

# Student interest plays role in Lied success

By Steve Pearson  
Staff Reporter

Season-ticket subscriptions at the Lied Center for Performing Arts are up this year compared to last year, including an increase in the number of student tickets sold, according to Robert Chumbley, director of the Lied Center.

"We've sold about 5,000 more subscriptions than we did last year, but what's most important about that is it is over a fewer number of performances," Chumbley said. "That translates into an increased percentage of tickets sold."

An increase in the number of student season ticket sales is a part of the turnaround the Lied is experiencing, Chumbley said. He said that the Lied tries to attract students in a number of ways.

"We hope that some of the programs like Take 6 and Wynton Marsalis will attract the student ticket buyer. Also (students are offered) the half-price tickets; we can't do any better than that," he said. "We also have a student marketing intern, Bryan Wilson, and he's doing a great job on (attracting students)."

Chumbley said the Lied is planning a new series that will be attractive to students.

"The Venture Series in the Johnny Carson Theater will be announced in several weeks and was developed with the student ticket buyer in mind," he said.

Chumbley is hopeful that with the improved tickets sales the Lied Center will be able to operate on a balanced budget this season, a rarity among performing arts centers.

"That's what we're shooting for. We hope if we sell more tickets and can find a friend or two, we'll be on our way," Chumbley said.

Chumbley said that Lied officials are exploring the possibility of scheduling more popular music acts in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. He said that the acts that Lied officials envision scheduling in Devaney "wouldn't be anything near hard rock or heavy metal."

"It would be more on the lines of Whitney Houston, Bryan Adams or Billy Joel," he said.

Chumbley said that the athletic schedule makes it difficult to plan concerts for the Devaney Center.

"We're finding trouble getting into Devaney. You can imagine how hard it is to work around the athletic schedule with an artist like Whitney Houston or Billy Joel," Chumbley said.

Single ticket sales begin today at the Lied Box Office.



Brad Simmons/Daily Nebraskan

Ticket sales at the Lied Center for Performing Arts are up this year, according to Lied Director Robert Chumbley.



Brad Simmons/Daily Nebraskan

Last Fair Deal pounds out blues with a twist Saturday night at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14 St. The band, which features violinist Lionel Young (left) as its frontman, made its debut in Lincoln Friday.

## Last Fair Deal features unique approach to blues



By Matthew Burton  
Staff Reporter

To describe Last Fair Deal as an ordinary blues band would be misleading.

Last Fair Deal, which made its Lincoln debut Friday night at the Zoo Bar, takes a unique approach to the medium by featuring Lionel Young, a classically trained violinist, as its frontman.

Young, resembling Gregory Hines with wiry thin dread locks tied behind his head, took the stage with his three cohorts Saturday night in front of a sparse crowd.

The band played extended arrangements of various blues standards. Using his black electric violin and various effects such as reverb and wah-wah pedals, Young plucked and bowed a sound more reminiscent of Hendrix than a concert violinist.

Capitalizing on its versatile, funk-driven rhythm section consisting of Rusty Logsdon on bass and Jake Ciancia on drums, and Young trading off leads with David Moore on guitar, Last Fair Deal quickly proved itself to be more than a blues band.

Logsdon got the funk out by lending an occasional vicious slap bass, while Ciancia added the salt and pepper with his reggae-tinged drumming.

To close its first set, Last Fair Deal cooked through Robert Johnson's "Preachin' Blues" with a solid, raucous train rhythm and plenty of distortion courtesy of Moore's cherry red Gibson.

"This band is slowly melting together with a little funky reggae style ... but blues is still the main thing in this band," Ciancia said.

By the second set, the crowd had grown considerably.

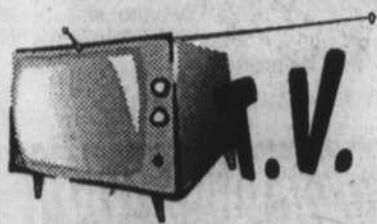
Last Fair Deal proceeded to tear through blues standards such as "You'll Be Mine" and "Walk Away," for which Young picked up a slide for his violin, adding an eerie flavor to the set.

Capping off the second set the band played a very long version of another Robert Johnson tune, "Last Fair Deal," the band's namesake, which showcased each member's abilities. During "Last Fair Deal," Young played a variety of styles, from a country blues fiddle to a flamenco style plucking. Using strange arrangements, the band went into a Bob Marley tune before going back to the "Last Fair Deal."

Ending the third set, the band played a funky version of James Brown's "Sex Machine."

By the end of the night, Last Fair Deal answered any questions about using a violin in a blues combo. To say the least, Last Fair Deal got down.

## NETV to rebroadcast Funny Bone 6-part comedy series starting tonight



From Staff Reports

An encore broadcast of the Nebraska ETV Network six-part series "At The Funny Bone" will be presented beginning tonight.

The presentation will consist of four 30-minute and two 60-minute

programs of late-night stand-up comedy by nationally-known comedians as they perform at the Omaha and Lincoln Funny Bone comedy clubs.

The premiere program will feature Chas Elstner, beginning at 11:30 p.m.

On Tuesday at 11 p.m., the first hour-long program will feature ventriloquist David Strassman (Showtime and "Comic Strip Live") with his wooden sidekick Chuck Wood.

Comedian Michael Pace (Showtime and "Evening at the Improv") attacks such institutions as neighborliness, adolescence and Catholic schools, while Frank King makes fun of hair dryers and quick shops on the pro-

gram airing Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. Thursday at 11 p.m. the second of the hour-long programs will feature magician/comedian Mac King and comic Bert Borth.

Jack Thomas and Steve Marmel are featured on Friday at 11:40 p.m., with the series concluding Sept. 2 at 11:30 p.m. with Brad Stine (MTV, Showtime and Fox Network) as the featured performer.

The series "At The Funny Bone," which contains some adult material, is a production of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television Science, Outreach and Specials Unit for broadcast on Nebraska ETV.



Courtesy of Nebraska Public Television

Comedian Chas Elstner is a featured performer in Nebraska Public Television's encore presentation of "At the Funny Bone."