

arts/entertainment

Explanation is given for heavy concert schedule

By Hollie Wieland

The scheduling of three concerts in three weeks has prompted an explanation of the October schedule's organization.

Sports Center Manager Jim Ross, who is partially responsible for scheduling the concerts, commented, "It's just the way the ball bounced."

According to Ross, attempts have been made to get concerts into the Bob Devaney Sports Center for a year, but no performing artist has been willing to come. When the opportunity arose for Elton John, Linda Ronstadt and John Denver to come to the Sports Center, within a short space of time, Ross decided, "We better take them while we can get them."

In considering which performers would attract the public and be a safe investment for the sports center, Ross claimed to have two main sources of counsel. Before scheduling a concert, Ross said he talks with the performer's promoters and with managers of auditoriums in which the artist has performed which are comparable to Lincoln's. By ascertaining the group's popularity in cities comparable to Lincoln, Ross said, he can get some idea of the performer's success here.

Ross said he would continue to try to schedule concerts as long as the shows do not interfere with any scheduled sports events.

Financial bind

Martin Wood, program consultant for the University Program Council, said he was afraid that three concerts scheduled so close together might place a financial bind on some students and not allow them to attend as many as they want.

The Oct. 5 Elton John concert is promoted by Contemporary-New West Productions, radio station KFMQ, John Reid, and UPC. Tickets went on sale Wednesday for \$8 and \$10.

UPC will make no profit from the concert, Wood said, and serves only as a local promoter with responsibility for ticket sales and student security. Profit for the Sports Center will include the hall rental fee plus 10 percent of the total ticket sales, Ross said.

The John Denver concert, promoted by Concerts West and the Sports Center, will be Oct. 16. Tickets go on sale next week and will cost \$8.50, \$10 and \$12.50. The Sport Sports Center will be the only Lincoln sponsor earning a profit on this concert, Schneider said.

\$8, \$9, \$10 tickets

The Linda Ronstadt concert, promoted by Contemporary-New West Productions, KFMQ radio station and UPC, will be Oct. 25. Tickets go on sale this week and will cost \$8, \$9 and \$10. Seats located behind the stage will be sold last at reduced prices.

UPC and the Sports Center will split the hall rental fee, Wood said. UPC will earn at least \$4,000 from the fee, he

said, and may get a percentage of the profit from T-shirt sales.

Although Wood hopes for sellouts, he said he would be satisfied if 10,000 tickets are sold for each UPC-sponsored concert. A sellout is anticipated for the Elton John show and Paul Schneider, Sports Center administrative assistant, said he was very pleased with Wednesday's sales.

Some students camped out at the Sports Center in hopes of getting good seating, while a long line formed early at the Nebraska Union outlet. Brandeis downtown faced a morning rush of ticket seekers, which bought up their 850-seat allotment in 1½ hours.

According to Schneider, there are still about 1,000 seats available for \$8 and \$10.



Students line the halls of the Nebraska Union Wednesday morning to be assured of getting tickets to the Elton John concert Oct. 6. About 1,000 tickets remain after the first day's sales. Daily Nebraskan photo

'Blue Riddum Band' specializes in Jamaican music

By Pat Higgins

"The Blue Riddum Band," playing through Saturday at Lohmeir's Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St., is an unusual group to be a success in the midwest. The band is oriented towards reggae, a brand of music that is indigenous to the small Caribbean island of Jamaica.

"The Blue Riddum Band" plays reggae tightly and also dips into a variety of other music genres with equal success.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

"The Blue Riddum Band" is playing through Saturday at Lohmeir's Drumstick.

Band members include Steve McLane on drums, Andy Meyers on bass, Bob Zohn on guitars and vocals, Scott Korchak on vocals and trumpet, Jack Blackett on saxophone and percussion, Pat Pierce on organ and bass and David Lawrence on percussion.

"The roots of the band go back six years to a group called 'The Rhythm Functions,' who were based in Lawrence, Kan. as is the current edition of the band," Zohn said.

Before that, the various members of the band were into rhythm and blues, jazz, funk types of bands and the logical progression led into the reggae," he said.

"I was living in Miami and heard early reggae like Desmond Dekket and Eddie Lovette and that really knocked me out," Zohn said.

"This was well before Bob Marley became a superstar and even longer before crossover hits by everyone from the Rolling Stones to Paul Simon ruled the charts," he said.

"If we were into it for the money, we would have quit long ago," he said. "But it's the music we love and we seem to be gaining more acceptance all the time."

Zohn is a relative newcomer to "The Blue Riddum Band," joining last October. Prior to that, he had a solo recording contract with Sunshine Records based in Miami, home of Caribbean soul and party music.

"K.C. of the Sunshine Band was the only other white guy on the label. I put out two singles and if you want to hear them, they're on the jukebox at The Zoo," Zohn said.

Asked about other bands in the reggae business today Meyers said, "There's only about 200 great reggae groups around but I particularly like 'Culture,' 'Soul Syndicate,' 'Burning Spear' and 'General Echo.'"

When asked about the commercially successful, by reggae standards, acts like "The Specials" and "The Selecter," Zohn was unsure of his opinion.

"We did open for 'The Selecter' in K.C. and that was fun," Zohn said. "We also opened for Bob Marley last year and he specifically asked for us this time so we open for him Oct. 20 in Kansas City. We're really looking forward to that."

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