

Arts & Entertainment



Linda Story/Daily Nebraskan

'As Is' to show

Scott Tomhave and Gerry Daly star in the Nebraska Directors' Theatre production of "As Is," an award-winning off-Broadway drama about AIDS. The show starts Sept. 11 and continues through Sept. 21. For reservations, call 472-1610 between 1 and 5 p.m. All proceeds from tickets sales will be donated to the Nebraska AIDS Project.

Vital information for a record-hungry public

Analysis by Geoff McMurtry
Staff Reporter

So, now, what is it, the third week of classes? The semester's moving along, you're all settled in, and now it's time to give your concentration to what you came to college for in the first place. . . records.

It shouldn't be hard to find what you're looking for, because there are more records within walking distance of campus than there is time to skip classes and listen to them.

With that in mind, our intrepid reporter (Yes, I AM a reporter) pounded the beat to get this vital information to the needy public.

For the purpose of this survey, walking distance was meant to include: Dirt Cheap, 217 N. 11th; Pickle's, 220 N. 10th St.; Trade-A-Tape, 227 N. 11th St.; Jack's Records, 321 S. 11th St.; and the Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 Q St.

Some of the specialities of each: Until recently, Dirt Cheap had a long tradition of being *the* record store in Lincoln, and it appears to be surviving the direct onslaught of Pickle's. If one word can describe Dirt Cheap, it's variety. They feature the largest selection in captivity in every genre of music you can think of. If you took all the records here and stacked them on top of each other, I don't know how far you'd go, but you'd melt several hundred on the bottom. If you can't find it here, look again.

Pickle's has emerged from the basement closet of a TV store to become Dirt Cheap's only real challenger. Its claim to fame is the lowest prices anywhere on everyday items. Although that's still true for the most part, Dirt Cheap has narrowed the gap and sometimes even undercuts them on new releases. Pickle's most important feature is its enormous import section. It's huge. It's bizarre. If your tastes run to left-wing hardcore from outer space, this is the home for you. Good cutout section also.

Trade-A-Tape is more of a specialty shop than a record store, but features an excellent selection of used and out-of-print records. I saw a good condition Dave Clark 5 single for \$1.50. This is where to look if you've looked everywhere.

Jack's also features a wide selection of used records, and some hard-to-find rarities and oldies. The colored picture discs on the wall are worth the extra couple of blocks you walk.

The Nebraska Bookstore has an awful lot of books, some of which are actually cheaper than their records. Selection almost exclusively limited to albums released within the last year. Prices start at \$7.99 and never look back. Even their blank tapes are more expensive than everyone else's. Their redeeming feature is the CD selection,

which is competitively priced and well stocked.

Here's the best deal item by item: New records — Practically a tie between Pickle's and Dirt Cheap. Pickle's is generally lower on current top 100, but Dirt Cheap undercuts on a selected few each week. Prices generally run from \$5.97 to \$6.99, give or take a dollar.

Everyday prices — This means records that aren't "old" yet, but aren't on the charts anymore. Again, a tie between Pickle's and Dirt Cheap. Average at both places was from \$7.49 to \$8.99. Selection was also best at these two places. Give a slight edge to Pickle's on price and Dirt Cheap on quantity. Pretty close either way, though.

Cassettes — Redundantly, I'm going to repeat myself again. Dirt Cheap and Pickle's are virtually indistinguishable.

CDs — Pickle's, by a comfortable margin. They had the widest selection by far, all prices at \$13.99. Second place goes to . . . Nebraska Bookstore and Dirt Cheap. The Bookstore has a slightly larger volume and is also priced consistently at \$13.99, but Dirt Cheap has a better variety. Dirt Cheap prices are generally from \$12 to \$16.

Blank tape — Slight edge to Pickle's. Dirt Cheap and Pickle's are dead even on prices for TDK and Maxell, but Pickle's also has Teac and Sony, more kinds of each and a larger stock. Maxell's top of the line XLII-S90 is \$6.99 for two at Dirt Cheap, \$3.47 each at Pickle's. A low-bias tape for voice recording, such as Maxell's UR-60, is \$2.99 for two at Dirt Cheap, \$1.47 each at Pickle's. On the few tapes in sight at the Nebraska Bookstore, prices were significantly higher all around.

Used records — Tough call. Trade-A-Tape and Jack's both specialize in used records and cassettes, and Dirt Cheap also has a used section. All three had a large selection and all were comparatively low-priced. Jack's, being off the beaten track, may have a slightly more varied selection, but all three were well-stocked. Trade-A-Tape has more singles. Prices for used albums at all three places ranged from 50 cents for At Your Own Risk to about \$5 for Almost New.

Miscellaneous — Pickle's is the main Lincoln outlet for major concert tickets for shows in Lincoln and Omaha.

Dirt Cheap has a section of clothes, artifacts, memorabilia and other items to play with while listening to your new records. They also have a complete room of posters and art prints.

Trade-A-Tape has the most up-to-date comic books, as well as a few shirts and accessories.

Jack's offers a 10 percent discount with student ID.

Nebraska Bookstore has a whole book store on the first and second level.

NETV series attacks illiteracy

In answer to the U.S. illiteracy problem, Nebraska ETV will present a series titled "A Chance to Learn." The one-hour documentary will be presented on Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. and will examine programs combating the national problem of illiteracy.

Immediately following the documentary, a live 60-minute special titled

"A Second Chance" will present the local view on illiteracy. The program will offer entertainment, music and information as literacy volunteers across the state share information. A phone bank will be on hand in the NETV studio to field questions from viewers desiring additional information. Volunteers who would like to be tutors also will be accepted at this

time.

The English language will be the topic of a nine-part series titled "The Story of English." The series will begin Monday at 9 p.m. and will explore the power and influence of English. Interviews with a variety of English-speaking people, ranging from astronauts to kings, will be featured in the series. The influence of other languages on English also will be discussed.

The NETV public affairs interview series "Dateline Nebraska" will be moved to Sundays at 7 p.m. beginning Sunday. Guests who will be on the program before the November election include Doug Bereuter, Steve Burns, Virginia Smith, Scott Sidwell, Attorney General Robert Spire, and Democratic attorney general candidate Bernie Glazer.

Other programs to be shown this week on NETV include "Allegories" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. The show will investigate the relationship between the world we live in and the diseases which afflict us.

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Richard Wright/Daily Nebraskan

Dirt Cheap, 217 N. 11th, is one of the record stores near campus.