

Arts & Entertainment

Drive-ins still pack Saturday night sizzle

By Lise Olsen

It's Saturday night. Your car is packed with a blanket, a six pack, a bag of homemade popcorn and a little cash: All ingredients for a good time at a drive-in movie theatre. (Except maybe a date.)

Although admission prices have increased, you can still see two or even three movies for one price at a drive-in and there are no ushers who tell you to keep your feet off the dash board, or confiscate your brew.

"They can get away with a lot more here than they can in an indoor," said Carla Squires, manager of the 84th and O outdoor theatre.

Alcohol is allowed although not encouraged at a drive-in, which according to Starview manager Albert Jackowiak causes few problems unless "parties get a little too drunk and a little too loud." There has been a problem with speakers (at the 84th and O and Starview) and swings (Starview) being removed by souvenir-seeking customer/vandals, though.

Drive-ins may not be as popular "makeout spots" as they were in 1956, (when they were banned by the Quebec Catholic Church according to a summer 1956 Saturday Evening Post article.) However, there are still moments when the "passion pit" days are relived. Carla Squires says she still occasionally sees some action when the lights come up at the end of the show.

"I've caught a few of them with their pants down...up their heads came, and zoom they took off," she said.

Despite the freedom and economic appeal of the drive-in theatre, business is not as good as it once was. Of the three drive-ins in Lincoln, one (The Starview) is being sold and another (West O) offers a constant dollar admission special to boost business.

In 1956, drive-ins accounted for one fourth of Hollywood's income, the Post

story said.

Many offered side entertainment ranging from open air dance floors to putt-putt golf. There were even "gallop-ins" in Texas.

In the 30 years since the Post article was written, drive-in theaters' popularity has peaked and begun to decline. Most have shorter seasons, Squires said. The season generally lasts from the first of April to about the second week in September with a peak during the summer months when school's out. The rest of the year the theaters sit idle with the electricity and water turned off and "Closed for the Season" on the marquee.

"Having to close down half the year really hurts a business," although business has picked up slightly in the past three years," Squires said.

There are even some movies that actually do better at drive-in theatres than they do indoors. For example, Cheech and Chong movies and others which have target audiences of 30 and under. Scary movies as well as comedies do well at outdoor theatres, Squires said. However, others like Kramer vs. Kramer, don't do nearly as well.

"Movies that are deep and excellent.. are not drive-in movies," she said.

Not only do drive-ins have to compete with indoor theatres and other activities that are going on they also have to contend with the weather — business on a rainy night is not good.

Although drive-ins in southern states which are open all year round "do real good business," according to Jackowiak, seasonal drive-ins don't do nearly as well. And with the increasing value of the land they occupy, its probable that drive-ins in colder states will slowly disappear, he said. However, Jackowiak projected that despite the Starview's demise, it would be some time before Lincoln's other two drive-ins would close.



WEEKEND

LIVE BANDS

Bill's Saloon, 1020 P St. — Sandy Creek, tonight and Saturday, no cover charge.

Chesterfield, Bottomsley & Potts, 234 N. 13th St. — Bluegrass Crusade, tonight and Saturday, no cover charge.

Drumstick, 547 N. 48th St. — The Model Citizens, tonight and Saturday, \$3 cover charge.

Green Frog, 1010 P St. — The Dee Allen Band, today and Saturday, no cover charge.

Judges, 2639 Cornhusker Highway — The Verandas, tonight and Saturday, \$2 cover charge.

Riveras, 1920 W. O St. — Paydirt, tonight, no cover charge. Balderdash, Saturday, no cover charge.

Royal Grove, 340 West Cornhusker Highway — Lady Luck, tonight and Saturday, no cover charge.

Skylight Bistro, 235 N. 11th St. — Dennis Taylor, tonight, no cover charge. Newton and Sayre, Saturday, no cover charge.

Tucker Inn, 3235 S. 13th St. — Free Ride, tonight and Saturday, \$2 cover charge.

