

Arts & Entertainment

Blondie's changes location but not looks

By Micki Haller
Staff Reporter

Blondie's of 117 N. 14th St. is a small, intimate store with white wooden pillars that support nothing in particular and an antique library ladder that leans nonchalantly against the north wall.

Customers familiar with the vintage-clothing store remember its former location at 12th and N streets.

Amy Stuhmer laughs, since she was a customer at the old Blondie's before beginning to work at the store two months ago.

Stuhmer said she worked in retail before, and although other stores have more options, they don't have much individuality.

"We have just about everything," she said.

The clothes range from a purple Victorian dress, complete with whalebone, to a modern Winnie the Pooh T-shirt from England.

The most expensive items, Stuhmer said, are the Victorian outfits.

She said these are mostly collectors' items and not meant to be worn. The purple dress costs \$65.

A 1920s wool bathing suit was "scandal" when it first appeared on retail racks, Stuhmer said. She said the suit looked uncomfortable and was probably not flattering to the figure, but it's a piece of American history.

Stuhmer said overcoats and jackets from the 1950s sell quickly.

"We have robes that elicit quite a bit of laughter," she said.

A long flannel robe she used as an example was a plaid design in orange, green, black and beige.

All of the clothes are steam sanitized, Stuhmer said, so the customer can wear them right away.

The newest merchandise in the store, including leggings, T-shirts and jewelry, is from England.

Stuhmer said there were a bunch of tweed overcoats, but



Dave Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Amy Stuhmer wraps a scarf around her shoulders at Blondie's, 117 N. 14th St.

these sold very quickly.

Janie Lane, owner of Blondie's, said the store gets its stock from a variety of sources.

Some apparel — cuff pants, flannel tube skirts and some leggings — is sewn locally, she said.

Originally, Lane said, Blondie's on 12th Street sold only vintage clothing, hats and shoes.

She said she began bringing back new things from international boutique shows in New York.

Blondie's was in business for

about three years before it closed in March 1986 to make way for the construction of the Lied Center, she said.

Lane said some clothing was sold at Dirt Cheap before Blondie's reopened at its current location.

Finding the right spot delayed reopening the store.

"To find the right little space," Blondie's was practically nonexistent until 1987, Lane said.

In late September, the new Blondie's opened.

One of Blondie's strongest points is its service to customers. The store offers alterations and layaway with no finance charges at this time of year, Stuhmer said.

The small size of the store allows the customers to interact with the employees, Stuhmer said. She said people are afraid to try on clothing and need a little encouragement.

The customer "knows what he wants, but is a little bit timid," she said.

There is something for every

customer in the store, Stuhmer said.

Blondie's tries to stock sensibly priced, everyday clothing, Lane said.

Jewelry is less than \$10; sweaters range from \$8.50 to \$14.50; fur coats retail for up to \$199, and imported jackets average \$55, Lane said.

Store hours are from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; 12:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Black Sea recording studio may be on successful sail

By Chris McCubbin
Staff Reporter

There's little about Randy Watson's lanky, genial appearance to suggest he's visionary. But when it comes to alternative music in Lincoln, Watson defines the phrase.

When the Lincoln band For Against went on a nationwide tour recently, Watson went along as sound man. On the trip he had a chance to get a view of the music scenes in American cities.

"Lincoln has as good or better of a music scene than anywhere," he said.

In order to prove his thesis about Lincoln music to the world, Watson has established Black Sea Studios. It's

a place where local bands, even those without much money, can record the way they want to sound.

Watson worked closely with Lincoln's major recording studio, Master Trax, particularly on For Against's first album, "Echelons."

Watson gives Master Trax's personnel high marks for cooperation and professionalism, but said he thought they weren't conducive to alternative music. So Watson started his own studio.

"Everything just fell into place this fall," he said.

Watson said he'd wanted to establish a studio for some time, but when The Drumstick closed this summer he almost gave up his plans.

"It's terrible; there's no place to play," he said.

But when the site that now is Black Sea became available, Watson said, he had to take it.

Black Sea is on the west side of town in a converted bomb shelter.

Watson's current project at Black Sea is producing a limited-edition single. One side has a For Against song; the other has one by the New Brass Guns. The single will be distributed in Germany by the magazine Pop Noise.

Watson is also going to produce For Against's next album, and he's talking with the New Brass Guns about an EP and about tapes for 13

Nightmares and Trout Mystery.

So far Watson's studio fee is nothing. He said he hopes that soon some bands will be able to pay or that Black Sea projects will start turning a profit.

"My immediate goals are: pay off the equipment I'm in debt for and get some of these people's music out around town," he said.

Watson is also a graduate student in English and a lecturer in Spanish for the modern languages department.

And, as if he didn't have enough to keep him busy, he's trying to launch a band of his own.

Those who attended the "Christian Guitar Fund Benefit" concert in the Haymarket on Nov. 7 heard the debut performance of the new Return,

Watson's band.

The original Return was Watson, solo with a drum machine, on a tape he cut at home called "And Pillow's Breathe."

Watson said he gave away most copies of "And Pillow's Breathe" to friends. Pickle's sold a few copies, but he never went back to collect the money, he said.

The returned Return features Watson on guitar and vocals and a live rhythm section. Their first tape should be out over Christmas, Watson said.

The Return's opportunities to play live are limited, since the band shares its drummer, Greg Hill, with For Against, but Watson said the Return plans to stay together.

Lincoln's UHF video channel to improve technical equipment

Improved broadcast sounds will travel around town

By Mick Dyer
Staff Reporter

UHF 61, carrier of the Hit Video Network in the Lincoln area, recently underwent technical changes to improve its broadcast signal. The station will change its broadcast format beginning Monday.

Stephen G. Kafka, owner of Liberty Broadcasting of Nebraska, channel 61, K61CU-TV, said viewers in some parts of the broadcast area, especially in northeast, east and southeast Lincoln had difficulty receiving the station's broadcasts.

"People out there just weren't picking it up," he said.

Viewers may recently have had difficulty receiving the station's broadcasts, he said. Some equipment problems occurred as technical changes were made to improve the broadcast signal, he said.

"The signal levels are great all over town now," he said. "If you had trouble picking up 61, try us now."

Beginning at 4 p.m. Monday, channel 61 will broadcast programming from the Tempo Network. The Tempo Network was known as the Satellite Television Network until about four

years ago and is based in Tulsa, Okla.

The network features live sports coverage, syndicated programming and "All Night at the Movies," an all-night program specializing in classic movies.

"Oriental Cooking with Martin Yan" will be the first program from the Tempo Network broadcast over channel 61, at 4 p.m. Monday. "The Yodlin' Kid from Pine Ridge" (1937) with Gene Autrey will be the first feature film from "All Night at the Movies" broadcast over channel 61, beginning at 11 p.m. Monday.

From 6 to 11 p.m., Monday through

Friday, channel 61 will leave Tempo and broadcast its own syndicated programming and movies. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, channel 61 will broadcast the Hit Video Network.

Kafka said channel 61 will broadcast programming from the International Television Network soon. ITN features films and documentaries in the language of the country they are from, with English subtitles, in addition to a weekly Wall Street Journal Report.

Programming in Japanese, German, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese,

Chinese and many other languages will be carried from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, in place of Hit Video, he said.

"These programs are what you would see in these countries during prime time," he said.

Kafka plans to contact the foreign language departments at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College and local high schools to enlist their support for ITN and channel 61 in their application for cable status. Having

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