

Local, national acts welcome students back

By Mick Dyer
Senior Editor

Some fine local and national musicians will be in Lincoln between today and next Thursday to welcome you back for second semester and to help make the transition back to the academic grind a little easier.

Alternative:
Wednesday, The Millions will play at Duffy's Tavern 1412 O St. The



Millions play guitar-pop music with a dark tormented edge, featuring powerfully beautiful vocals. The Millions play songs that get into your spine and run around in there until you just can't stand it anymore and you get up and dance.

Blues/Jazz:
Tonight through Saturday, Lucky Peterson will play at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.

Lucky Peterson, a blues man since the tender age of three, effortlessly has made audiences laugh and dance and have a good time for most of his 26 years. As a child prodigy of his father, a musician/club-owner from Buffalo New York, you might say performing is in his blood.

For those who are old enough to

remember, Peterson performed as a boy on the Ed Sullivan Show and What's My Line? For those too young to remember, or for those who needed a gentle reminder, Lucky Peterson made his debut as a young man at the Zoo Bar last October. And as he knocked the socks and shoes and hats and things off the audience, he earned instant recognition as the musician and showman he is.

At any rate, it was quite a show. He played the guitar on the stage and the sidewalk and all moderately stable points in-between. During a drum solo he ran and hid off stage, then jumped back to the organ to hit a chord without missing a breath, then ran off stage again and again and again. On a slow blues standard, he slowly sunk down in his chair in front of the organ until he was sitting on the floor playing the organ with his hands above his head. He even played the organ with his toes while lying on his back.

It was mad. The audience loved it. Friday and Saturday, The Legendary Blues Band will play at Bourbon Street, 200 N. 70th St. The Legendary Blues Band features the last musicians to play in Muddy Waters old band.

Monday, The Tablerockers will play at the Zoo Bar.

The Tablerockers have long been Lincoln's premiere blues band. With last summer's addition of lead singer



Courtesy of the Zoo Bar

The Fortune Tellers, of Czechoslovakia by way of Oklahoma City, will play at the Zoo Bar Thursday.

See LIVE on 13

'Born on the Fourth of July' role shatters pretty-boy image

Cruise proves his acting talent as Vietnam vet

By Troy Falk
Staff Reporter

Omigod, Tom Cruise can act. Glimpses of his talent shone through in "Rainman" and "The Color of Money," but critics could pin Cruise's success on his accomplished co-stars Dustin Hoffman and Paul Newman.

Cruise now has proven he is not just another pretty face. In "Born on the Fourth of July," Cruise plays lead character Ron Kovic, a real-life Vietnam veteran whose story has been adapted to the screen. The movie depends entirely on Cruise to carry it

off. He does so beautifully as Kovic metamorphoses from an all-American boy to a long-haired protester.

At the movie's beginning, Kovic has typical small-town views. He loves his country and blindly accepts whatever the government spews out.

Kovic is influenced by his religious mother who tells him: "As long as you try your hardest, that is all God asks for." She supports his decision to fight in Vietnam, a choice influenced heavily by a Marine recruiting officer, played by Tom Berenger.

Early in the movie, Kovic and his friends talk about war and their chance

to make it into history books like their fathers and grandfathers. They consider it their opportunity for glory.

The setting then switches from the small town to a beach in Vietnam. Kovic, a sergeant in his second tour, is setting up defenses when his platoon unwittingly starts shooting at unarmed, innocent civilians. When Kovic is sent to check for dead and wounded, the Vietcong attack and chase Kovic's platoon across the sand dunes where he accidentally shoots a fellow Marine.

In January, 1968, Kovic is shot in the chest and becomes paralyzed. He

considers it punishment for his "mistakes" during the war.

Kovic begins to drink heavily, and his mother eventually throws him out of the house. Kovic goes to a Mexican resort inhabited only by paralyzed Vietnam veterans. There he meets another wheelchair-bound vet played by William Dafoe.

Kovic's emotional strain continues to grow, resulting in a plunge into a group of Vietnam vets who oppose the war. They raid the Republican National Convention in 1972, attempting to speak out against war. Kovic begins and continues to grow as a

political figure.

Especially strong supporting-cast members include Raymond J. Barry as Kovic's father, Frank Whaley as Kovic's best friend and Kyra Sedgwick as the girlfriend Kovic hopes to return to.

"Born on the Fourth of July," an Oliver Stone/Ron Kovic production, is destined to become a classic in the league of "Platoon" and "Wall Street," both directed by Stone.

"Born on the Fourth of July" is playing at the Cinema Twin, 201 N. 13th St.



Courtesy of MCA Records

Voivod cripples itself without discernable message or style

By Troy Falk
Staff Reporter

Voivod
"Nothingface"
MCA Records

Voivod at first looks to be a new punk rock group with a message. As it turns out, they are a punk/acid/new-wave/metal band with no discernible message.

The sound they have is a mixture of Hanoi Rocks, The Cult and The Flaming Lips. One of

album REVIEW

the major problems with their sound is that they don't know what they want to play or to be. They need to decide who and what they are and stick to it.

"Nothingface" starts off with "The Unknown Knows," which leads in with a slow drum and guitar beat, then explodes. The sudden change is so abrupt that it makes you think the record has skipped. As the song progresses the sound quality doesn't.

Following along with this album becomes a tedious and ominous task, from the blaring music that changes tempo after each stanza to the lyrics that are coded in an alien language. With the end of each song and the start of a new one, you hope for something to grasp to give

the album some credibility.

But, alas, no such relief is found. Even the cover of Pink Floyd's "Astronomy Domine" is no help. Voivod is crippling itself by not being able to pick a style and stick with it.

The album describes itself as the "Newest chapter in Sci-fi saga -- spun by Canada's most inspired futurists." This is the type of music a guy would expect to hear if he were living on the streets of New York during the movie "Blade Runner."

Voivod is made up of Denis Belanger (Snake) on vocals, Denis D'Amour (Piggy) on guitars, Michel Langevin (Away) on drums and Jean-Yves Theriault (Blacky) on bass. Piggy, Blacky and Away wrote the music while Snake wrote all of the lyrics.

Snake has an unknown voice quality; you never get to hear him sing. Sure, he screams occasionally, but no quality check can be made.

Piggy's ability to make his guitar screech is admirable. His ability to make listenable music so far is not displayed.

Blacky's bass cuts through the noise and delivers a solid bass beat. He does give the band something to build from, but as of this album he doesn't take charge and lead the musicians.

Away has two credits to his name; one is drums and the second is the cover design and the artwork. The artwork is very creative and powerful. It brings up emotions of fear and loneliness.

Too bad the music can't do the same.