



CLYDESDALE HANDLER Larry Manypenny rinses off one of Budweiser's horses Monday next to barn one on the Nebraska State Fairgrounds.

Clydesdales draw State Fair crowds

The crowd was mesmerized as it stood and gawked at a group of enormous creatures named Demon, Major, Tony, Giles, Jack, Bud, Carl and Duke.

"Look at the size of him," one woman commented as she gazed at Major.

"They are beautiful," another man said.

A steady line of people filed in and out of the southeast end of the horse stables Monday evening at the state fair.

They were there to see the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales.

After spending a day at an exhibition at Super Saver on 48th and O streets, the horses calmly ate their feed and drank their water while onlookers petted, played with and snapped pictures of the gentle giants.

"They're used to it," said Dick Rosen, an expert groom who has been working for Anheuser-Busch and traveling with the horses for the past seven years.

"They travel year-round to parades, special events and fairs and receive constant attention everywhere they go," Rosen said.

The constant attention the horses receive may not be due to only their national fame but also their mammoth size.

The horses stand 6 feet tall and weigh between 1,800 and 2,300 pounds when fully mature.

The horses also have monstrous hooves. They wear a horse shoe twice as long and five times as heavy as the shoe worn by a regular riding horse.

Because of their enormous size and strength, Clydesdales were originally used by Scottish farmers in the early 19th century to pull loads sometimes weighing more than a ton.

In the 1800s, the horses were brought to the United States where they were also used for farm work.



BEN POLK leads a Clydesdale out of the barn to be washed after a day of traveling around Lincoln.

Today, Clydesdales are mainly used for breeding and show.

How the horses came to be a part of Anheuser-Busch was the result of a simple gesture from a son to his father.

It all began when August A. Busch Jr. gave a hitch of the horses to his father, August Busch, who owned Anheuser-Busch Brewing.

The Clydesdales were presented to him pulling a wagon loaded with the first case of post-Prohibition beer brewed in the St. Louis brewery.

The Clydesdales, pulling the red, white and gold beer wagon, have been a part of Anheuser-Busch ever since.

But not just any Clydesdale can be a Budweiser Clydesdale. The beer company is quite selective.

To be a Budweiser Clydesdale, a horse must be reddish brown in color, have white feet, a white stripe on its face and a black mane and tail.

The horse must also be calm and obedient in order to deal with the constant attention

from the public.

The team of horses at this year's fair is one of six that make special appearances nationwide, Rosen said.

The horses travel in classy 50-foot-long trailers equipped with cameras so drivers can keep a constant eye on the precious creatures they are hauling.

Rosen said each horse is worth between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

Because of their value, six expert grooms travel with the horses that are on the road year-round.

The grooms drive the trucks, groom the horses, clean the stables and do everything else that needs to be done, Rosen said.

While there are eight horses in a hitch, nine travel with the caravan.

An extra horse is brought in case of sickness, a bad hoof or another problem.

One job that kept Rosen scurrying around the barn was bringing feed to each of the horses.

A Budweiser Clydesdale eats 20 to 25 quarts of feed, 50 to 60 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water per day.

To see these mammoth eaters, one might want to get to the fair sometime in the next few weeks.

John Skold, a fair administrator, said the Clydesdales have been at the State Fair in the past but do not come every year because they are in great demand.

For the duration of this year's fair, Skold said, the horses will be hitched up and marched through the fairgrounds every day at noon.

They will also make special appearances at different locations in Lincoln. Today, they will be at Super Kmart on 27th Street and Cornhusker Highway.

Skold said the Clydesdales and the wagon they pull are a beautiful sight to see.

"They are really a great attraction," he said.

Sheldon to feature works by black artists

BY DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

In its continuing effort to present its permanent collection while complementing traveling pieces, the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets, will be featuring a collection of works from African-American artists.

The collection, titled "Black Image and Identity: African-American Art From the Permanent Collection," features works from

Gallery Preview The Facts

What: "Black Image and Identity: African American Art from the Permanent Collection"
Where: Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
When: Sept. 1, 1999 - Jan. 2, 2000
The Skinny: Sheldon explores black imagery through its permanent collection.

various artists, including Glen Ligon, Willie Cole, Kara Walker and Michael Ray Charles.

All of the artists have been influenced by the controversial art of Robert Colescott.

"Colescott's art utilizes stereotypes," said Dan Siedell, curator of the Sheldon. "He used his art to critique individuals and communities."

Kara Walker's "The Means to an End ... A Shadow Drama in Five Parts" is one of the larger pieces that will be presented. It shows images of a slave owner with a young black girl and a young black mother nursing a child.

Please see **SHELDON** on 12

Eclecticism is key word at Ross Theater for fall season

BY EMILY PYEATT
Staff writer

Take a break from generic blockbusters and films that lead you by the hand.

This fall, check out the lineup of independent and foreign films available at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

The Ross has brought a collection of diverse flicks, primarily from this past summer's run of indies.

"We try to come up with a very representative selection of the gamut of the releases that are out now," said Dan Ladely, director of the Ross. "The fall's films have lots of diversity and cover different genres to represent an array of what's available."

The schedule begins this week with John Sayles' independent drama "Limbo." This complex characterization flick is set in America's last frontier, Alaska.

"Limbo" explores the relationships of a fisherman-turned-handyman (David Strathairn), a nightclub singer (Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio) and the singer's troubled daughter (Vanessa Martinez).

Like other Sayles films ("Lone Star"),

Please see **ROSS** on 12