

"Sound"

Jumpin' jive!

By Stew Magnuson
Diversions

There are many ways we can spend our entertainment dollars by sticking quarters into a slot — trivia machines, pool tables, pinball machines and video games. But let's not forget the good old jukebox, as American as apple pie, hot dogs and crucifying presidents.

They're all over, sitting in the corners of dark, dingy bars, in little cafes and in laundromats.

So here's an incomplete, highly opinionated review of the jukeboxes around campus and my top three songs on each box. My criteria for what makes a good jukebox and what doesn't should be apparent as you read. We'll start with the worst ones first. Unfortunately, there are a lot of them.

Pizza Hut, 239 N. 14th St. The only thing more bland than the pizza here is the jukebox music. I think the food is hard enough to digest without having to listen to Bruce Willis. This jukebox also wins the "Most Madonna songs on a jukebox in Lincoln" category. All the songs on this machine are bad pop, so I had to pick the top three from that mostly boring genre. Top three: "When I Think of You," Janet Jackson; "The Bird," The Time; and "The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades," Timbuk Three.

The Spigot, 1624 O St. All you have to do to hear the top 10 hits in the nation is turn on KFRX: they play the junk every 30 minutes. So who would pay a quarter to hear this stuff again? That's the overwhelming problem with most of the jukeboxes downtown. They're all the same. I found a few oldies at The Spigot among the depressing sameness: "Whole Lot of Shaking Going On," Jerry Lee Lewis; "Who'll Stop The Rain," Creedence Clearwater Revival; and "She's Not There," the Zombies.

City Laundry, 1547 S. 17th St. This is absolutely one of the worst jukeboxes in town but I like its location. It's one of the best, cleanest laundromats in town, and the owners really want to keep their patrons entertained. This is also the cheapest jukebox — five songs for a quarter. So if you want to hear Marie Osmond five times, that's your privilege. However, you might be in conflict with some of the women watching "Hour Magazine." Top three: "Tuff Enough," The T-Birds. I couldn't find two others.

Brass Rail, 1436 O St. This is the last of the really bad jukeboxes. I promise. What can I say about it that I haven't already said about all the other top 40 machines. I did manage to find three songs I like, though, including the rare and elusive original, "Mr. Bojangles" by Jerry Jeff Walker, worth a trip to this bar in itself. Also, "Stand By Me," Ben E. King, "Keep Your Hands To Yourself," the Georgia Satellites.

Harry's Wonder Bar, 1621 O St. This jukebox is more than 50 percent country-western, which I don't like enough to have an opinion

about. If you like C&W, this is the jukebox for you. But this machine, or any of the others I saw with country-western music, didn't have a single Johnny Cash or even a Hank Williams song. And that is a shameful state of affairs. Top three: "Jungle Love," the Time; "I Knew The Bride When She Used to Rock 'n' Roll," Nick Lowe; and "New York, New York," Frankie Sinatra.

Barry's Tavern, 235 N. Ninth St. A lot of the music on this machine is bad top-40, but it does have a few country-western and big-band picks. Best three: "One O'Clock Jump," Count Basie; "Perry Mason's Theme," the Blues Brothers; and "Would I Lie to You," Eurythmics.

Green Frog, 1010 P St. I don't like the majority of the songs on the Green Frog's box, but the owners don't seem to rotate them in with the latest junk often, so a couple of songs have improved with age. Top three: "Erotic City," Prince; "Crazy Circles," Bad Company; and "People Are Strange," the Doors.

Stormie's Kitchen, 1640 Holdrege St. They've never changed the songs on the jukebox as long as I've been going to Stormie's. But this is still an interesting machine. First of all, it's the impressionist type. All over the United States and Europe I've seen these jukeboxes with impressionist paintings on the front. I've never quite made the connection between Monet, Manet, Renoir, Dikken, Madonna and Little Richard.

Also, when you come in at about 1:30 a.m., just after the bars have closed, and most of the clients are quite drunk, someone will punch in the flip side of "Johnny B. Goode," and the whole restaurant will break into a rousing chorus of Chuck Berry's "My Ding-a-Ling." Also listen for

folks pounding out the drum solo to "Wipeout" on the tabletops. Top three: "In the Mood," Glenn Miller; "Whip It," Devo; and "Wipeout," The Surfaris.

The Zoo Bar, 146 N. 14th St. The first runner-up for the best jukebox in Lincoln has to be the Zoo Bar's. Many of the greats who have played there have also left singles for the jukebox. Bugs Henderson, the Dynatoners, James Harman and Charlie Musselwhite can all be picked. The only things that keep the Zoo from sharing No. 1 are its smaller selection and the fact that the bartenders play plenty of great music on the cassette deck, so why spend money? Top three: "Breathless," Jerry Lee Lewis; "Dock of the Bay," Otis Redding; and "Check This Action/Rocking Daddy," the LeRoi Brothers.

And finally, the No. 1 jukebox in Lincoln, once again, is in O'Rourke's Lounge, 121 N. 14th St. The newest song I've ever seen on this machine was from 1979, and that was rare. What can I say about this machine that hasn't been written before? I could say it has turned me on to many songs, 25 years old or more, that I've never heard before. If you want to find out why I hate the hits of today, go punch some of the numbers on the jukebox at O'Rourke's and hear just why today's music pales compared to the hits and obscurities of yesteryear.

This is not only the greatest jukebox in Lincoln, it's the greatest jukebox in the free world! I just can't imagine a machine getting any better than this. Plus the songs are rotated out every few weeks, so you can never be bored. Top three: "Shake Your Moneymaker," Elmore James; "Juke," Little Walter; and "I'm A Man," Spencer Davis Group.



Eric Gregory/Diversions

INVITE MIDWEST SOUND TO YOUR NEXT PARTY



- Rentals of sound systems and lighting effects
- Sales and service

MIDWEST
Sound & Lighting
474-4918
2324 "O"

GUESS
PARIS
?

M&P
Miller & Paine
Something special for you.
Open today 10-9