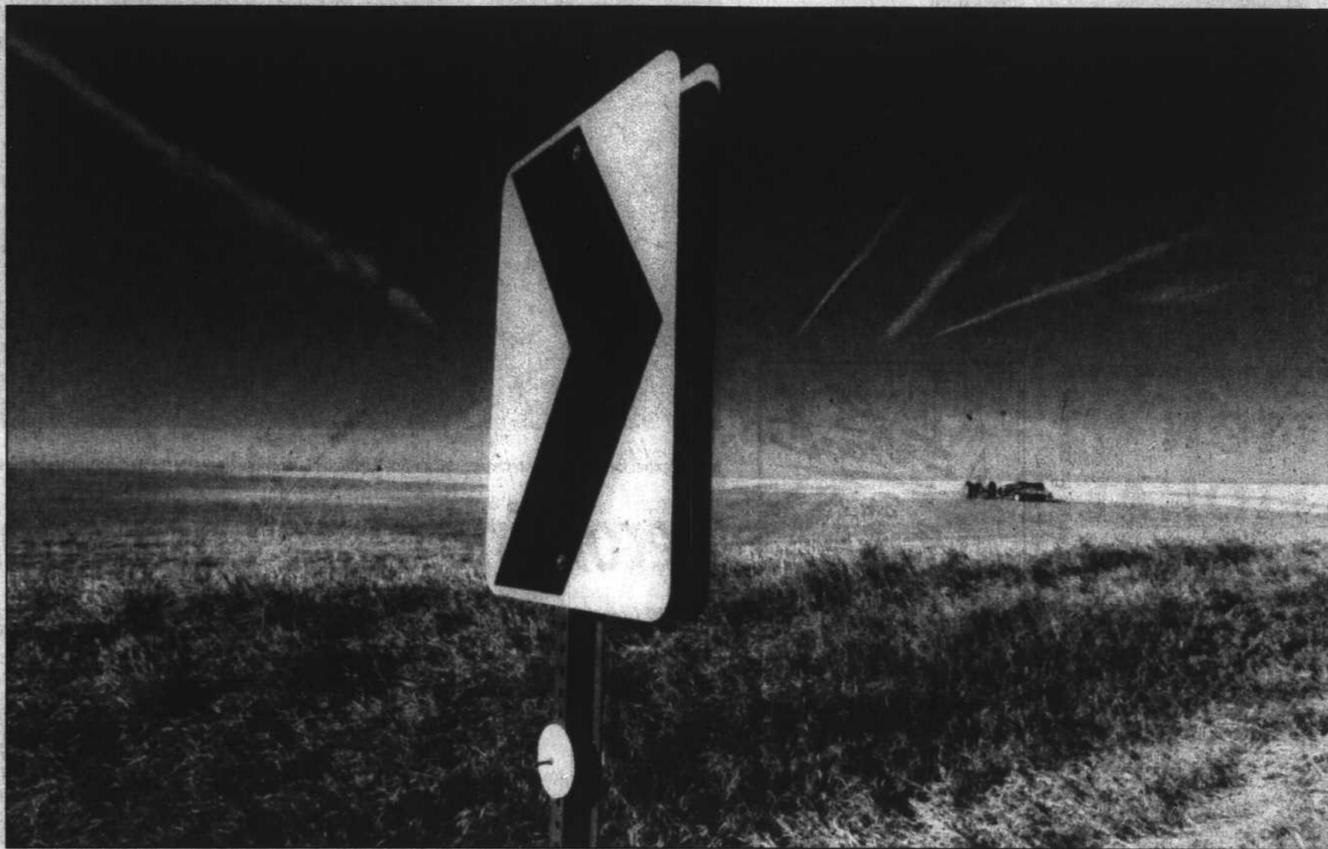


RIGHT: 'Road sign near Grand Island, Neb.' is part of the George Tuck exhibit, 'Flat Places, Interesting People' at the Great Plains Art Exhibit

BELOW RIGHT: George Tuck, a UNL Journalism professor, will be the speaker at the Paul Olson Seminars in Great Plains Studies. Tuck is shown at the highest point in Nebraska during his work on Flat Places that took him from New Mexico through Canada.



