Family Day' at Sheldon to expose children to art

By PATRICK KELLY Staff Writer

Lincoln children are going to learn about the world of art by adding to it. On Sunday, June 27th the Nebraska Art Association will hold its fifth Family Day.

The free event, from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden, gives children the opportunity to learn about art with a variety of hands-on activities.

Children will help create jewelry, jewelry boxes, Matisse paper bags, masks and more. The activities will be run by local artists from the area who specialize in a range of media such as paper dolls and metal work.

One of the more popular events from years past will make a return – Todd Miller's metalwork. Miller's copper-punching display has been a favorite of visitors young and old. Children interested in ceramics

will have the opportunity to leave their permanent mark on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The children will create tiles that will be used in the Art School's Woods Building.

"One of the ways you appreciate art is by learning how to do it. It might introduce people to things that they normally wouldn't do," said Kathy Piper, executive director of the Nebraska Art Association. Piper also added that it provided an excellent opportunity to bring new people to the gallery.

Apart from the arts and crafts, families can also help solve a mystery. Storyteller Jim Cook will send children off on a mission that will take them through the gallery in search of clues. The mystery will make up the gallery games section of the program which will be held at 1:00 and 3:00.

Latest in 'Speed' series raises stakes

By CLIFF HICKS Senior Editor

Let's get one thing out of the way up front – like all of the "Need For Speed" series, "High Stakes" looks great.

On any machine with 3D acceleration, the game looks fantastic. With realistic textures, lush colors and a solid sense of dynamic lighting, the game's always going to be pretty to look at.

Without 3D acceleration, it's not as pretty to look at, doesn't move quite as fast but still looks fairly good. (Still, if you're a computer gamer these days and don't have a 3D accelerator in your machine, you're a cheap gamer.)

One of the things that bugged me about the last "Need For Speed" game, though, had nothing to do with the visuals – it's all about the control.

In the last one, "Hot Pursuit," the NFS team tried to achieve a sense of balance between arcade handling and realistic simulation. Instead of getting the best of both worlds, the game ended up as an unwilling compromise between the two. The braking was underdone and the steering was overdone. It was the handling in "Hot Pursuit" that really killed it.

The balance is better here, although still not perfect. The handling is more realistic than arcade, and for

THE FACTS

Game: "Need for Speed: High Stakes" Genre: Racing Publisher: Electronic Arts Minimum Specs: 200 MHz, 50 MB HD space, 32MB RAM Grade: B Five Words: Who's pulling who over now?

the better.

Another great technological feat is the beta test of the Internet racing setup. No longer must the fun between friends be reduced to those with enough cash shelled out to afford their own network – now people all across the world can finally settle who's Speed Racer and who's Trashed Car #5.

It's still in beta test, but, like most beta tests, most of the problems seemed fixed and only a few occasional crashes plagued the game.

But the great improvements, besides the improved the sharper handling, come in the form of gameplay enhancements.

"Sure," you're thinking, "it was fun being chased by the fuzz in the last game, but what's new?"

How about being the fuzz?

From the minute I saw the words "either side of the law" on the box, I knew it was time for me to don my mirror shades, buff up the badge and go out speed demon hunting.

Instead of just running from the law, you can put the lights on top of your car and join the force, hunting down the cars, and they don't always go down easy.

Being able to call for roadblocks helps, as does setting up spike strips or calling on another car to be your "wingman."

The fact that you have a chopper playing spotter for you also gives you an edge, and there's just no beating the feeling of ramming a Porsche into the wall of a tunnel.

This, added into the ability to play over the Internet, adds a hell of a lot to the game. Beyond all of that is the fact that new cars are going be posted on the company's website on a regular basis. The concept of expanding the game after it's out isn't new (the boys over at Cavedog were the first to do it with "Total Annihilation") but it hasn't been done enough and it's a nice addon to a solid game.

Beyond all of this, though, it's a "Need For Speed" game. If you like one, you'll generally like this one.

And I can't tell you how much I hope one of the people I pull over on the Internet some day will be a cop. That alone would be worth my dollars.

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PAGE 14 DAILY NEBRASKAN SUMMER EDITION DHURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1999

Omaha to embrace the arts at 25th annual festival

By PATRICK KELLY Staff Writer

Downtown Omaha will come alive with music, food and an array of events during the 25th Annual Summer Arts Festival.

The festival will feature the works of more than 170 artists from 29 different states. Many diverse styles of art will be on display. The festival will also include a wide array of live musical performances. The events offer an eclectic mix of activities for all ages.

The festival will be located on the grounds of the Douglas Civic Center and on Farnam Street from 17th to 20th. The times will be from noon to 9 p.m. on Friday, noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

This year's children's festival will place an emphasis on the performing arts. The theme for this year is "The Art Garden" focusing on nature and the role the environment plays in art. More than 15 organizations have contributed to provide activities for children. The children's fair will be open noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Children's Fair Stage will offer non-stop entertainment. Scheduled performances include an African drummer, a Celtic dancer, a Mexican folk ballet and a Jewish dance troupe.

There will be plenty of entertainment for adults as well. Legendary jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson will headline a concert titled, "Swing Dance Under the Stars." A lineup of other local musical acts are also set to perform such as Echo Farm, Luigi Waites, Matt Wallace and Baby Needs Shoes.

Although the festival highlights the work of artists from the region, the festival will offer an international perspective. A group of Buddhist monks will perform "Sacred Music and Sacred Dance for World Healing" which incorporates a blend of choral singing with horns, drums and bells.

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