

Susanne Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Bands blast Duffy's during Broadside Benefit

By Mick Dyer
Senior Reporter

The floors shook and ears throbbed during the 16 bands in four hours Broadside benefit concert Wednesday night at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.

Broadside is a magazine and tape package that serves as a forum for local writers, artists and musicians to share their work with the community. Since its inception, a little more than a year ago, Broadside has published two magazine-tape packages featuring the work of a variety of inexperienced, as well as established, musicians, writers and artists.

Gregg Cosgrove, musical coordinator for the tape and concert, said Broadside serves primarily as a vehicle to give local writers, artists and musicians exposure.

"We don't edit anything and we're not a club," Cosgrove said. "We're for people."

"The tape is theirs and the magazine is theirs. If you don't have the money to put it out, we'll do it for you."

Cosgrove said Lincoln has a really vital and stimulating alternative arts and music scene.

"There is so much stuff going on, it's unbelievable," he said.

The third Broadside tape is scheduled for release on Oct. 14. Cosgrove said the response from local musicians was strong for the up-coming tape. The 90-minute tape is the longest one so far, and includes music by 26 bands: 22 from the Lincoln area, two from Omaha and two from Kearney.

"There's not as much noise as last time, not as much experimental music," Cosgrove said. "Almost all of them are real songs."

Cosgrove said that 60 to 70 percent of the music on the tape is by new bands that many people haven't heard before. He said that the tape has a fairly low sound quality, because it is a strictly a reproduction of music recorded on tape recorders in people's basements and garages.

But that's part of the magic of Broadside — it really captures the mood and spirit of each band, Cosgrove said.

Cosgrove said that the release date for the literary arts magazine part of Broadside is still up in the air.

"They don't have enough people sending in material," he said. "That's a real problem."

"People were really ambitious about the music. I don't know why people weren't as ambitious about the writing and pictures and stuff."

Cosgrove hopes Broadside will take more of a leadership role in the alternative publications.

"Broadside does well while other things fail," he said. "They need to help others."

"Look at Free magazine, look at a lot of Omaha magazines (that have collapsed). People are even Xeroxing stuff that you can get at skateboard shops."

Cosgrove said what ultimately has to happen is that all the fractions of alternative lifestyles have to learn how to work together. Until that happens, none of them will really have the chance to experience their fullest potentials, he said.

"Someone might experience a little success, but it will be a flash and it's gone," Cosgrove said. "If people organize, it will be a lot more lasting."

"There's a lot of power when people get together."

However, Cosgrove said, he is not optimistic about the Lincoln alternative art and music scene organizing into a powerful force worthy of receiving the national recognition it sometimes deserves.

"It'll probably never happen," he said. "People care too much about themselves and not enough about the community."

a full house from 9 p.m., when the bands started, to 1 a.m., when they stopped.

Here's a brief rundown of the bands that played:

Sad Cadimite — Loud, guitar oriented metal straight from the garage. Power drums and vocals.

The Lemmings — Really tight, creative blend of pop and blues sounds. Clean guitar, funky bass and raw vocals creates a sound full of contrasts. Like to hear more from them.

Chunk of Sound — This band was so colorful, they were psychedelic. Its unique fusion of musical instruments and styles, as well as the elaborate musical genius got the whole bar moving. They blew the audience away.

Leafy Green Things — Their parody song inspired by comments made about them by a Daily Nebraskan music writer, "Going straight to the top with three chord rock," infected the entire audience with their irreverent and funny sense of humor.

Such Sweet Thunder — From Kearney. Contemplative music. Moody vocals, a spirited guitar and thunder drums made for an intriguing sound. Like to hear more from them.

New Brass Guns — Not on tape. They need no introduction, having been a major force in the Lincoln music scene for almost two years now. Playful rock.

Neon Yetis — Real rough sound that seemed to lack any discernable direction. Chaotic music that was reminiscent of bad dreams.

Red Max — This three piece band played hard-driving metal. They were kind of scary, but kind of funny at the same time.

The Sleep Merchants — High energy guitar band. Pensive music. Acoustic guitar gave the band a fresher sound than a lot of the others that stuck to the electric format. I'd like to see more of them, too.

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Wednesday's concert was the second such Broadside benefit, where local bands volunteer their playing time to help raise money for the Broadside project. Most of the bands that played appear on the up-coming tape.

Reg McMeen, manager and co-owner of Duffy's Tavern, said that the first Broadside benefit last April drew the largest crowd ever at Duffy's for local or alternative music.

