

## An INTOXICATING learning concoction

*Budweiser brewmasters treat students to an education in the history and art of beer*

By **JOSH KRAUTER**  
Senior staff writer

He is the man who makes sure your beer tastes fresh.

He is constantly looking for innovations in the field of beer brewing.

And he is the reason high school kids drive all over town on weekends searching for their older brothers or sisters.

He is the brewmaster.

Two brewmasters are at the Nebraska State Fair all week to teach the basics of beer brewing to anyone 21 and over at the Budweiser Beer School.

The school is actually two 53-foot long tractor-trailers that join together to create the Beer School classroom.

Once inside, the beer student sits in a nice, comfy chair in front of a 3-D replica of the Anheuser-Busch brewing facilities. The beermasters introduce themselves and guide you through the brewing process.

All students get to taste freshly brewed Budweiser, which tastes much better than the old swill on tap at most bars. Then, Bud that's been sitting around the fridge for a few weeks is brought out to give the student a comparison. Surprisingly enough, it tasted like the old swill on tap at most bars.

The students also have to swallow a little corporate rhetoric with their beer.

A few short films are shown, which portray company founder Adolphus Busch and his successors

August Busch I-IV as great American heroes on par with Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr. and Mr. T.

Prohibition is portrayed as merely a minor annoyance in which the company expanded its lineup to include non-alcoholic beer. Just 16 short years later, it was back to making real beer again.

However, the brewmasters saved the day. They left the capitalist jingoism to the films and talked plainly about what they love best: the brewing of beer.

Brewmaster Bob Bergeron has been teaching at the Beer School since 1996, after retiring from the Anheuser-Busch brewery in 1994. He worked as a brewmaster for Bud breweries in New York, Virginia, Georgia, Texas and California.

He loves brewing beer. "You get your hands in it. You get to smell it. You get to taste it," he said.

Bergeron says the best part of the job is being satisfied with the taste of the beer after a long day's work.

And if he's not satisfied with the taste?

"You have a chance to change things."

Brewing is an art."

If brewing is an art, it is an art with a long history.

Bergeron punctuates most of his comments with anecdotes, facts and figures about the history of beer. He talks about monks who asked the Vatican if their extra-strong beer was sinful, the difference between lager and ale and the inconsistency of old fermentation techniques.

"In the old days, fermentation depended on the weather," he said. "They never made the same brew twice. Today, a brewmaster can take a beer and do it over and over again with the same quality."

So, what exactly does a brewmaster do at the Anheuser-Busch breweries?

Bergeron said a typical day begins with a look at the lab reports. Brewmasters have to have a thorough knowledge of chemistry, he said, and most brewmasters have a chemistry degree.

Beer samples are taken to the lab every hour and analyzed. The brewmaster also oversees management and makes sure everything is running smoothly.

Every afternoon, either a brewmaster or a foreman tastes the beers, from lightest to darkest, to make sure the taste and consistency are there. Afterward, the taster blows into an analyzer to make sure he or she can make it home.

Bergeron doesn't have to worry about making it home much anymore. He has been traveling throughout the country with the Beer School for three years, including a stop at the '96

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### Theater

## Comedian brings humor to plights of masculinity

■ With a one-man show, Christopher Kilmartin informs with 'Crimes Against Humanity.'

By **EMILY PYEATT**  
Staff writer

It's not easy being a man.

Puberty, homophobia, sex education, images of traditional masculinity — the assault never ends.

But Christopher Kilmartin wants to explore these topics in a humorous way.

Kilmartin, an author and comedian, brings his national tour of "Crimes Against Nature" to the University of

Nebraska-Lincoln tomorrow.

The free performance confronts the pressures of masculinity with humor in a personal style.

"Crimes Against Nature" stretches the boundaries of traditional masculinity through the use of contradiction and comedy.

Kilmartin depicts the demands of masculinity through the use of personal experiences, which include various trials in adolescence, puberty, homophobia, sex education and even the introduction to drag queens.

Kilmartin serves as an associate professor of psychology at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va.

In addition to writing about men's psychology, Kilmartin has been a stand-up comedian since 1985.

"In the early '80s, stand-up comedy was booming, and I took an interest in becoming a performer," Kilmartin said.

After performing at various open mike nights and winning several amateur contests, Kilmartin was offered paying gigs.

Eventually, Kilmartin began to target college audiences with his work. He became an "infotainer," performing in order to educate audiences about men's issues and sexual assault.

"Colleges and universities were interested in bringing me to campus because I could talk about serious issues in entertaining but respectful ways," he said.

Kilmartin's "Crimes Against Nature" tour is the result of a creative collaboration with colleague Gregg

Stull, an assistant professor of theater at Mary Washington College.

Kilmartin was inspired by the one-woman performances of Holly Hughes. Combining this inspiration with Gregg Stull's theatrical knowledge, the two created the production of "Crimes Against Nature."

"For me, ('Crimes Against Nature') is an integration of my scholarly interest in men's issues, my teaching experience and my performance hobby," Kilmartin said. "Although the whole project was only about a year from start to finish, I sometimes tell people that I've been writing this piece for 15 years, but I just didn't know that I was writing it."

Since the debut of "Crimes Against Nature" in March 1998, the show's popularity has spread nation-

### Theatre Preview The Facts

**What:** "Crimes Against Nature"

**Where:** Nebraska Union Auditorium

**When:** 7 p.m. Wednesday

**The Skinny:** One-man show explores the demands of masculinity.

wide. Kilmartin will perform on 25 other campuses between now and November.

Pat Tetreault, the University Health Center sexuality education coordinator, said the play educates people about social and gender issues

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