

Arts & Entertainment



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Egan

Pat Egan's Club Pershing brings new music to town

By Marianne Cassell
Staff Reporter

Club Pershing brings new music to Lincoln that otherwise would miss the midwest. Using Pershing Auditorium, insurance salesman Pat Egan has found a way to introduce new music groups to Lincoln.

"These groups are too small for the Devaney Sports Center, and too large for the Drumstick," Egan said.

Rock and roll in Lincoln and the Pershing half-hall is all new, Egan said.

Rather than using the entire auditorium, these concerts will use only half the space with reserved seating in the bleachers.

A supporter of UNL campus activities and a Pershing board member for almost nine years, Egan sees Club Pershing as his hobby.

"I love new music, and this is like a breath of fresh air for me," he said.

When he isn't on the phone to New York promoting a concert, Egan coordinates the Nebraska Sports and Recreation Show in February. In the summer, Egan sells fireworks as owner of Crazy Cracker Fireworks.

"I enjoy my work, but I'm not a golfer or tennis player. My hobby is promoting," Egan said.

It all began in the '60s. Egan and his brother, Mike, promoted rock bands like the

Byrds, the Boxtops and Mitch Ryder. Then the groups became too expensive. Pershing never had accommodated rock 'n' roll bands in the past because of their limited 6,000-to 7,000-person seating capacity. Omaha's Civic Auditorium became the place to play when bands wanted to play in more than just Denver and Dallas while touring in the midwest. Then, back in 1971, Egan himself brought the Association to the Nebraska State Fair for the first time.

"Two years ago, New York wouldn't let any groups play Lincoln. It was Omaha or nothing at all," Egan said.

Finally, New York allowed UB40 and the Fine Young Cannibals, both signed under the IRS record label and known for their MTV appearances, to visit Lincoln on their national tours.

In the future, Egan is interested in promoting several new music concerts a year to play in the half-hall at Pershing. According to Egan, new music is "not your traditional Heavy Metal, Easy listening, or Golden oldies rock 'n' roll. It's encompassed everything from reggae to punk to new jazz."

"It costs \$33,000 up front along with week-long intense work to prepare local advertising, but it's fun, if nothing else, to see them play in Lincoln," he said.



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

Shops offer novelties galore

By Rodney Root
Staff Reporter

Have you been shopping around for an exciting board game having to do with sex? Do you have a desire to decorate your apartment or dorm room according to your original taste? Have you ever wanted to buy a strange and off-the-wall gift for someone but just couldn't find anything you liked? Do you have a passion for unique T-shirts that can't be bought at most stores?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, then a few stores in Lincoln may be worth your looking into. Most people call them head shops. This name, however, tends to give people a wrong impression. Novelty stores is a more apt title. Sure, you can find all the water pipes and smoking accessories imaginable there, but these establishments have much more to offer. In fact, the bulk of their merchandise has nothing to do with smoking.

Being afraid of what you'll find there is not a good excuse for never having been to one of

these places. All your worries are for nothing. All the stores are clean and neat with an atmosphere you cannot find in any of the plastic, conservative stores downtown. These shops do not cater to preppy trends. The customers are normal people, not the strange characters you would imagine. These businesses merely focus on unique tastes.

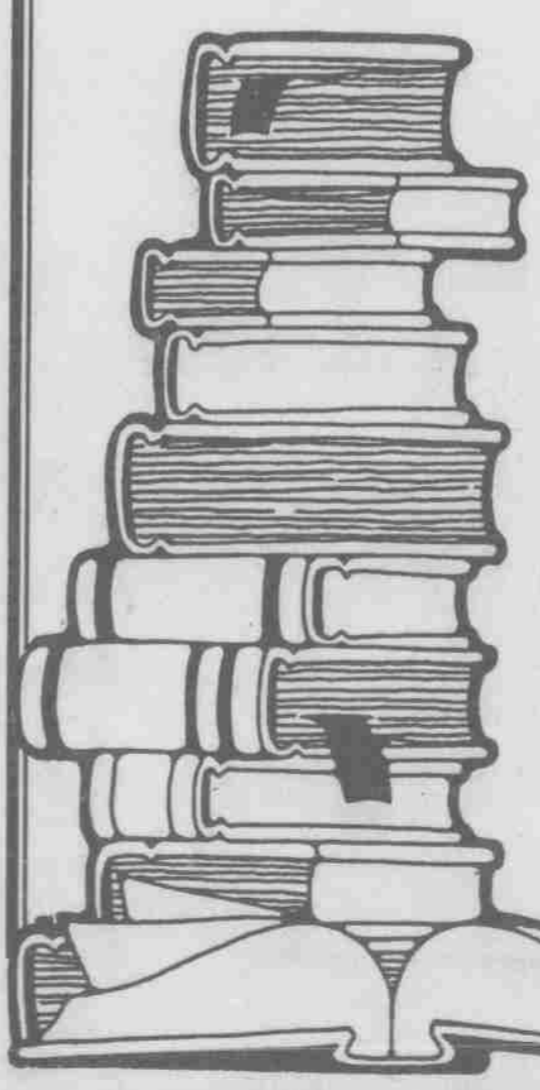
Here's a rundown of each of the stores in Lincoln. I could only find three of them (if there are anymore, let me know!):

Exotica Fashions and Gifts, 6810 P St., East Park Plaza — This shop has almost everything imaginable. Exotica has the best T-shirts, with styles you can't buy downtown. Some deal with sex, some are fashionable, and some are just offensive to a few people. My favorite was one with a huge rubber axe sticking up from a circle of blood over the wearer's heart. Frisbees have slogans on them like "No Farting." This store has the most sex games.

See SHOPS on 10



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Characters find life hellish

By Scott Wesely
Staff Reporter

"Rebels in Hell," Janet Morris, ed. (Baen Books)

Who in history do you think belongs in hell? Don't answer, because if this book is any indication, they are probably all there! Janet Morris "created" the setting, and some of today's top science fiction and fantasy writers contributed stories about their favorite infamous characters and how they would deal with truly hellish situations.

Hell is a damned busy place. With no one staying dead for very long, the undertaker is working nonstop recreating torn and mangled bodies from the unending wars and the struggles for power and vengeance that are never quite finished. The Romans Caesar, and Brutus and the lot, are out to screw everybody over, from their own children to the New Dead of the 20th century and beyond. The hordes of political and religious fanatics still fight for whatever causes they espoused in life. Alas the angel actually volunteered for his duty in Hell — to reform

Satan. Fighter pilots, allegedly immune to hell's embrace, are represented briefly by legendary WWI pilot Jake Corwin for a dogfight against the Devil himself.

Cecil B. DeMille is busy making his blockbuster movie set in and based on the workings of hell called "Hell's Gate." His actors, directors and writers create endless problems for him, making it seem as if the making of the movie will last forever. James Dean and Jim Morrison play the male leads in the movie, and Bill Kerby's famous character The Rose plays the female lead until she graduates to heaven, to the horror of DeMille, who thought he had the perfect angel for the part.

C.J. Cherryh, David Drake, Robert Silverberg, Martin Caidin and others join Morris in her efforts to show hell as a dangerous but amusing place. All the stories are entertaining and interestingly written, with identifiable characters and amusing premises, unlike the first book, "Heroes in Hell," which was confusing.

It may be slightly offensive to certain people, but that's to be expected in hell. It's just a book, folks. And it's a damned good one.