

Musicians carry on Mexican culture

MARIACHI from page 9

ter that offered a Mariachi curriculum. While the Cuicacali center closed shortly after its conception, the effects are still felt today as it gave rise to a number of Omaha's Mariachi groups, including Mariachi Zapata.

Also promoting the Mariachi movement in Omaha is the Bellas Artes Mexicanas, a group whose focus is on bringing Mariachi festivals with world-renowned artists to Omaha. The guest musicians conduct workshops throughout the week, and hold a final concert as a finale.

The group's third annual festival is set for this summer from July 28-31, and Gutierrez said it's that kind of high profile exposure that has been piquing the interest of Omaha's Hispanic community.

"It's becoming more visible, so when kids see Mariachi Zapata perform it's something that generally had not been seen. It's different, so when they see other kids play it they think, 'Wow, I wanna try that,'" Gutierrez said. "It also appeals to our background so it grows even more."

The band has no shortage of gigs. Mariachi Zapata generally plays twice

a week, regularly landing work at local restaurants and playing private parties.

The exposure helps spread the popularity of the music, while simultaneously carrying on traditions that are important to Mariachi music - keeping both the audience and the players involved in the spirit and emotion of the music itself.

"I play because of the effect it has on the audiences," Hernandez said. "It's emotional for a lot of people, and we've played to people who've started to cry. Generally artists are looking for that kind of response, and when you get it, that's why you play."

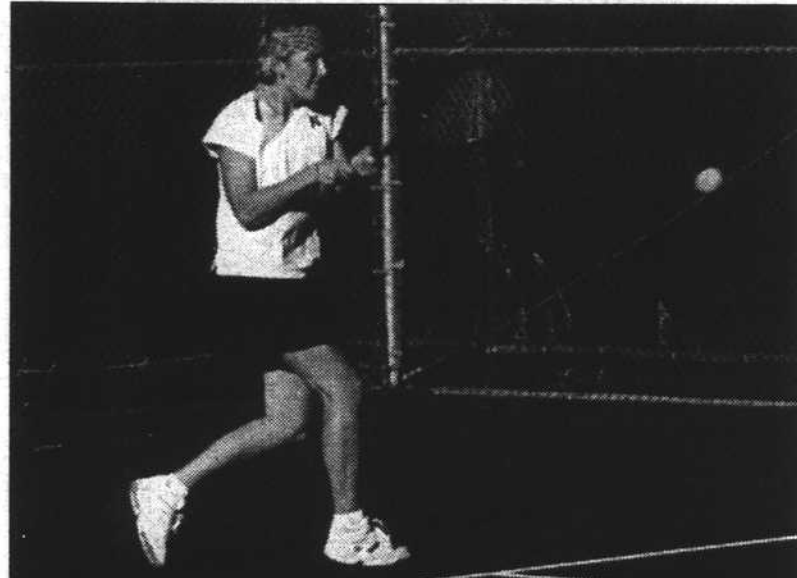
Mercedes Rosales, a worker at the Juan Diego Community Center in Omaha, grew up listening to Mariachi

music with her family and now that she is a senior citizen, she is glad to see it return with such abundance.

"My husband and I love to dance, and that kind of music rekindles something in you," Rosales said. "It awakens our youth in us because the Mariachi music has a heart in it, and that heart reaches out to you."

Hernandez said he was proud to have helped the Mariachi scene grow in Omaha and he sees only good things for the future. He hopes to start a Mariachi association to pool experience and resources and better organize the Mariachi scene, ultimately carrying the tradition into the future.

"That's what it's about, getting the youth interested in learning it so some day they can pass it along."



**Wednesday, February 24 at 5 pm
NU vs. Creighton**

at Woods Tennis Center, 33rd & J • Free Admission

Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 26th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1998-June 1999 graduating classes.

Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam, Fellowships Director, The Indianapolis News, P.O. Box 145, Indianapolis, IN 46206-0145

Web site: www.starnews.com/pdf
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Lord Byron brought to life in play

BYRON from page 9

sion. Each moment uses a variety of levels and depths, and the way Behrendt moves the actors is choreographic.

A highlight of this staging occurs at the beginning of Act II when the future Lady Byron and Lord Byron meet for the first time. The ensemble unites in a circle under a pillar to give the impression of a temple.

The Lord and Lady Byron's dancing flirtation is echoed by their flight in and around the columns.

Behrendt also uses a movable bed as a vehicle for the play's decadence and debauchery.

Lord and Lady Byron indulge themselves amid its fluffy whiteness, and a passionate clan of admirers holds Lord Byron captive in it.


The play's overriding theme is Ada's relationship with her father. Like many children, Ada hates her father because she can see herself in him.

The play's exploration of this hatred provides a stark picture of parent-child relations.

And amid this struggle is the fascinating depiction of one of the world's most infamous poets.

By providing a contemporary representation of this historic figure, "Childe Byron" avoids becoming a dry, academic perusal. It portrays Byron in true form, bringing him to life more than a century after his death.

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