

## arts/entertainment

## Pickers create a 'mixed bag of grass'

By Bill Graf

After a 12 year on-again-off-again love affair with bluegrass music, the Sandy Creek Pickers are almost back where they started.

The members of the Sandy Creek Pickers, John and Mike Paul, Steve Heironymus and Kevin Avey, have been performing on the Lincoln music scene for more than a decade. As 11 and 12 year olds, the Pauls and Heironymus made their debut, playing some of the same tunes they play today.

"The Checkmates were the first band. That was in 1967," John Paul said. "We played mother-daughter banquets and church gigs. We even played on the City Recreation 'Show Wagon'."

Mike and John have had their roots in bluegrass, since 1966, resulting from the influence of their first music teacher, John Sweeny.

"Sweeny was into Earl Scruggs and the New Lost City Ramblers. But at that time no one was listening to bluegrass so we sort of drifted away from bluegrass and into rock," Mike Paul said.

**THE MIDNIGHT RIDERS** was the next band and again the members were the Paul brothers and Heironymus.

"As the Midnight Riders we got our first paying job. We played for a church social and they gave us \$5 to split three ways. We were pretty excited, we had become paid musicians," Mike Paul recalls.

In 1970, the Midnight Riders broke up. The Pauls soon formed Oedipus with two friends from the neighborhood, Vern Meints and Vern Kuhn.

Between 1971 and 1972 Oedipus went through some changes.

"We had been a guitar band for quite a while and we thought it would be nice to have a keyboard player," Mike Paul said. "That's when we hired Bobby Marlette."

"**NOW THAT** we had keyboard, we started to do some Brian Auger tunes and because of influence from our cousin, Jim Cidlik, a member of the Heartmurmurs, we started to play the blues," Mike said.

About that time Steve Heironymus met Kevin Avey at Dawes Junior High and they formed a "garage band," Heironymus said.

**LATER HEIRONYMUS** and Avey joined Iron Horse, a rock band, he said.

"It was a lighter rock'n roll than what Oedipus was doing. But like Oedipus we played a lot of frat parties and high school proms," he said.

"Sean Benjamin (now a Heartmurmurs member) joined our band when he first moved here. He was a big influence in getting us to play some blues tunes.

Iron Horse and Oedipus broke up and they formed the first version of the Sandy Creek Pickers in 1974. The Paul boys, Steve, and Russell Zierke used to come over to my garage in the evenings. We'd tip some rinse and pick a little bluegrass," Avey said.

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Photo by Bill Graf

The Sandy Creek Pickers, from left to right, Kevin Avey, mandolin and vocals; John Paul, bass and vocals; Steve Heironymus, guitar and vocals and Mike Paul, banjo.

## Skaters and regents miss chance to be cinema greats

By Peg Sheldrick

It's easy enough to complain about the films that come out of Hollywood, but what about the ones that don't make it? It's easier to understand and appreciate films like *Somebody Killed Her Husband* after you rummage through the press releases for some of the projects that for one reason or another never reached the public eye. Here are few of those would-be classics destined to remain safe in their cans where they can't hurt anybody:

## humor

**It Came from Beyond the Disco**—The terrifying, true story of a once-peaceful college town overrun by a menace so mindlessly destructive, so awesomely powerful that no one is safe from its rolling, relentless onslaught. Duck into buildings, take to the roadways—you cannot escape—the Street Skaters!

Wild freshmen on the loose and looking for thrills in the teeming byways of Lincoln, Neb.! See helpless citizens tossed into gutters! See reckless rollers wreak havoc in the intersection of 13th and O streets! See daring vigilante pedestrians strike back with the only weapon they have—their umbrellas! See *It Came from Beyond the Disco*—it's hell on wheels!

**When a Stranger Coughs**—White-knuckle excitement and bone-chilling suspense as a brave babysitter battles a

war of nerves with a demonic will more powerful than her own—a five-year-old child determined to stay up and watch "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."

**Joggermut**—The inspiring story of a dimwitted but lovable athlete who absent-mindedly wears his undershorts outside his sweatpants one day and changes the look of running forever. Written, directed, performed, filmed, edited, produced, and enjoyed by Sylvester Stallone.

**The Other Side of the Ice Castle**—A gutsy young champion struggles her way back to the top after a tailbone injury brings a painful premature end to her career as an Olympic toboggan pilot. Farrah Fawcett stars.

**Cries and Whispers, Titters and Sneers, Or Empty Heads, Full Pockets**—Ingmar Bergman's sensitive look backstage with the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders.

**Looking for Mr. Goodwrench**—This searing contemporary drama tells the harrowing tale of a young car owner's neurotic search for an honest mechanic.

**Jaws III**—Amity Island again falls victim to a mouthy monster, this time an obnoxious late night talk show host

who singlemindedly pursues and annoys victims by blowing smoke in their faces and mispronouncing their names. Tom Snyder stars.

**Airport 1980**—It's a struggle for survival for 360 plucky Californians who find themselves stranded at the Lincoln (Neb.) International Airport and Souvenir stand. With supplies of Perrier running dangerously low and not a Gucci boutique in sight, passengers and crew face the unnerving ordeal of a night in the Midwest.

**My Sharona**—The story behind the song.

**Eight is a Pain**—It's those lovable loons, the Regents Brothers, at it again, raising tuition and raising Cain in that zany, kooky way so uniquely their own.

Fans will appreciate the hilarious "Holiday Meeting Scene" when our boys hold an extra secret confab to cook up more fun for their hapless charges, the students. As longtime viewers will tell you, these guys really put the "loco" in *in loco parentis*. If you like farce, you'll love the regents.

**Mr. Peanut Goes to Washington**—Whimsical but far-fetched account of a peanut farmer's meteor-like rise to power and confusion on the strength of a smile and a vague promise of honesty. Engaging fantasy, however, the ending leaves many unsatisfied.

## 'Starting Over' sexist, under par

By Pete Schmitz

The "personal growth" movement which sought to bring to individuals liberation from their seemingly repressed and alienating existence has lately become the brunt of social criticism and media satire.

## movie review

A few people are starting to question the worth of frequent trips to the shrink, weekly rap groups and workshops on assertiveness training, sexual enjoyment and job satisfaction.

This phenomenon of the quest for fulfillment and its consequential ironies is the initial concern of Alan J. Pakula's new film called *Starting Over*, written by James Brooks, the man who wrote many of the episodes for *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*.

While the credits are presented on screen, we hear the parting words of Phil (Burt Reynolds) and Jessie (Candice Bergen), who wants her husband to leave her so she can go on with her songwriting and be more than just "a shadow of her man," as her first hit song puts it.

A MALE who never strongly identified with the macho image, I admit to taking sadistic delight in seeing Burt Reynolds acting despondent (and doing a surprisingly good job of it, too) because of the divorce that he did not want.

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## Parade time changed

The homecoming parade has been changed to begin at Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls at 8:45 p.m. Thursday. It originally was scheduled to begin at 8:30.