

# The Alternative features morning happy hours

By Carl Sjulín

For students who are tired of studying for finals or bored with the same old bar beat, Lincoln has a new bar that offers a much needed change.

The Alternative, 104 N. 20th St., is a relaxed, easy-going lounge that doesn't try to push anything down its customer's throats. Formerly known as The Keg, The Alternative is now under new management and many changes are in the making.

## nightlife

Manager Jay Quast said they will be featuring live entertainment on Tuesday nights.

"Two weeks ago we featured Dave Allison and received an excellent response. We really aren't looking for the big names—we are trying to give performers who aren't well known a break so they can get the exposure they need," Quast said.

"We pass along this savings to our customers by not

charging a cover and keeping our drinks as inexpensive as possible." Quast added that they are working on reserving one Tuesday a month for women performers.

### Morning hours

Other features of The Alternative are their happy hours which run from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. During this time, draw beer is a quarter and pitchers are \$1.50. The Alternative is open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Saturday. The purpose of the morning happy hour is to offer the night-shift worker a place to unwind—something that Quast feels is unique.

"When we came up with the name 'The Alternative,' we wanted it to be just that: an alternative. We try to stress a wide variety of features that will appeal to everyone. The early morning happy hour is just one example," Quast said.

Since they opened three weeks ago, Quast said that business has been very good.

"We have had a real steady flow of people ranging from students to professional businessmen," he said.

Some other added dimensions include the creation of a Sunday brunch that is served noon to 3 p.m. No liquor can be served, but a continental brunch with a variety of

soft drinks are available. Other innovations planned include a "Levis" night and a drink-and-drown night for any student with a current I.D.

### Old-time movies

During the bar's regular hours, drinks range from 40 cent to 90 cent mixed drinks. Pitchers are \$2 and free popcorn is always served. Soon, Quast said, they will show old-time movies and offer a pool tournament.

The Alternative has two rooms: one contains the bar, a small dance floor, and assorted booths and tables that give the customer lots of comfortable seating and plenty of space to relax. The other room has several pinball machines and pool tables. Both are decorated in old barn boards, adding to the "kick-back" atmosphere.

Predominately country western music is piped over the speakers, but, depending on what the crowd wants, it can be shut off when people would rather watch television on one of the two large screens.

"Mondays are usually full of Monday night football fans who like to watch the game, and a lot of people like to watch 'Dallas' on Fridays," Quast said.

"I guess the main theme of the Alternative is to provide a comfortable, easy-going place for people who enjoy sitting and talking to others."

## Steely Dan...

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In the meantime, the music moves on with meticulous and deliberate flow, the female backing vocalists popping in now and then like the sedated voice of Fagen's conscious. The usual stable of high class studio musicians is on hand for every track to keep Steely Dan's goal of technical perfection a reality.

"Hey Nineteen" is the most upbeat song on this basically laid-back album, and one we will likely be hearing on the radio as an obligatory single. It's about growing old, a subject that the Donald Fagen of *Katy Lied* days probably would have jumped into with bitter vengeance. Instead, "Hey Nineteen" is a good natured little bit of irony where the playboy of yesteryear returns to his old haunts to find he can't relate to this new generation of "sweet young things."

The 19-year-old in question doesn't remember Aretha Franklin, but Fagen didn't really expect her to anyway. "She thinks I'm crazy, but I'm just growing old" he sings. But there is little remorse in his voice, after all: "The Cuervo Gold, The fine Colombian, Make tonight a wonderful thing."

Steely Dan has, it seems, stepped back, taken a closer look at what bothers them, and refined their lyrical attacks to terse humor and a more accepting demeanor. Like almost everyone, they choose to

naïve the California lifestyle. "Glamour Profession" is *Gauche's* most biting, though again the tongue-in-cheek dimstore-novel prose is mellowed out by the musical backing. It serves as a timely sequel to *The Royal Scam's* "Kid Charlemagne," the story of the aging underground drug manufacturer. With "Glamour Profession" they note the changes coming into the 80s, it's just more "illegal fun, under the sun," but now the subversives have a bigger bankroll.

The talent on *Gauche* is immense and tastefully understated. Besides old standby Steve Gadd on drums, The Dan has enlisted such names as Rick Derringer, Steve Kahn, Mark Knopfler (Dire Straits), Tom Scott, The Brecker Brothers, David Sanborn, Jeff Porcaro, and an eminent capable host of others.

And surfacing briefly on "Time Out of Mind" is Michael McDonald. McDonald, whose only real claim to fame used to be that he backed vocals for Steely Dan, has become in the mean time nearly a prerequisite for a successful MOR hit. Another little irony in the history of Steely Dan.

Donald Fagen and Walter Becker remain reclusive. Though Steely Dan's place in music is becoming more widely accepted, they obviously like the aura of an anonymous enigma. They grow old with amazing grace, while administering their message more painlessly all the time.

## NETV continues 9 nights of special programming

"Nine Nights" a nine-day celebration of special programming to increase viewer awareness of public television continues through this weekend on the Nebraska Educational Network.

Victor Borge plies his particular blend of musical mayhem and droll comedy in a Soundstage special, *Victor Borge-Comedy in Music*, broadcast tonight at 9:10. Award-winning opera singer Marilyn Melvey is also featured.

Also tonight is *G.I. Jive*, a three-hour excursion into Big Band nostalgia. The show re-creates the atmosphere of the famous Stage Door Canteens featuring performers such as Van Johnson, June Allyson, Maxene Andrews, Cab Calloway and John Raitt and airs at 10:15.

The successful attempt of a team of American aviation enthusiasts to conquer the English Channel in a 70-pound engineless aircraft is detailed in *Gossamer Albatross: Flight of Imagination* airing Friday at 8:35 p.m.

Some of the best songs in country

music, from such standards as "Blue Moon of Kentucky" and "Old Joe Clark" to contemporary hits like "Lucille," are performed by top country music artists in *The World's Largest Indoor Country Music Show*, broadcast Friday at 10:15.

Veteran film director John Ford's career is examined in *Directed by John Ford*, Saturday at 7:05 p.m. The program traces two dozen of Ford's film classic films, including *Stagecoach*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Young Mr. Lincoln*.

Clark Gable and Charles Laughton star in the motion picture classic *Mutiny on the Bounty*, broadcast Saturday at 9 p.m. The film is the story of the ship *Bounty* which set sail from England in 1787 for Tahiti.

Judy Garland returns with June Allyson and Perry Como in the story of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart and their lifelong friendship which gave the world some of its greatest popular songs in *Words and Music*, broadcast Saturday at 11:30 p.m.

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