

# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Blues is when a person got a problem'

By Christopher Burbach

Morris "Magic Slim" Holt has pure blue blood, a true rhythm and blues king.

He stands probably 6-6 and weighs a lot of pounds — a mountain of a man. Although anything but slim, Holt is unquestionably a magician.

He works miracles on his guitar, and wails with a voice born to belt the blues. Slim's gigantic frame towers over audiences, his mighty guitar drives to the very marrow of listeners' melancholy and his soulful voice brings it all together, until the only rhythm in the bar is the blues.

Nothin' but the blues.

People at his shows dance the blues, breathe the blues, bleed the blues.

His music appeals to everyone, Magic Slim said in an interview before his Tuesday night show at Lincoln's Zoo Bar.

"The blues is when a person got a problem. He wants the world to know about it. If you paid atten-

tion, you'd know all blues is talkin' 'bout somethin' — your woman, your job, your neighbor, your self — it's

always sayin' somethin'."

Slim got his start in music playing in church in Mississippi. "Singin' and listenin' to the lady play the piano," he said.

The music he plays now is similar to the music he heard in church, Slim said. "You feel good when you play it in church, you feel good when you play the

blues. When the feelin' hits you, it's the same."

Blues music is more popular in Europe than it is in America, although Slim said his type of music is "pickin' up" in the United States.

Why is blues bigger overseas than statewide?

"I ain't been able to figure it out," Slim said. "They can't understand what I'm saying."

Slim said he's played in Norway, France, Spain, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy.

But he keeps coming back to Lincoln and The Zoo.

"The people are so nice. The people respond to the music. I like to play here. Me and the bartenders are

always gettin' into it."

Gov. Bob Kerrey, a noted blues fan, made Magic Slim an admiral in the Nebraska Navy during Slim's last stint in Lincoln. "I don't know what my duties are yet," Slim said.

Slim and his band, the Teardrops, recently recorded a new album, *TV Dinner Blues*, on Blue Dog Records based in Lincoln. Slim was supposed to give the first copy of the album to Kerrey at the Zoo Monday night, but that didn't work out. "I got one for him (Kerrey) whenever I see him. I'm gonna deliver it personally," Slim said.

Magic Slim and the Teardrops also are the subject of a Nebraska ETV production, which airs Nov. 19, at 9:30 p.m.

"I love all blues," Slim said, avoiding choosing a favorite blues artist or one who most influenced him, but, that's easy to understand — he is the blues.

Magic Slim and the Teardrops will appear tonight through Saturday at the Zoo Bar. Don't miss 'em.

## Billy Joel, Kenny Rogers new releases expand styles



Photo courtesy RCA Records

Kenny Rogers, Dolly Parton and Barry Gibb: A new direction?

By Janet Stefanski

Billy Joel and Kenny Rogers, two of the most popular artists on the music charts today, both recently released albums which represent a departure from their traditional styles.

Joel's latest album, *An Innocent Man*, displays his artistic versatility, but the album's '50s style may have been carried out too far to suit long-time Joel fans. The album is worth its price but don't expect typical Billy Joel.

The pace is slower than others on the album.

The lyrics in all the tunes are top class but, with the exception of a few songs, the rhythms and corny '50s methods tend to detract from meaning.

Is Joel taking a last grasp at youth through this style of music? The answer would seem to be no as Joel explains himself on the last song of side two. He is just saving the memory, just "Keeping the Faith."

One doesn't have to be a country music fan or a true Kenny Rogers fan to enjoy Rogers' new album, *Eyes that See in the Dark*.

Rogers' fans can't expect a re-make of his last album, *We've Got Tonight*, but they can expect Kenny's powerful voice with a dash of variety courtesy of Dolly Parton and Barry Gibb.

Parton and Rogers team up on three songs, including the hit "Islands in the Stream." Both artists have their own unique styles, which blend surprisingly well.

I never would have pictured one of the Gibb brothers on Rogers' album but this is America and Rogers is not strictly a country singer.

One of the album's nicest pieces is "Hold Me," which is reflective and filled with colorful lyrics.