Courtesy of George Tuck

"People need to know that they can find beauty and interesting people in flat places. It just requires you to look a little longer."



Courtesy of George Tuck

MAN OF THE FLATS

UNL professor travels the Great Plains for photos that capture prairie beauty

BY CHRIS JACOBS

You're stuck on a road in the middle of nowhere. Surrounded by flat space. No one's around.

Would a photo opportunity be the first thing to come to mind? For George Tuck, yes.

In the professor of journalism's latest exhibit, "Flat Places and Interesting People," Tuck found himself surrounded by the prairie's open space and intermingling with all kinds of people. And he has pictures.

"People need to know that they can find beauty and interesting people in flat places," Tuck said. "It just requires you to look a little longer."

And look he did. In 1998 Tuck made three trips, the longest of which lasted six weeks, in his 1985 Audi, traveling about 10,000 miles to document the people and places of the Great Plains. On a UNL faculty development grant, Tuck said he ventured through miles of treeless lands, ate at numerous mom and pop cafes and stayed in small motels throughout Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Texas

and even Canada.

"Everywhere I went people would laugh 'You sure found flat!'" he said. "They would always ask me why I wanted to photograph this landscape."

If people had grown up in flat space, they liked it, if not they felt uncomfortable, Tuck said, a theory that hits home with the Dumas, Texas native.

"I always liked seeing the sunrise and sunset without really having to move," he said.

The exhibition will run at the Great Plains Art Collection, Hewitt Place, 1155 Q St.

The black and white photos display various media, including cowboys, cattle farmers, ranchers, construction workers, oil riggers and their surroundings, usually encapsulated by open space and distant horizons.

Tuck said everyone he encountered treated him well.

"I had to get towed once because my car got stuck in caliche, a type of clay that is slick when it gets wet and clumps like baseballs when it's dry," he said. "A guy came by and took me into the town, where they found somebody to pull me

out with a big truck."

Tuck, after numerous car washings and attempts to "chisel the caliche off the car," said he had to finally take the vehicle to an auto shop and get new tires.

Other than "almost freezing to death a couple of times" because a significant number of the photos were taken during winter, Tuck said he didn't have many other problems.

Interim curator of the exhibit, Sharon Gustafson, said she was first impressed with Tuck's work by his exhibition "Visions of the Prairie" that had been previously displayed at the Sheldon Art Gallery.

"It's hard not to like him," Gustafson said. "I can really relate to his work. It makes me feel at home."

The "Flat Places" exhibit is interesting because of the captions Tuck included with each photo, she said.

"The labels add a lot of humor and character to an already lovely exhibit," Gustafson said.

The captions were designed not only to give certain

Homers relies on loyalty

BY CASEY JOHNSON

The fact that Homers will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this summer is no small feat considering the perils of most independently owned music stores.

With the advent of online shopping, Napster and electronic superstores like Best Buy and Circuit City, one could wonder how the independent music retail chain has been able to stay afloat in a market geared for discount prices and convenience.

But the reason for the success of Homers is simple or so said Vice President Rick Galusha, who insists that the serious music buyer is the backbone of the chain, which includes three Lincoln stores, three in Omaha and one in Bellevue.

"We are successful at providing a superior selection for the serious music buyer," Galusha said. "We take pride in our customer service, and thirdly our employees develop relationships with the customers which gives them a reason to come back."

Mike Barna, store manager at the Homers located at 14th and O streets, said that part of the reason for Homers' endurance is that it is able to adjust to a changing marketplace.

"You have to constantly adapt because when you have stores like Best Buy who are selling their CDs at below cost, and they just sell them as a loss leader," Barna said.

What a store like Best Buy really wants to do, Barna said, is lure customers with the promise of cheap CDs, which it can't make any money on, then keep them in the store to buy "a washing machine or a refrigerator."

"It's hard for regular CD retailers to stay afloat. You have to be willing to change and offer other services and products that you are not going to find at a Best Buy," he said.

When asked about the influx of people downloading the music online for free Barna said that he was not as concerned now as when the phenomenon first began.

"People are still going to want to have that product in their hands. They're going to want to have the liner notes," he said.

