

Bar offers good (expensive) food

By Chris Welch and Jeff Goodwin

Brittany's Hob-Nob Bar, 227 N. Ninth St.

As the name implies, this is a holly-toity type of place. The tables are real wood. The bar is antique. The trim is real brass. This place has

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class. Mom would say to wear slacks and watch your language at Brittany's. (We wore blue jeans and sort of watched our language.)

As any good food-reporters would, we arrived at 4:30 p.m. for two-fers and promptly relieved the pressures of edible journalism.

We noticed the napkins had pictures of UNL athletes — a basketball player with strangely ruffled shorts and a quarterback, also with ruffled breeches.

We decided this was a ploy to get people to drink and talk about sports, especially people with money who can afford \$2 bottles of imported beer, expensive hors d'oeuvres and who wear ruffled pants.

Only the meager stipend allowed us on our expense account and our ruffled pants warranted our presence.

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Pub's tour challenges worldly beer drinkers

Looking for a challenge? Don't join the Marines. Join Chelsea's Pub Around the World Tour.

John Schizas, owner of Chelsea's Pub in East Park Plaza, said the tour "is not a contest. It's just a beer tour."

The tour consists of sampling the imported beers, all 52 of them, Chelsea's has to offer.

A customer tells the waitress or bartender that he wants to join the tour. He is given a card with his name, address, and phone number on it. Everytime he drinks an imported beer at Chelsea's, it is recorded on the card.



Jeff Goodwin

All of this is not without reward. In addition to the aesthetic value of simply drinking good beer, there are material gains as well. After drinking 30 imports, a customer gets an embossed Chelsea's mug and, after 40, a T-shirt.

Schizas said the response to the beer tour has been good.

"This is our second year," Schizas said. "Last year the rule was that you had to do it in 80 days. The response was so good that we decided to make it a continuous thing."

Schizas said more than 300 people went "around the world" last year, and more than that already have signed up this year.

The record for finishing the Around the World Tour is four days, Schizas said.

As you might expect, this can lead to an expensive bar bill. But don't despair, there is help for the impoverished beer-trotter.

Chelsea's offers a special on Wednesdays called the Beer of the Day. Imports are \$1.40.

Normally, prices for the imports range from \$1.90 all the way to \$3.50 for a 32-ounce can of Foster's, Terri Phillips' favorite Australian beer.

Schizas said the idea for the Around the World Tour came up almost accidentally.

"I was just sitting around with some of my managers one day and we were talking about imported beers and ways to provide it and this idea just came up," he said.

Schizas said Chelsea's sponsored a buffalo roast for all of the tour members who had reached 40 imports this fall, and a pig roast is planned for the spring.

Bongos play to beat of a different drum

By Stew Magnuson

The Bongos, who performed Tuesday night at the Drumstick, don't want to be known as a "new wave" band. "More like the permanent wave," said bassist Rob Norris of the Hoboken, N.J., band.

Norris, Richard Barone and Frank Gianinni formed the band in the late-'70s and were soon signed by England's Fetish Records. For a year the band stayed in England and recorded several singles and an EP, *In The Congo*.

Eventually, in 1982, they released their first domestic LP, *Drums Along the Hudson*. After their first American release, guitarist James Mastro was added to the group's line-up.

Following the Bongo's stay in England they began to produce their own music videos, which Norris said, "were a little way out" for the major rock video outlets like MTV. "MTV just doesn't play things that are weird," Norris said.

Their first video included footage of wild animals eating each other and the second included an Arabian Knights scene with the band smoking a water pipe. MTV felt the water pipes were too "drug oriented" and refused to play the video. The third self-produced video was concert footage shot with an 8 millimeter camera in black-and-white.

"We were just trying to do the opposite of what we were seeing on television," Norris said.

The band hopes to avoid the pitfalls of the last three videos when they start to film their fourth in New York within three weeks. RCA, the band's new record label, is funding and producing the new video.

RCA is also helping the band with better distribution of their latest release, a five-song mini-album, *Number with Wings*.

The decision to release the EP was RCA's idea, Norris said. He said the EP is a good way to introduce new groups like the Bongos to the record-buying public.

The five songs on *Numbers With Wings* work well together, Norris said. The band is also planning to record a full length LP either next spring or summer.

Until then, the band will continue their current tour until the end of November and then return to Hoboken where they all live.

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