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. — J.B. Strut, tonight and Saturday, \$2.50 cover charge.

MOVIES

Cinema 1&2, "Purple Rain," 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30; "Jungle Book," 1, 2:35, 4:10, 5:45, 7:20 and 8:55.

Cooper, "The Neverending Story," 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30.

Douglas 3, "Star Trek 3," 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20; "Karate Kid," 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40; "Electric Dreams," 1:45, 5:45, 7:45 and 9:45.

East Park 3, "Jungle Book," 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8 and 9:30; "The Muppets Take Manhattan," 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20; "Gremlins," 1:10, 5:10, 7:15 and 9:20.

Joyo, "Romancing the Stone," 7:30 weeknights, 3 and 7:30 Saturday, 5 and 7:30 Sunday.

Plaza 4, "Best Defense," 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45, "Last Starfighter," 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30; "Bachelor Party," 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45 and 10; "The Muppets Take Manhattan," 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Sheldon Film Theatre, "Chimes at Midnight," 7 and 9:15 Friday; 3, 7 and 9:15 Saturday and Sunday.

State, "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20 and 9:40.

Stuart, "Ghostbusters," 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:45.

84th and O, "Star Trek 3" and "Star Trek 1"

West O, "Meatballs 2" and "Where the Boys are"

THEATRE

Howell Theatre, "George M", Nebraska Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Fishing fulfills human urge; catch can repay friends, cats

By Mark Davis

A cat, faced with the day-to-day monotony of being a cat and being of a certain intelligence, spends its most treasured time stalking and killing almost anything that looks like it is defenseless. Of course, these killings are unnecessary, there is no shortage of Tender Vittles. They kill for the pure pleasure of merciless destruction.

Travels With Mark

Needless to say, a cat is not a wasteful creature either. A cat's killing is often offered to its human friends as a token of appreciation. Once my cat captured the dreaded baby rabbit in a loving gesture, leaving it at my doorstep just before my little sister's birthday party members were to return from McDonald's. I can appreciate my friend the cat.

Cats are not unlike humans. Humans, faced with the day-to-day monotony of being a human and being of a certain intelligence, spend most of their leisure time seeking things to destruct. Unlike cats, and most other intelligent life forms, humans are bent on self-destruction.

Given the fact that humans are destructive, we need a place to destruct and something defenseless to pick on. Let's go fishing!

Lincoln is a swell place to live if you want to go fishing. Within short driving distance there are five or six fine lakes. Not that any fish live in them, that's part of the self-destruction craving, but they are all fine lakes to pitch a

tent near and do some serious night fishing.

All you need for the trip is a sleeping bag and tent (if you don't own either you can rent them from the UNL Office of Campus Recreation for a meager \$10), food and/or your favorite liquid refreshment. You also need your favorite bait. Something on the lines of a dozen juicy nightcrawlers or some sturdy turkey liver is good for fooling yourself that fish will be drawn to your line like mosquitoes to a carotide.

Once you've pitched camp and a fire is burning, throw in your line and fish for awhile. Five minutes should do it. Then it's time for the real fun to begin. You can break out the food (may I suggest hotdogs and bagels) or throw rocks (my personal favorite).

Keeping in mind the legality of skinny-dipping, or the illegality of it, this activity is one of the more memorable activities of the evening from that first bone-chilling splash, to wondering if there really are fish in this lake and which part of your body they would mistake as bait if there were any, to the sandy feeling you'll have under your garments once you get out.

After your stomach is full and you've had enough fun indulging in merciless destruction, sit down and take a long look around. Becoming part of the scenery, your mind can rest and you can take a deep breath to reflect. Watching the sun come up over the lake will make you wonder if you're really in Nebraska.

Oh yeah, if you do catch any fish, clean them up and make a present to a human friend. Or maybe if you're careful not to include any nasty bones, pay back your friend the cat.