Louis Armstrong and King Oliver: "Creole Jazz" (Tradition/Rykodisc)

William Burroughs: "Best of" (Mouth Almighty/Mercury)
Marc Cohn: "Burning the Daze" (Atlantic)

The Great Divide: "Break in Storm" (Atlantic)
Mach Five: "Mach Five" (Island)

Bob Marley and the Wailers: "The Complete Wailers 1967-1972 Part 1" (JAD)

Movie Soundtrack: "Player's Club" (A&M)

Public Enemy: "Bring the Noise 2000" (Polygram)

RuPaul: "Go-Go Box Classics" (Rhino)

Van Halen: "3" (Warner Bros.)

Scott Weiland: "12 Bar Blues" (Atlantic)

ART therapy

Display showcases artist who overcame depression

BY SARAH BAKER
Senior Reporter

Most people turn to their shrink when they are looking for happiness.

Elizabeth Layton turned to the mirror.

"Reflections on Life and Well Being: Drawings by Elizabeth Layton" runs through April 30th at the Great Plains Art Collection in Love Library.

The exhibit showcases 26 drawings by the late Elizabeth Layton, a 68-year-old grandmother who overcame severe depression through making art.

Don Lambert, organizer and creator of the show, said the type of art Layton did is not a unique form.

"It's known as the blind contour method," he said. "Elizabeth learned to draw pictures of herself while she looked in the mirror, but didn't look at the paper."

Layton originally started drawing after she suffered from severe bouts of depression because of a divorce and later the death of one of her children.

Lambert said that over a 15-year period, Layton did nearly 1,000 drawings.

"Her art cured what 13 shock treatments couldn't," he said, referring to Layton's depression.

Lambert said he first discovered Layton's work while working as a reporter in Kansas.

"I first met Elizabeth right when she started drawing," Lambert said. "I saw two of her drawings and I thought they were remarkable and I asked her if she would let me show her work to people. She said 'You can, but no one is going to like them because they are all ugly.'"

Lambert said the first reactions to the works confirmed Layton's belief.

"I knew there was great truth and

Art Exhibit

beauty in the drawings, and that is why I persisted in showing them," Lambert said.

Because of his persistence, Layton's art has been shown in more than 200 museums across the United States, including the Smithsonian.

Lambert said the art has been shown in Lincoln before, but it was about 10 years ago. He encouraged people to take advantage of its return.

"It's not like anything you've ever seen before," he said. "Although some people don't like it, many people, when they see the drawings of an old woman showing her struggles and joys, say 'this is me.'"

Lambert said many of the self portraits reflect social issues such as women's rights, prejudice and AIDS.

"Her work triggers a wonderful response of solidarity that we don't often see in art."

Lambert said these works are the kind that make people look within themselves after seeing them.

"After you look at the twenty-some drawings in the collection, I think you'll come to a better understanding of yourself and of the aging process, which we're all a part of whether we admit it or not."

"Reflections on Life and Well Being: Drawings by Elizabeth Layton" runs through April 30 at the Great Plains Art Collection, 205 Love Library, 13th and R streets.

Lambert also will present a special slide show and lecture concerning Layton's art. The presentation takes place April 2 at 4 p.m. in the Great Plains Art Collection.

Hours for the exhibit are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (402) 472-6220.

Woodwind quintet a sure crowd pleaser

Group will play the classics

BY BARB CHURCHILL
Assignment Reporter

The Moran Woodwind Quintet doesn't do requests.

But if it did, chances are good that a hefty portion of tonight's concert would stay the same.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's faculty woodwind quintet-in-residence, the Moran Woodwind Quintet, will play a recital tonight in Kimball Recital Hall. The program includes pieces such as John Harbison's "Quintet for Winds" and Jacques Ibert's "Trois Pieces Breves," two standard works for woodwind quintets.

The Moran Quintet has been UNL's resident woodwind quintet for 12 years. The newest member of the group is Assistant Clarinet Professor Diane Cawein, who joined the group in 1994. Other members of the group include John Bailey, professor of flute, William McMullen, associate professor of oboe, Gary Echols, professor of bassoon, and Allen French, associate professor of french horn.

Tonight's recital features works from France, the United States, Germany and Great Britain. The pieces range from contemporary American classical music, intimations of jazz and traditional classical woodwind writing from the French and German schools.

The works on this concert include Jacques Ibert's "Trois pieces breves," John Harbison's "Quintet for Winds," Theodor Blumer's "Kinderspielzeug," and Jim Parker's "Mississippi Five." The Ibert and Harbison are standards, and the Blumer "Kinderspielzeug" and the Parker "Mississippi Five" are audience pleasers.

However, breaking down pieces by function is not the Moran Quintet's style. It can be hard to tell "standard" from "audience pleaser," especially when one (the Ibert "Trois pieces breves") is both, McMullen said.

"Audiences really enjoy the Ibert," McMullen said.

Perhaps it is the structure of the Ibert that audiences enjoy so much. "Trois pieces breves" con-

"Audiences really enjoy the Ibert. It is one... woodwind quintet piece everyone plays."

WILLIAM McMULLEN
associate professor of oboe

sists of three short movements. The first movement is very lively, the second movement is a very tender and intimate duet between the clarinet and flute, and the third movement also features the clarinet in a quick, waltz-like melody, McMullen said.

"The Ibert piece is one of the standards. It is one of the top-five woodwind quintet pieces everyone plays, and has been that way ever since 1930 (when it was composed)," McMullen said.

The Harbison "Quintet for Winds" was composed in 1978 and is highly regarded around the world as a major late-20th century work. It's not strange or avant-garde, but there are very dissonant and intense moments. It is very rhythmic and serious, McMullen said.

The Blumer "Kinderspielzeug" is an extremely enjoyable, programmatic work consisting of six short movements describing children's toys. The movements include "a ball," "a teddy bear," "a little doll," "a little march with some dolls," "a music box" and "a sled in the snow." This work is very descriptive and fun to play, McMullen said.

Parker's "Mississippi Five" is based on different styles of jazz from the New Orleans area. Parker is British, yet captures the American jazz and blues style with great flair and skill, McMullen said.

"This is a newer work (composed in 1993) in a lighter mode. The audience should really enjoy it," McMullen said.

The Moran Woodwind Quintet concert is tonight at 8 in Kimball Recital Hall. Admission is free.