

Arts & Entertainment

Gallagher 'smashing' in Lincoln debut

By Jonathan Taylor
Senior Editor

It was a reviewer's blessing that the complimentary tickets the Daily Nebraskan was given for Gallagher's sold-out debut at Pershing Auditorium Saturday night weren't for the first nine rows.

Concert Review

It also made it a lot easier to laugh at his infamous "Sledge-O-Matic" routine because the people in those rows still will be finding bits and pieces of

sledged food on them until Thursday. There was absolutely no amount of plastic covers that could keep them safe.

But no matter where you sat, it was obvious that Gallagher remains the undisputed "king of prop comedy."

The comedian, sporting his traditional shoulder-length hair and black cap, made his intentions clear from the very start of his show, daring the audience to attempt to avoid his barrage of squirting props.

"It's a competition between you and the comedian," he taunted, arming himself with a water pump which he fiercely fired into the audience farther

than-anticipated by anyone.

"How many thought you'd be out of range?" he teased.

Although many in the audience, probably weaned on Gallagher's numerous cable television performances, expected to use their plastic covers only at the end of the show, that was not the case Saturday. Gallagher constantly tested the audiences plastic-reaction time, such as stomping on Capri Sun drink bags placed on the edge of the stage whenever people made the mistake of letting their guard down.

"Good plastic work," he would respond when people were quick enough

with their cover not to get hit.

Most, but not all, of his props squirted water, such as the foam rubber grappling hook, the electric tap-dancing watermelon, a "Rambo" knife and "guts on a stick."

However, Gallagher's biggest laughs didn't come from his visual stunts, but from his unique perspectives on a variety of topics that ranged from sex to male and female attitudes to those things in life that nobody thinks of.

Jokes such as "If smokers like smoke so much, why do they blow it out?" involved no props but were funniest. Other Gallagherisms included small discussions on things like why we park in driveways and drive on parkways and why homes have a utility called a hot

water heater.

"It should be called a cold water heater, shouldn't it," he reasoned.

The finale, of course, involved Gallagher's brutal culinary assault with the "Sledge-O-Matic." So many grocery products never met such an untimely, sudden and violent end. After the customary apples and lettuce, Gallagher started smashing stuff so fast I couldn't keep track of the mayhem. He did slow down long enough to set up for the "Scope bottle-top distance record," which appeared to beat the reported nine-row record.

To end the food fiasco, Gallagher, true to form, destroyed about five or six watermelons to the delight of a hysterical but soggy crowd.

Cards & Letters

Criticism of criticism of critic 'mindless'

Stew Magnuson's "mindless critics" letter (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 18) about Jeff Runnings' criticism on Chris McCubbin's review of the new "Gene Loves Jezebel" album is as mindless a criticism as I have seen in a long time.

First, he complains about For Against being "the second most bland" band on stage last Tuesday night, but admits earlier that he did not even buy a ticket. What did he do, sneak in the back door?

If you're not going to see or hear

things for yourself, then I think it is best to keep your mouth shut on an issue.

I think Runnings was trying to say that McCubbin's reviews tend to be somewhat slanted toward his personal likes or dislikes in music. Not that that in itself is wrong, but I think too many people who otherwise do not take the time to listen to the "avant garde" in new music tend to believe much of what he says.

I think McCubbin doesn't spend

enough time researching new music (new wave, punk, mod ska, syntho-pop or whatever you want to call it) to be considered an expert on the issue.

As for Magnuson's slam on For Against, I would like him to know that the band he called "bland" has gained rave reviews in a reputable European music magazine, Zig Zag, and is considered by many to be the best music band to ever come out of Lincoln.

Stephen Schultz
UNL alumnus

Christian metal band to give concert tonight

The Los Angeles Christian heavy metal band Stryper will perform today in the Nebraska Union Centennial Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

Stryper gained national attention in recent months with articles in Time and Newsweek magazines. Although Stryper's appearance and sound are solidly metal, the band is unique because its lyrics reflect the band's Christianity.

In a Denver Post article, Stryper drummer Robert Sweet described the

band: "We're for real...(people) hear about us without having seen us, and conjure up this choir-boy image."

"But we rock, we put 100 percent into our music. We're just singing words of life instead of words of death."

Stryper is touring to promote its first full-length album, "Soldiers Under Command."

Tickets are \$12 and are available at Pickles, Dirt Cheap and the Nebraska Union.

Review the music, not the audience

Scott Harrah's review, "Gene Loves Jezebel more than the punk band audience presumed" (Daily Nebraskan, Oct. 17), was listed as a concert review. It was anything but a concert review. Only three paragraphs dealt with the group's music; the rest of his "review" showed how closed-minded he is to new music and new fashions.