"There have been studies that show that 80 to 90 percent of the people that are going online, downloading MP3s and hitting Napster sites will eventually turn around and buy the CD," Barna said.

Divisional manager for Lincoln Mel Erbuspacher said that with the added competition the Internet and superstores have brought, Homers has worked hard to find its own niche.

"We wanted to make a concerted effort to offer the customer

Please see HOMERS on 6

Shaken, not stirred: Capping the night with the martini

BY SEAN MCCARTHY

"I lost my job for no reason or rhyme, Guessin' that means it's martini time."
— Rev. Horton Heat

Hopefully, you don't need a reason that drastic to identify with the immortal psychobilly singer, Jim "The Rev" Heath. However, you practically need a catalog to decide what type of martini to order. Asking a bartender for a martini is like asking someone at a coffee shop for a cup of coffee.

Vodka or gin? Sweet or dry? Clean or dirty? Chocolate, raspberry, grasshopper, black cherry or shrimp? By the time you finish ordering a martini in some bars, you feel like you have ordered a meal.

The martini craze has died down as people have traded in their zoot suits for extra cash. You don't have to be a paranoid economics major to know we may be in the beginnings of a 'corrective cycle.' Cigarettes are replacing cigars. The trusty Timex is replacing the gold pocket watch. And many people may opt for a well brew instead of a martini, straight up.

But there will always be reason to celebrate (although the Daily Nebraskan by no means endorses drinking anything but Starbucks and Pepsi). Be it an 'A' on that brain-draining term paper, getting that third paycheck for the month or being on a date, a martini is in order. And this guide should provide a good start for your search for the perfect martini.

Libations and Libations Too
Location: 317 S. 11th St. and 5310 S 56th St.

Taste: 4 olives
Atmosphere: 4 olives
Variety: 4 olives
Price: 3 olives

Perhaps the only smoke bar in Lincoln where the ventilation is so good, you won't need to air out your jacket in the morning. Libations boasts a menu for martinis and single-malt scotches.

You can even order a 'perfect martini' from their menu. Excellent selection and excellent taste, just make sure you have more than a five spot when you walk in. If you are a martini perfectionist, look no further than Libations and Libations Too. Extra bonus: the staff has the painstaking task of stuffing olives with blue cheese filling.

Perfect place to: Celebrate the completion of your thesis on gamma radiation's effect on cell structure.

Cliff's Lounge
Location: 140 N. 12th St.
Taste: 3 olives
Atmosphere: 3 olives
Variety: 3 olives
Price: 2 olives

Second only to the Tam O' Shanter in the "dimmiest-lit bar in Lincoln" category, Cliff's remains an enduring mainstay in Lincoln's downtown scene. The green balls hanging from the ceiling are older than the majority of the students at UNL.

The price of a martini is higher than other bars, but it is served in a pint-sized glass that will easily yield two martinis. Be prepared to do some walking or catch a movie after sampling one of these conco-

tions.
Perfect place to: Have one before seeing Jackie Chan's latest kung-fu film.

Doc's Place
Location: 140 N. Eighth St.
Taste: 3 olives
Atmosphere: 4 olives
Variety: 3 olives
Price: 2 1/2 olives

Located in the Haymarket, Doc's is spread out enough to give you plenty of elbow room. The martinis are awesome, and there is plenty of stimuli (art exhibits, pool and card games/trivia) to take in.

Perfect place to: Cap the evening off at the Haymarket after eating a small cow at Lazlo's.

Marz Intergalactic Shrimp & Martini Bar
Location: 1140 O St.
Taste: 3 olives
Atmosphere: 3 1/2 olives
Variety: 3 olives
Price: 2 1/2 olives

If it were not for the colorful flickers of

strobe lighting, Marz would trump both the Tam and Cliff's for lack of lighting. The martinis here are standard, and it sometimes gets too loud to have a conversation. However, if you want to have a

martini and still enjoy an active environment, this is a good place to go.

Perfect place to: Show off the insane bargain of an outfit you purchased at Dillard's/Target/the discount section of the Salvation Army.

Please see MARTINI on 6



Megan Cody/DN