

Fleetwood Mac concert test for Sports Complex

By Casey McCabe

When the concert gets underway at the UNL Sports Complex on Sept. 15, the majority of eyes and ears will focus on Fleetwood Mac, probably America's most popular band.

But there are others who will pay attention to seating facilities, acoustics and most important, the crowd itself.

Since it's the first test the Sports Complex faces in accommodating a rock concert, and while many are enthusiastic, others may be a bit skeptical about the multi-million dollar structure being invaded by concert-goers.

Everyone involved seemed willing to give the Sports Complex a trial run, according to Suzanne Brown, Union Program Council (UPC) assistant director of programming. "While we didn't have a great deal of choice in groups, the program council was excited about getting Fleetwood Mac. They are not really a hard rock group though."

Rise in popularity

Fleetwood Mac has experienced a sharp rise in popularity since a major personnel change and the subsequent success of their self-titled LP in 1974. The record was one of the nation's best sellers for nearly two years, until the release of *Rumours*, which is the top-selling album this year. They also were voted group of the year by the Playboy Music Poll.

Also appearing will be Kenny Loggins. Loggins is touring in the wake of his successful *Celebrate Me Home* album. It is his first solo effort since last year's breakup of the highly popular Loggins and Messina team.

The show is a joint effort by UPC and Schon Productions of Milwaukee. UPC will be the local promoter and receive 10 per cent of the gross receipts, half of which is returned to the Sports Complex for rental.

"We've been working over a year to get a different rental rate on the fieldhouse," Brown said. "Now with a fixed split percentage, UPC gets a better deal than an outside promoter would if they dealt directly with the Sports Complex."

Sellout?

The show is an anticipated sellout, and although the complex can seat 15,000 for basketball games, there will be seating for only around 12,000.

This is because the seating design is in an arena form, and there will be some seats with little or no view of the group.

"The future of concerts in the Sports Complex all depends on how the crowd treats the hall," says Gary Gilger, Union program advisor. "We've got to convince people that this could be the one and only show there."

According to Gilger the security situation is being sized up by both the Lincoln Police Department and Campus Police.

It's not that Lincoln isn't used to large crowds. Bob Hope and Lawrence Welk have played to sell outs at the Sports Complex, although it's doubtful security was concerned about marijuana, liquor, and vandalism.

Keep it cool

"The Sports Complex was a tremendous expense, and they want it to be used," Gilger said. "But we urge

Sex ed. on tube may benefit youth

By E. K. Casaccio

Explicit sex on television has been banned by groups representing God, government and the PTA.

However, the chairman of the UNL Psychology Dept. says it may benefit adolescents.

Richard Dienstbier's "Sex and Violence: Can Research Have it Both Ways?" published in the *Journal of Communication's* summer edition states:

"...the loosening of restrictions on nudity and other forms of explicit sexuality in the broadcast media in fictional programs could provide an opportunity for similar parent-child discussions of values, decisions, etc."

In an interview Dienstbier said the article is not an argument in favor of pornography or nudity on television, but an appeal for sex education.

"Until real sex education is possible, the sexuality on television may provide one of the very few circumstances which evoke (family) discussions about sex," he said. "Tastefully discussing sexuality in the media draws people toward healthy sexuality."

"Real sex education in our society is largely unknown," he said. "It does not typically help a child make a single decision as whether or not to become involved in socio-sexual behavior."

Dienstbier said he would like television to present frank discussions on a person's first sexual encounter, including: what led to it, what it was like both psychologically and physically, and the person's reaction.

Most parents are not capable of being open with their children about sex, he said. In the average home a "pact of silence" exists about sex, he said.

Parents may say, "Now feel free to ask me anything that's on your mind," Dienstbier said, but the child won't ask because the barriers already have been built.

"Sex is one of those areas where we say 'what if we tell the child more than the child should know' and dumb things like that," he said. "Sexual conflict is a part of life; one area that's still taboo."

Dienstbier said his ideas on sex education probably would blow the average parents' mind. He said he would like to see schools, churches and to some extent parents, handle a program discussing masturbation, intercourse, homosexuality and other issues that would interest a 12 to 14-year-old. He said this also would include pictures of sexual intercourse.

people to keep it cool, because there is a lot riding on this show."