I am not sure what you'd call a punker and I certainly don't wear department store "punk" fashions, either. I didn't even see anyone else wearing department store "punk"

clothes Tuesday night. I also am not a teeny-bopper. I am a UNL student who happens to hate the song "Louie, Louie."

Harrah must not have been watching the crowd very closely because most of the thrash dancing was done while For Against, the opening band, was playing. I only noticed people thrashing to one of Gene Loves Jezebel's songs. Since I was standing in the front, I heard many of the people who thrashed to For Against complaining that they wanted to thrash to Gene Loves Jezebel, but nobody would let them. Harrah made it sound as though the whole audience was thrash dancing, when in reality there were about 15 to 20, unless there was more than one group thrashing.

Harrah did give some well-deserved compliments to the band. Anyone who

missed this concert probably missed one of the better "small" groups around, and I doubt if they stay a small band for long.

Next time, Harrah, give us a concert review, not what you think of the audience. Just because you don't understand something or someone or don't like the way people dress and dance doesn't mean that you should put them down. I hope the next time Gene Loves Jezebel or another band of their kind comes to Lincoln, the Daily Nebraskan assigns someone who reviews the music, not the audience.

Lisa Dominy
freshman
journalism

Harrah review unfair to fans

This letter is in response to the Oct. 17 concert review of "Gene Loves Jezebel." It seems odd that Scott Harrah, who instead of writing more about a band he obviously liked, would spend more than a third of the article cutting down the crowd — the same crowd he tried so desperately to be a part of.

We are continually reminded in his articles of all the rebellious things he does (i.e. wearing leopard print trousers and spiked hair to conservative bars on football Saturdays). Yet, the self-appointed king of fashion uses words such as "sophomoric" and "teeny-bopper" to describe "them" — "them" being everyone at the concert.

I would like to commend Harrah for being the only true individual at the concert. I even feel kind of sorry for him. He is surrounded by a bunch of conformists who do all of their shopping at J. C. Penney and listen to

"Louie, Louie" because we think it is punk trash music. More power to you, Scott.

Marty Amsler
sophomore
undeclared

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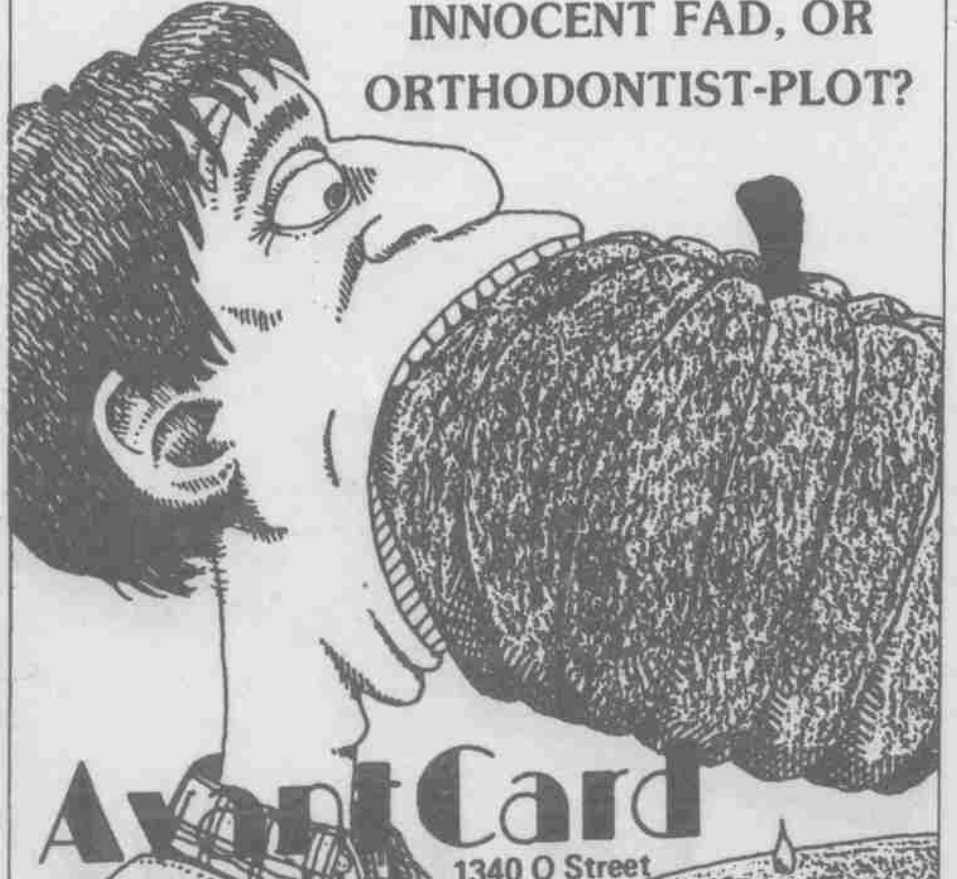


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