

Arts & Entertainment

Drumstick haven for 'hungry' musicians

By Kathy Glenn

The philosophy at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. is simply to keep the customers happy and offer them a wide variety of music. Owners Tim Lohmeier and Diane Kann have been doing just that for the past four years. Lohmeier sees the club as a place where up-and-coming groups can perform and gain exposure.

"There are a lot of hungry musicians all over the U.S., and they need a place to try their music," says Lohmeier, "I feel that's what I do here. I give everybody a chance."

Lohmeier said there are basically two types of live bands playing in clubs today: one type is a "cover band" that only plays top 40 music and the other type of group that writes and performs its own material. Lohmeier said he prefers the original music, and in fact, that's the only type to be found at the Drumstick.

"I'll take everything, new wave, punk, as long as it's original, I don't care," Lohmeier said.

The Drumstick has a reputation for bringing national acts into Lincoln, and the list includes Joan Jett, The Professionals, and most recently, X. Lohmeier says he's now working to bring at least two to three national acts a month to the Drumstick. Artists enjoy playing the club because they know they'll be well treated, Lohmeier said. He attributed the success of his business to that fact.



Photo courtesy Elektra Records

X is one of the national groups that have appeared at the Drumstick.

Lohmeier also noted that the community doesn't always turn out to see a group that isn't well known in the area. Many good bands have played to small

crowds at the Drumstick and Lohmeier said he fears people won't come out to hear a band if they aren't familiar with the group.

For nearly 14 years, the Drumstick was a 24-hour restaurant until Lohmeier and his sister, Diane, purchased the establishment from their father four years ago. At that time a bar was added and live music became a regular feature at the club.

The restaurant is still in operation today, but Lohmeier admits he has been tempted to close the restaurant and opt for running the lounge only.

The group that frequents the Drumstick most is usually in the low to mid-20s age group. But if the band plays reggae music, for example, the group is likely to be in the 25 to 35 range.

Lohmeier said he prides himself on having a little bit of something for everyone. He added that he doesn't rely on heavy advertising to bring people into the place.

"Word of mouth, as far as I'm concerned, is the best form of advertisement," Lohmeier said.

At the Drumstick, the first priority is to serve the customer. Lohmeier said he wants to make sure everyone has a good time without being bored. He said he also likes the intimacy of the club, which gives people the opportunity to see artists up close. Lohmeier said he also has one more aspiration for the Drumstick.

"I want to get everyone in here at least once in their life," he said.

Sheldon Scam exposes seamy side of art world

The Daily Nebraskan has done it again. In our fine tradition of excellence in investigative reporting, this reporter has uncovered another scandal, one that is sure to rock the entire civilized art world and maybe even Kearney, too.

I have recently come into possession of several video and audio tapes that depict a clandestine plot by a former director of Sheldon Art Gallery.



Billy Shaffer

The tapes tell an ugly story. In his diabolical scheme, the former director planned to sell off several of the gallery's stored pieces, replacing them with copies and fakes. The director then planned to use the huge sum (figures between \$200,000 and \$300,000 are being bantered about) to finance a suitcase of cocaine and a down payment on a De Lorean. The recently retired curator then planned a speedy drive to either Santa Fe or Petaluma, to quietly snort his way through his last years with his former secretary, recently retired.

The director (who must remain nameless as advised by the DN's crack team of young lawyers) was in the process of obtaining the fakes while negotiations took place in several sleazy motel rooms and at P.O. Pears. Hidden cameras and tape recorders were used by sources which cannot, and will not be revealed, but I can say that I got 'em from a friend of a friend.

A few transcripts:

(In a Motel 6, Cornhusker Highway, Sept. 2, 1983)

Unidentified art buyer: Don't give me that (expletive deleted), Mr. . . . (name deleted). I wouldn't touch Norman Rockwells with a ten-foot pole. Bring me some Hoppers or anything newer. Like a Rothko or Caulder, maybe.

Mr. . . . : But those are already fakes. I switched them in the early '70s. How about a really clean Bierstadt? Got lots of those.

Art buyer: Get real, willya? If I wanted a calendar, I'd go to a bookstore. How 'bout that DeKooning? Is that the original?

Mr. . . . : Naw. Mid-'70s. My first Cadillac. Hey, I got a lot of old books you might be interested in.

Art buyer: Get out of my (blurred, either "face" or "place").

Mr. . . . : But I gotta have those gull-wing doors! How's about a really cherry Thomas Hart Benton?

(At P.O. Pears, Sept. 17, 1983)

Unidentified drug dealer: Ya' got the cash?

Mr. . . . : What? Yell a little louder.

Dealer: (louder) I said, ya got the cash?

Continued on Page 13



Cougar album gets critic's 'Uh-Huh'

By Randy Wymore

The past month has seen a number of new releases flooding the market. Some, like the new Rolling Stones album have come with great anticipation, while many more have popped up in the record racks like sprouting mushrooms.

One album that the industry and public alike were waiting to get a listen to was John Cougar's follow up to one of last year's biggest records, *American Fool*. On his latest — *Uh-Huh* (Riva) — Cougar turns loose

Records

more simple middle-class rock 'n' roll. The Indiana native jumps back on his "I'm-always-getting-kicked-around-but-who-cares" soapbox to (literally) produce a more mature product.

While "Hurts So Good" has been replaced by "Crumbling Down" ("Well, I don't mind being their whipping boy/I've had that pleasure for years and years"), the ghosts of the summer of last year's sweethearts, "Jack and Diane" appear in "Pink Houses."

Cougar said before *Uh-Huh's* release that this album would either take him further up the ladder or make him start all over again. With tracks like "Crumbling Down," "Pink Houses," "A Warmer Place To Sleep," and "Jackie O," Cougar need not worry about starting over. . . .

The live album concept was, at one time enough to launch a successful career in rock 'n' roll. But of late, they have become good projects to stay away from. Just ask Rod Stewart.

Pat Benatar is about to learn that lesson with *Live From Earth*. The 10-song album features live per-

formances of her biggest hits.

However, Benatar's performance is so unbelievably poor on this album that you can bet she'll have a very hard time living it down. Her voice is strained and rough, at times even forced. Maybe the only thing on this album worse than Benatar's voice on the concert tracks is the effort of her just as milky-toasted band.

The last two cuts, "Love Is A Battlefield," and "Lipstick Lies" are the only redeeming points. And they were recorded in a studio, rather than in front of an audience. . . .

Speaking of live performances, Lincoln will play host to two nights of some good, old-fashioned, fun rock 'n' roll.

Cheap Trick will be in Pershing Auditorium Nov. 18, as the headlining act of a triple bill that also includes Aldo Nova and Danny Spanos.

Cheap Trick is one the road promoting *Next Position Please*. The Todd Rundgren-produced album is definitely the best thing this Illinois band has done since *Live At The Budokan*.

The music on their ninth album is slick and simple. By playing around with blatantly sexual overtones, lead guitarist Rick Nielsen has brought the band back out of obscurity by penning such tunes as "I Can't Take It," "I Don't Love Here Anymore" and "Younger Girls."

Robin Zander's all-over-the-road vocals add a lot to this record, and with all of the band together, should produce an interesting concert next week. . . .

The Romantics are slated to appear at the Royal Grove Thursday evening. The band's latest work, *In Heat*, is probably due to be the sleeper of the year, while the Romantics themselves vie for newcomers of the year.

Continued on Page 13