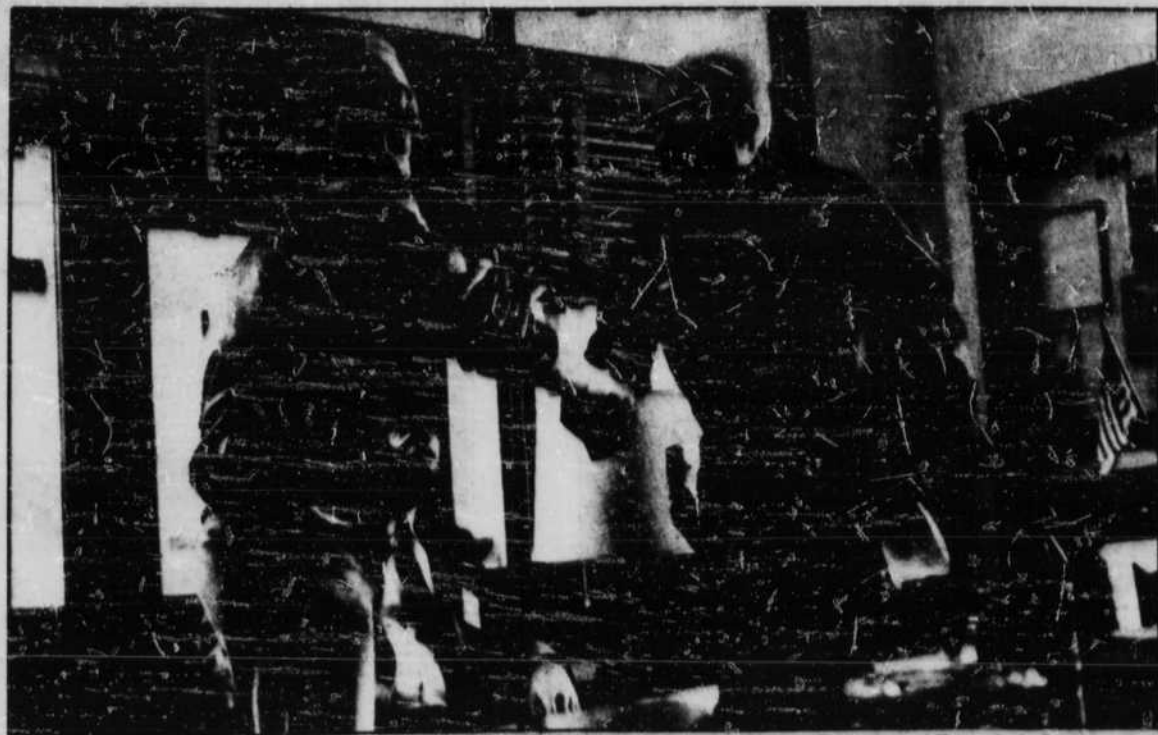
"We had 300 people in and out the door last time," McMeen said.

And the second benefit show lived up to the reputation of the first. It was

Whipping Post — Not on tape. Solid band. Melodic open guitar, clear vocals, leading bass and solid percussion, combined with their lively stage presence gives them the potential to compete with some of the more established bands in the Lincoln alternative music scene.

Cheating Snakes — After a false start, the cheating snakes got right down to playing some precision power country. Their animated stage antics really got the audience up. One of Lincoln's best kept live music secrets.

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Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

James Caan and Mandy Patinkin star in "Alien Nation."

'Alien Nation' fails in new twist attempt

By W. Andrew Robinson
Staff Reporter

It's always exciting to see previews of a movie that present what seems to be a fresh new twist on old ideas.

It's also extremely disappointing when a movie doesn't live up to the expectations it sets itself up for. Such is the case with the new movie

movie REVIEW

"Alien Nation." It's a great idea, but falls far short of what could've been done.

The premise is that in the near future, a spacecraft containing a race of aliens lands on Earth. It is a recently-freed (apparently, but we don't know for sure) slave race

which has "shipwrecked" and is here to stay.

The race has its own culture and language and, while the aliens look a bit different, they soon prove to have one of the same problems we do: Crime.

The story is about two detectives, one human and one a "Newcomer," as they're called. The focus is on the similarities and differences of two races from different worlds and how they interact with each other. At least we would think.

Nice idea. Cops and robbers and aliens; sort of an "Adam 12" meets "The Invaders", or a fusion of "Dirty Harry" and "Star Trek". The possibilities for plot development grow when a Newcomer LSD-like

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