

arts and entertainment

Singing and fiddling around highlight benefit for KZUM

By Mary Jane Winquest

Seven women sang Tuesday night to an unusual gather of feminists, KZUM supporters and uncommitted bystanders in a crowded Jesse's Bar, 121 N. 14th.

Reasons for attending the benefit concert for KZUM varied from deep commitment to the 10-watt noncommercial broadcast station, to more support for Lincoln's female performers, to one of mild curiosity.

But whatever the reasons, the response toward the female guitarists, banjo players, fiddlers and singers was good.

Even though the benefit was strictly a money-raiser for 6-month-old KZUM 89.5 FM, Jane Higgins, KZUM staff coordinator and benefit organizer said the all-woman concert was her personal cause. She said women in Lincoln don't get an opportunity to perform.

Out of closet

"It takes a gig like this to get women performers out of the closet," according to Higgins.

But the artists themselves said opportunities in Lincoln were good.

Sharon Kokes who had been half of the duo, Thrush, said she as a woman artist

hadn't felt any discrimination. Jesse regular, Sally Cowan, said opportunities for women artists aren't limited, but attributed Lincoln's lack of women singers to the absence of a tough skin needed to play in bars. Cowan said she participated in the benefit simply because she supports KZUM.

Strummed and fiddled

But regardless of the motivation, there was good music for everyone. As old favorites like Rocky Top Tennessee were strummed and fiddled according to true form. Guitarist Brenda Daniels joined three performers for the first set to play a cross between acoustical and bluegrass music.

She said she wasn't even aware of the benefit but came to provide background music for a friend. Daniels agreed with the other performers that work could be found in Lincoln.

The dedication of the audience was apparent by the impact a poem had during the evening. Between musical acts, Sue Fox read three poems concerning feminism. The fact that a poem about equality and putting an end to war was read in a bar highlighted the unusual intensity of the gathering.

Playhouse to give 'La Mancha'

The Lincoln Community Playhouse will present *Man of La Mancha* by Dale Wasserman as its opening production of the 39th season. It will run Sept. 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and Oct. 1 at 8 p.m.

The story of the legendary Don Quixote, the play will feature Don Pedersen in the title role, Deanna Mumgaard as his lady Aldonza and Gerry Egan as Sancho Panza. Other supporting characters will be played by Bob Esquivel, Craig Christensen, Cork Ramar, June Segal, Jan Berkiklau, Jane Bray, Penny Filbert, Mark Johnson and Danny Johnson.

The play will be directed by Timothy F. Ryan, who comes to the playhouse from Cleveland. It will be his first play directed in Lincoln.

Music Director and Conductor is Chip Smith, assisted by Mark Emile. Karen McWilliams designed the choreography costumes were done by Jill Marie Crowther, lighting by Nan Hannon and make-up by Marie Muffley.

Reservations are recommended for all performances, and group rates are available for groups of ten or more. Call the Lincoln Community Playhouse box office, 489-9608, for more information and reservations.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Sharon Kokes sings at Jesse's Bar during a benefit for 6-month-old KZUM 89.5 FM.

Caffeine addiction extends from streets to Debby Boone

By Michael Zangari

Debby Boone and I don't generally travel around in the same circles. However, we do have several things in common.

michael zangari

My acne medicine doesn't work either, and we have shared the same vile drug addiction. Debby has never been pretentious about it. She candidly admitted in *Rolling Stone* a few issues back that she "liked the high," and has admitted to performing under the influence. Knowing what I do about the chemicals that course through her drug-maddened veins, I have felt a new and deeper (almost religious) insight into her performance of "You Light up My Life." Message music is *not* dead.

$C_8H_{10}N_4O_2H_2O$ —the stimulant in question has a long and sordid history. In the streets they call it "mud", "java" or simply "C". Large amounts are trafficked from Colombia every year, but street prices have continued to climb. A single fix can set you back 50 cents or more, proving once again that the nickle bag is a thing of the past.

Addiction is common

Users generally gather together in glass and formica dens under unnatural lights, the glare of fluorescent lighting shining in their glazed eyes. This condition is known as "wired" in the idiom of the user.

Administration of the drug can take several forms. Drinking coffee, tea, or soda pop—sometimes all at once is not uncommon. It can be obtained in pill—in extreme cases users have been known

to chew the bean of the coffee plant raw. I have even considered running an intravenous tube from my coffee pot into my juglar. The depths of caffeine depravity know no limits.

The physical dangers of a caffeine habit are well documented. High blood pressure, nervous disorders and stains on your T-shirts are not uncommon. In the last stages of caffeine addiction, hallucinations are a constant threat.

Example: Caffeine nightmare no. 1

"No . . ." he said, as if he was unfamiliar with the word. He stared into his coffee cup at his own reflection and then repeated the word. "No"

"Pardon?" The waitress was unsure she had heard him correctly and made a

move to refill his cup.

"No," he said, a little harsher than he intended. The waitress started, spilling a bit on the table. "Oh," she said.

She immediately set the coffee pot down to clean up the small puddle she created, and created another one.

He chose his words very carefully. "Go away," he said.

"But . . ."

"Miss, I don't mean to be rude—really, but if you don't leave this table at once, I will more than likely strangle you."

"Oh," she said.

He watched her back away and reminded himself to leave her a larger than average tip. He looked back into his

coffee cup and noticed his reflection was still there. "No . . ." he said. The reflection mimicked his moves exactly.

Boone patron saint

Hallucinations vary, but Debby Boone has been sort of a patron saint to most of my caffeine nightmares as of late.

I am trying to break the habit—it can be done I'm told.

Going cold turkey is a bit raw though. Since chocolate and a large portion of processed foods have caffeine in them, cold turkey may not even be possible. In fact, I think cold turkey has caffeine in it.

At any rate, I am weaning myself away from hard-core usage by eating Peanut M&M's whenever I feel the familiar urge coming on. I'm down to three and one-half pounds per night.

State Fair to feature top country singers

appears Sunday, September 3.

Boones together

Pat and Debby Boone follow on Monday September 4. Nearly 25 years apart in gaining their fame, Pat's records have sold 45 million and Debby was winner of last year's Grammy award for her rendition of "You Light Up My Life."

Dr. Hook, this year's closest equivalent to a rock group, comes to the Sports Complex on September 6. Best remembered for their pop hits "Sylvia's Mother" and "Cover of The Rolling Stone," the band is well known for not taking themselves seriously.

John Davidson, the handsome middle-of-the-road singer, guest host for Johnny Carson, and veteran of many other television appearances comes to the fair Thursday, September 7.

Rogers here

Kenny Rogers first hit it big in 1967

with "Ruby (Don't Take Your Love To Town)," then re-emerged last year with the popular "Lucille," the first of a string of recent hits. He will appear Friday September 8.

The Statler Brothers are probably well known to most interested in country music. They've been singing since 1964 and their first hit record was "Flowers on the Wall." They've won two Grammy awards, Best New Country and Western, and Best Contemporary Performance. They'll appear Saturday, September 9. Appearing with them will be Barbara Mandrell.

Winding up the fair on Sunday September 10 will be Tennessee Ernie Ford, who has sold over 17 million religious albums. His 1955 hit, "16 Tons" sold over four million copies.

The fair officially opens tonight.