

# Arts & Entertainment



Larry Boehmer, owner of the Zoo and Scoreboard bars

Staff photo by Dave Bentz

## New name, owner to light up Scoreboard

By Pat Higgins

More than anyone else, Larry Boehmer is responsible for any kind of music scene in this town. Boehmer started booking bands into the Zoo Bar nearly a decade ago. He is now poised to begin a new era with the opening of his new club, Larry's Showcase, at 13th and N streets.

"There is quite a difference in the feel between the Showcase and the Zoo," Boehmer said. "I hope it will be just as much fun at the Showcase but somewhat less intense than the Zoo can get."

The showcase is much larger than the Zoo, especially with the downstairs game room. Wall-to-wall carpeting and many paintings, mostly by Boehmer, add to the ambience of the place.

"When I first walked into the Zoo, it was really funky," he said. "It looked like a juke joint or a honky-tonk, so it seemed appropriate to slap a bunch of posters on the wall. At the Showcase, it seemed right to have framed paintings instead."

In 1973, the Zoo Bar was a colorful place. Boehmer described the clientele as a mix of ex-cons, garbagemen and heavy drinkers. A graduate student of art at the time, Boehmer was out to put together the art department's annual Christmas party.

In December of 1973, he threw his first bash at the Zoo, starring the Megatonnes in their first night ever. The Megatonnes

included the basics of the current Charlie Burton and the Cutouts.

"That first night was so crazy," he said. "We had the place all decorated for Christmas and the whole art department was there. By the end of the night, people were eating the glass ornaments off of the Christmas trees."

Starting as a bartender, Boehmer was a classic Horatio Alger success story. He became manager and eventually the owner of the place. This enabled him to begin booking blues, his first love.

"The whole reason I got into this business was to hear blues," Boehmer said.

By 1977, the Zoo had become basically a blues club. The purchase of a bass guitar brought Boehmer on stage, beginning on Valentine's Day of 1977 when the Heartmurmurs began their long, successful run.

"At first, I was sitting around the house, thumping along with old Jimmy Reed records, then all of a sudden I was in the Heartmurmurs."

The pressures of raising a family, running a business and playing in a band wore Boehmer down, so he gave up touring with the Heartmurmurs.

"My business needed help, so I had to spend more time on it," Boehmer said. "The next thing I know I'm in another band."

Cocktail Shorty and the Tablerockers was the end result. Boehmer said band mem-

bers didn't want to get going as hot and heavy as the Heartmurmurs had. However, the Tablerockers soon reached the level of touring status, backing up bluesman Carey Bell. Once again, Boehmer decided to devote more time to taking care of business.

"I decided to move the Zoo to another place with more room," he said. "I was looking at places like the old Russell Stover building as possibilities. Just by chance, I came into the Scoreboard one night when Sean Benjamin was playing and found out the place was for sale. Now I own the two bars."

By early next week, all the formalities should be taken care of and the title should officially become Larry's Showcase, although he has been booking shows in there already. The Scoreboard and the Zoo will book acts of a competing nature as much as possible, such as a rock'n'roll at one place and a blues act at the other.

Because business for bars featuring live music has been the worst he's seen in eight years, there is an element of risk concerning the new place, Boehmer said.

"If I had enough money in the bank, I'd like to sit around and paint and play music," Boehmer said.

## Jazz association helps city swing

By David Wood

Jazz enthusiasts know how to keep in swing. Lincoln may not be a capital of jazz, but the Capitol Jazz Association is helping to keep jazz in Lincoln.

The jazz audience is not a large or visible faction of the city's music scene. It never has been large or visible, but it always has been. The main outlet may shift from year to year — from the Clayton House to Jesse's to the Glass Onion — but jazz followers always find it. They now are finding it at East Park Plaza, 6600 O St., in Chelsea's Pub.

The recently banded Capitol Jazz Association has organized the Chelsea's Series, a weekend lineup of regular performances by some of the best jazz acts in the region:

Aug. 27-28 Luigi Inc.  
Sept. 10-11 Universe Trio  
Sept. 18 Neoclassic Jazz Orchestra  
Sept. 24-25 Wayne Rollins Quartet

The association is seeking new members. With membership, one gets a monthly newsletter of updates and upcoming events, as well as various discounts. For example, \$1 will be returned to any member who buys a ticket to George Shearing, the fine jazz pianist who will appear Sept. 17 in Pershing Auditorium for the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra's September Pops program.

Jazz can be found elsewhere in town, too:

**McGuffey's**  
Live jazz every Thursday  
**Larry's Showcase (formerly the Scoreboard)**  
Aug. 26-28 Jay McShann (from Kansas City)  
Sept. 10-11 Cat's Night Out (from Denver)  
Sept. 15-16 Rich Hill & Ida McBeth Quartet (from Kansas)  
**The Zoo**  
Sept. 17-18 Rich Hill & Ida McBeth Quartet

In related jazzy news, Manhattan Transfer will appear at the State Fair Sept. 4. Also on a swing through the Midwest will be B.B. King, who will be at Kansas City's Starlight Theater Sept. 5, after an Aug. 30 performance at Denver's Red Rocks with Muddy Waters and Spyro Gyra. Sept. 4-5 in Colorado, at the two-day Winter Park Jazz Festival, will be Ray Charles, Chick Corea & Gary Burton, Pat Metheny, Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers, Freddie Hubbard Quartet, Jack Degohette Special Edition, Betty Carter, Dave Liebman, Charles Haden, Al Foster and a few Denver jazz musicians.

Shoo bop debop!



Photo courtesy of Feyline Presents

Diana Ross, soul superstar and former Supreme, will appear in Lincoln during Homecoming Week, the University Program Council announced Thursday. She will perform Oct. 15 in an in-the-round concert at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Tickets go on sale Sunday at the Nebraska Union and Monday at the East Union and Brandeis.



Jay McShann and his Jazz Trio from Kansas City are playing tonight and tomorrow night at the Scoreboard, 1316 N St. Their special guest is singer Priscilla Bowman. (For more on jazz around Lincoln and the Scoreboard — soon to be Larry's Showcase — see the above stories.)

## Original works wanted

Like to see your writing, photography or art published?

So does the Arts & Entertainment section of the Daily Nebraskan. Original works by UNL students will become a weekly feature in future issues.

Short fiction, poetry, black-and-white photographs, drawings, etchings and so on are equally welcome. Content needn't be campus-oriented. What counts is high-quality, reproducible work. UNL student status is mandatory.

Works will be judged informally. Winners will be published and paid for. The others will be kept on file or returned on request. Please include with the submitted work your address, phone and a self-addressed envelope, if needed.

Those interested should write to: David Wood, Entertainment Editor, Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Ne 68588, or call 472-1756.