#### Club Pershing reggae concert is successful

By Chris McCubbin Senior Reporter

An excited, seriously schizophrenic, shockingly large crowd got the new Club Pershing project off to a big start Wednesday night as they packed into the venerable auditorium to see UB40 and Fine Young Cannibals.

Izod shirts mixed freely with macabre post-punk gear and neon paisleys. A small but excited corps of aging hippie reggae purists was also highly visible. Everybody, regardless of race, creed or trend orientation swayed to the music, clapped their hands and left feeling good.

#### Concert Review

Pershing worked its usual magic with the acoustics, scrambling the highs and making the lows go away. The bands' excellent sound systems and efforts above and beyond from the sound crew did manage to bring out some of the beauty of the music. Actually, it sounded pretty good on the floor, but the people in the bleachers might as well have worn tin buckets on their heads.

While the alternative music set loves these two British bands for their sharp politics and their musical unconventionality, neither band can be called 'punk' in any rational sense of the word. Fine Young Cannibals does smooth-as-silk soul in the Sam Cooke UB40 show is a completely different tradition. UB40 is a seamlessly tight experience. First of all, there's a lot of reggae ensemble, very much traditionally Jamaican in spite of their British origin and racially integrated line-up.

The Cannibals did a short, crowdsteadily to the bands two video hits. A sexy remake of Elvis Presley's early band. '70s hit "Suspicious Minds," and the Cannibals own "Johnny Come Home."

The guitarist rubber-legged about the stage in a simply astounding fashion and the lead singer, in spite of what appeared to be a painfully stiff leg, worked the audience with grace and tone that's an unbelievable joy in these is a master.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

If Club Pershing can maintain this

caliber of talent and this degree of

Astro, toaster/trumpeter for British reggae band UB40, took center stage for the band's hit "Red, Red Wine" Wednesday night at Pershing Auditorium.

something here.

days of mumbling-freak vocalists draped putty-like over immobile mikes.

If you're not used to live reggae, a organization, we're definitely on to people on stage (two guitarists/vocalists, toaster, bass, drums, percussion, keyboards, two female backup singers and a three-man horn section). It pleasing set that started slow and built seems like everybody in the band can and does play every instrument in the

All of the bands' songs were outstanding and none of the musicians took a back seat to anyone else, but if UB40 has a star it's Astro, the band's toaster (reggae rapper).

A well done reggae toast is at the same time one of the most relaxing and charm, crooning in an electrifying bari- exciting things in the world, and Astro

'Velveteen Rabbit'

# Play begins Sept. 12

in the Emmy Gifford Children's Theatre Artistic director James Larson directs production of "The Velveteen Rabbit," the play. opening Sept. 12. Wheeldon is a prominent choreographer and dancer in the sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Coun-Omaha area, and has been on the cil, a state agency and United Arts theater's staff for one year.

the book of the same title by Margery at 2 p.m. For tickets and more informa-Williams. It is the story of a toy rabbit tion, call (402) 345-4849. who comes to life after being loved by a young boy.

Adapting the script for the EGCT is guest playwright James Still, a Kansas native who lives in Soho, N.Y. His credits include "Cloud 9" at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater.

Others in the cast include Patick Flanery as young Steve, the boy who comes to love the Velveteen Rabbit; EGCT staff member Matt Kamprath, who plays older adult Steve; and Wes Bailey, who plays Ben, Steve's older brother. Joining the EGCT staff is Amy

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Kathy Wheeldon plays the title role Kuntz, who plays the Rocking Horse.

All performances at the EGCT are

Performances are Friday evenings at "The Velveteen Rabbit" is based on 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday afternoons

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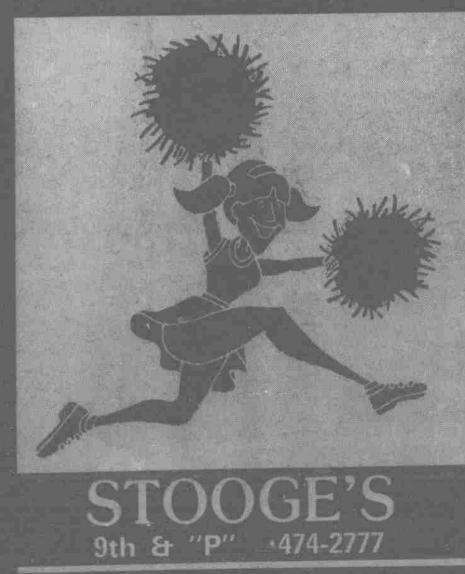
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