Local concert goers also will notice something they haven't been used to; long lines for tickets, reserved seating, and a higher \$8 and \$9 ticket price.

But if the Sports Complex proves to be superior aesthetically and acoustically and more accommodating than Pershing, the main concert hall in past years, the municipally owned auditorium may face its first real competition for major groups.

Ivan "Ike" Hoig, Pershing manager for 17 years said he doesn't feel the advent of the Sports Complex for concerts will bother Pershing.

Pershing more intimate

"Fleetwood Mac should get a good crowd, but some don't do that well," he said. "The average crowd we get is between 5,000 and 7,000. That many people would look lost in the Sports Complex. I like to think most kids like to go where the crowd is, and feel more intimate and at home in Pershing."

But it has been months since there has been a concert

at Pershing, and Hoig attributes it in part to the stepped-up police security at the last concerts.

"It's hard to convince shows to come to Lincoln, when they have to be responsible for the high security. It's been the kiss of death on Pershing," Hoig explained.

"In the past, security has cost around \$400 a night, but at our last few shows it's cost from \$1,600 up to \$2,700 for the Z Z Top concert. Promoters just can't afford that."

"I don't think the groups themselves like playing where the kids are getting hassled," Hoig said.

Pershing is ending its concert drought with tentative appearances by Styx in late September, Steve Miller, Emerson, Lake, and Palmer, and Chuck Girard in October, Jesus Christ Superstar and Waylon Jennings/Charlie Daniels Band in November.

In the mean time the Sports Complex faces the 10-day onslaught of the Nebraska State Fair, as 22 performers, predominately country and comedy, appear there. But apparently the real test will be Fleetwood Mac.

arts & entertainment



Photo courtesy of Union Program Council

Hotfoot, a Kansas City-based rock group will play at 6:30 this evening at the Union Program Council's 'Welcome Wingding.'

Series choice offered at Kimball

It's a series you make for yourself, said Ron Bowlin about the new ticket sales program for Kimball Recital Hall.

Bowlin, co-ordinator for the Cultural Affairs Committee at UNL, said the program is based on "the idea of a flexible series."

Under the old plan, the "Performing Arts Series" included a seat for one performance of selected shows, usually one play, one dance recital and two types of concerts. Other events were available only through other series.

But this year patrons can choose their special program from a list of nine events. Any order of four or more tickets purchased before Sept. will receive a 20 per cent discount, Bowlin said.

Benefits to the program include buying tickets to the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Louis Symphony, before they go on sale to the general public.

Non-series members will not be able to purchase tickets in advance.

The shows available in the series are: Mimist Keith Berger, Sept. 15, students \$1, general \$2; Pianist Misha

Dichter, Oct. 2, students \$3, general \$5; Raymond Johnson Dance Company, Nov. 5, students \$2.50, general \$4; The National Theatre of the Deaf, Nov. 12, students \$2.50, general \$4; the 5 by 2 Plus Dance Company, Feb. 25, students \$2.50, general \$4; Violinist Pinchas Zukerman, March 5, students \$3, general \$5; the Dancers Ballet company, March 13 and 15, students \$3, general \$5; the Guthrie Theatre (doing Eugene O'Neill's *A Moon for the Misbegotten*), March 27 and 28, students \$3, general \$5; and, The Pennsylvania Ballet, April 21 and 22, students \$4, general \$7.

The Minnesota Orchestra on Nov. 1 and 2, are students \$5, general \$8 and the St. Louis Symphony on March 7 and 8, students \$5, general \$8.

Another series is the UNL Opera Theatre Season. The series, called "A Musical Tour of Europe," includes one ticket for four productions at \$6 for students and senior citizens and \$8 for the general public.

The operas will be *The Secret Marriage* by Domenico Cimarosa on Oct. 27, 29 and 30; "An Evening with Pushkin" consisting of *Mozart and Salieri* by Rimsky-Korsakov and *Mavra* by Stravinsky, on Dec. 9; Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* on Feb. 2 through 5; and "An Evening in Berlin" consisting of *There and Back* by Paul Hindemith and *The Songspiel Mahagonny* by Kurt Weill and Berthold Brecht on May 5.