

Arts & Entertainment



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

Nathan Smith and human microphone Lori Jo Schmucker at the auditions for the Showcase's new Cabaret.

Showcase 'displays' talent

By Billy Shaffer

"We want to do everything that hasn't been done before," said David Chin, owner of the Showcase, formerly Larry's Showcase.

The most exciting opportunity in years is beginning to blossom for Lincoln's arts community at 1316 N St.

Chin is offering Lincoln a changing format of daily events that span the arts. The current schedule: Mondays, art show openings; Tuesdays, fashion shows; Wednesdays, dinner theater and cabaret-type entertainment; Thursday, the Comedy Shoppe; Fridays and Saturdays: jazz and music of all kinds. A busy joint, to say the least.

The new Showcase depends on the very active participation of Lincoln's creative community, Chin said. An artistic hard-charger, Chin seems sincerely concerned with nurturing the Star City's creative juices.

"Artists would be fools not to take advantage of this opportunity," he said, stressing the emphasis on local talent.

The Showcase will operate on a membership basis, at \$50 per year for the first 300 members. Members will be entitled to a 10 percent discount on all food and drink, free wine and cheese tastings, discounted or free admissions to local and national acts, guaranteed reservations to some, free parking and a monthly newsletter.

Anti-communist story won't 'pay the rent'

In his nonair-conditioned living room, with green shades over his eyes and a Falstaff in hand, Harley Davidson III sat typing.

"Russians Reveal Truth About Korean Plane Shooting," he read from his half-finished script. "The National Intruder has learned that the Soviet pilots who blew a Korean jetliner out of the sky last week actually thought



Mary Louise Knapp

they were shooting at an English spy plane.

"The pilots, who asked not to be named, said before they spotted the plane, they spent their on-duty hours drinking vodka and watching old James Bond movies.

"Then we saw the spy himself," one pilot said. "We knew it had to be Bond because of the number on the plane —007."

Harley took a swig of beer, removed his glasses, and surveyed his handiwork. The front door opened, and Celeste, a roommate of more than the usual size and years, entered.

"God, my feet hurt!" she said. "Whatcha working on, Harley boy? Some financially renumerative project, I hope."

Harley handed her the paper. She stared at it blankly.

Celeste put down the article in amazement.

"You think this is going to pay the rent?" she asked. "Besides, how do you know this stuff is true?"

Harley shrugged. "Isn't this as good an explanation as any? It's sure more logical than the things some people have come up with. And I guarantee you, my readership is going to eat this stuff up. Anti-communist sentiment's running high, you know."

Continued on Page 17



Photo courtesy Kimball Hall

Leonard Slatkin, director of the St. Louis Symphony. The symphony will be at Kimball Hall Sunday night. Tickets are still available.

Import records satisfy habits of 'vinyl junkies'

By Stephanie Zink

Are you tired of the limited selection of domestic albums? Are you sick of listening to what everyone else is? Do you need a musical change? Try buying imports.

Imports provide an alternative to domestic albums said Larry Lorenz, manager of Trade-A-Tape Inc., 227 No. 11th St. The people who buy imports at the store tend to range in age from 25 years old, because that age group is "more experimental" in its musical tastes than older customers.

Lorenz has been selling imports for about two years. He said he determines which music to order by reading magazines from overseas, taking advice from other music listeners and listening to his own musical tapes. Trade-A-Tape doesn't make a profit on imports, but Lorenz still sells them because, he said, "I think it's worthwhile music."

Most of Trade-A-Tape's imports are new wave releases. Lorenz said some of the better selling and most requested groups are Chrome, Bauhaus, The Jam and Cabaret Voltaire.

Chris Pattenon, manager of The Record Shop in the Centrum, 11th & O Streets, said the store carries imports only from the Jam Records catalog. The store carries some older records and keeps in stock one or two copies of each import.

"There's a lot of little companies that no one's ever heard of and they (groups) come out with their first albums on that," she said. She said the first Stray Cats album is through Jem. The store carries that album but doesn't carry many other imports, she said.

The Record Shop accepts special orders, but not many are for imports. Pattenon said most orders are for jazz and classical recordings.

Pickles Records and Tapes has been selling imports for about eight months, said Cindy Holmes, manager of the shop at 230 S. 70th St. Of the nearly 1,000 imports that each of the two stores stocks, quite a few of them are new wave.

Pickles also accepts special orders and Holmes said the store gets about 10 special orders a week. "They're usually brand new things that we haven't gotten in yet," she said.

Terry Moore, the manager of Dirt Cheap at 217 N. 11th St., said the store sells imports because "there's a lot of stuff that's not available American." Most of the imports are from the United Kingdom but Dirt Cheap also carries some Japanese pressings because, Moore said, "they are the highest quality import."

Dirt Cheap has several hundred imports in stock and does make some profit on them, Moore said. He said the store management determines which imports to order by "reading the magazines, and we listen to the customers."

"Most of the time it's hit and miss," she said, and the store may lose money on the imports it doesn't sell.

Dirt Cheap has sold imports for 13 years. Moore said that a couple of years ago, import sales increased and became a significant part of Dirt Cheap's record sales. Some of the best sellers in the past few years have been the Joy Division and the Japanese rock group Bow Wow Wow. He said about 25 percent of the imports sold are rock, while the other 75 percent are new wave.

Customers make from 50 to 200 special orders a week, Moore said. He said most orders are "off-the-wall... stuff that only one or two people in Lincoln have ever heard of or care about." Moore said he gets orders mostly for heavy metal and new wave releases.

Moore said the 15 to 25 age group buys the most imports because they buy the most records. "Vinyl junkies," as he calls them, keep up on the newest releases. "They are always looking for groups that other people don't have or listen to," he said.

MADMEN & ENGLISHDOGS BY DAN WONDRA