The album is basically calm, but tunes such as "Midsummer Nights" and "Buried Treasure" do pick up the pace.

### Record Review

*An Innocent Man* contrasts sharply with Joel's previous LP *Nylon Curtains* which contained the popular "Allentown" and "Pressure."

The LP's two singles, "Uptown Girl," and "Tell Her About It," which are receiving much airplay (perhaps too much) accurately portray the main style of the album.

Many of the album's other cuts are along the same lines. Unfortunately, Joel goes too far with the deep-voiced backup singers, shoo-wa's and oh, oh, oh's. One almost expects these songs to be on a "Happy Days" jukebox.

Perhaps the most prominent, although not necessarily the most enjoyable, selection is "Christie Lee."

It is a fast-paced composition, complete with moral: "Even the band must face the music." Rumor has it Joel wrote it for (you guessed it) Christie Brinkley.

The album's title song "Innocent Man" is classic Billy Joel for genuine fans and more in the style of songs from albums such as *The Stranger*.

### Television

For those with cable television, there is a veritable sit-com goldmine to be found on the Christian Broadcasting Network, which is seen on cable channel 22. Each day, CBN sets aside several hours for programming featuring comedy gems from the '50s. Included in the line-up are "The Adventures of Dobie Gillis," which stars Bob Denver in his pre-Gilligan days, at 10:30 p.m., "The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show," at 11 p.m., "The Jack Benny Show," at 11:30 p.m., "I Married Joan," at midnight, "Love That Bob," at 12:30 a.m., "Bachelor Father," at 1 a.m. and "Life of Riley," at 1:30 a.m. So get a bag full of popcorn and No-Doz, stay up and laugh.

### Radio

KUCV (90.9 FM) Riccardo Muti is the guest conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra, tonight at 8 p.m. Featured in the program are Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man," Mendelssohn's "Symphony No. 4 in A," and Beethoven's "Violin Concerto in D."

KZUM (89.5 FM) "Just Folks," with host Mark Turner plays some of the best in traditional folk music. The show can be heard weekly at 7:30 p.m.

### Around Town

The Uptown Rulers will be on stage at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St.

## HOTSPOTS



Photo courtesy Red Scare Records

The Uptown Rulers appear at the Drumstick Thursday and Friday.

The Chicago based ska band is making its first appearance in Lincoln. Cover charge for the show is \$3.

Many people still don't know about one of Lincoln's finest entertainment venues. The Lincoln Jazz Society performs free every Thursday night at McGuffey's, 1042 P St. It's a great, cheap way to hear some of the finest jazz east of Chicago.

## Coppola film 'from heart'

By Steve Abariotes

From the first frame of "One From The Heart" we are wildly overwhelmed by the style and grace of Francis Ford Coppola. We take a ride on an extra-sensory rollercoaster into a world where reality, illusions and dreams are entwined while we anxiously await the magical place where we will be swept next. In "One From the Heart," the earth is not the center of the solar system, but Las Vegas is undeniably the core of the universe.

### Film Review

Throughout the film, we are perpetually made aware of the beautiful, but unreal, scenes of Las Vegas. It is in this glittery and surreal world that we witness the lives of two very ordinary people whose banal existence never ends, in a place where it is always nighttime, even during the day.

Using a steadicam that must have

been out of control, the film was shot entirely among elaborate sets and backdrops at the Omni-Zoetrope Studios in Hollywood. This is important because the movie proudly parades the fact. If one looks closely enough, the camera catches the top of several landscape backdrops, revealing the stage warehouse behind.

Hank (Frederic Forrester) is an automobile mechanic by day who is having problems with his girlfriend Frannie (Teri Garr). Frannie dreams of exotic places and erotic encounters while she dresses the window of a travel agency on the strip with the appropriate plastic and cardboard trappings. Both Forrester and Garr are convincingly sincere as average people who want to lead more exciting lives.

Indeed, all of the actors do act, which is more than can be said for the efforts of Coppola's associates. With the formation of the "L.A. New Wave" Hollywood film movement of the early '70s, Coppola's has consistently made deeper, grittier and more captivating movies than either Spielberg or Lucas.

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