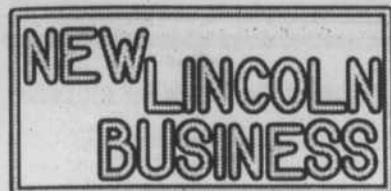


Brewpub tantalizes beer lovers' taste buds

New cafe offers plenty of beer, food, atmosphere



By Mark Baldridge
Senior Editor

It wasn't long ago that Nebraskans suffered under the iron hand of the major beer brewers; choices and tastes were limited.

But then they were introduced to the wonderful world of microbrewing and suddenly everyone's a connoisseur. Today we Lincolnites have two, count 'em, two brewpubs to choose from.

As of Oct. 16, Crane River Brewpub and Cafe is on line and running, brewing five kinds of beer and the occasional seasonal flavor.

Owned and managed by Linda Vescio and Kristina Tibel (who also serves as head brewer), the place is literally flooded with atmosphere — so bring a snorkel.

The menu tells you that in addition to restoring the original tile floor to the historic Commercial Club Building, the restaurant also sports a bar inset with rock from the Platte River Valley and a dining room laid with carpet "produced from fibers spun from recycled plastic pop bottles."

When I arrived, incognito, I sat at the bar in my usual "timid customer" mode and waited. After a minute a "suit" came along and sat next to me.

A bartender appeared as if summoned by the expensive tie and sharp lapel.

"I'd like a menu," I said and the fellow seemed mildly surprised. I don't think he'd noticed me there in my T-shirt and shorts.

But after that they were pleasant enough. I say "they" because I suddenly had two bartenders waiting on me — when I took out a notebook and started taking notes on the quality of the beer.

Then I let them see me drawing pictures and one of them went away. It never fails, act like a reviewer and the quality of service miraculously improves.

As a conscientious reviewer I felt compelled to try every kind of beer they made. And here's where the story takes an upturn. The beer was excellent, unlike anything I have had before.

They offer four-ounce tasters for 50 cents and I had six of them. (One flavor was so great I had to try it again to see if I had been imagining things.)

The Platte Valley E.S.B. (Extra Special Bitter) was like the beer they brew in dreams. A red beer, it was beautiful to look at, to smell, to touch, to taste — if it had made a noise it would have chimed like bells in heaven.

The menu says it's the head brewer's favorite. Obviously, a woman of taste.

Another fine and original beer is the Whooping Wheat. It's a traditional German-style summer ale — again, according to the menu — and comes served with a lemon slice.

The color of apple juice, this beer has none of the abominable sweetness of some lighter beers. But it's as refreshing as a glass of iced tea in Atlanta — where iced tea has the status of a house wine.

The Zlate Pevo is almost smoky



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Sean Strough, right, chats with friends at the newly opened Crane River Brewpub and Café at 11th and R streets. Clockwise from center front are Robert Eckerson, Ron Schmidt, Shawn Farriter and Nancy Thiel.

flavored, it has a tang that stays with you. The flavor changes as you drink it, but it never fails to please. And the Homestead Pale Ale is an amber beer, similar to Lazlo's Captain Donovan's.

The only low point is the Good Life Stout, but only if you really like

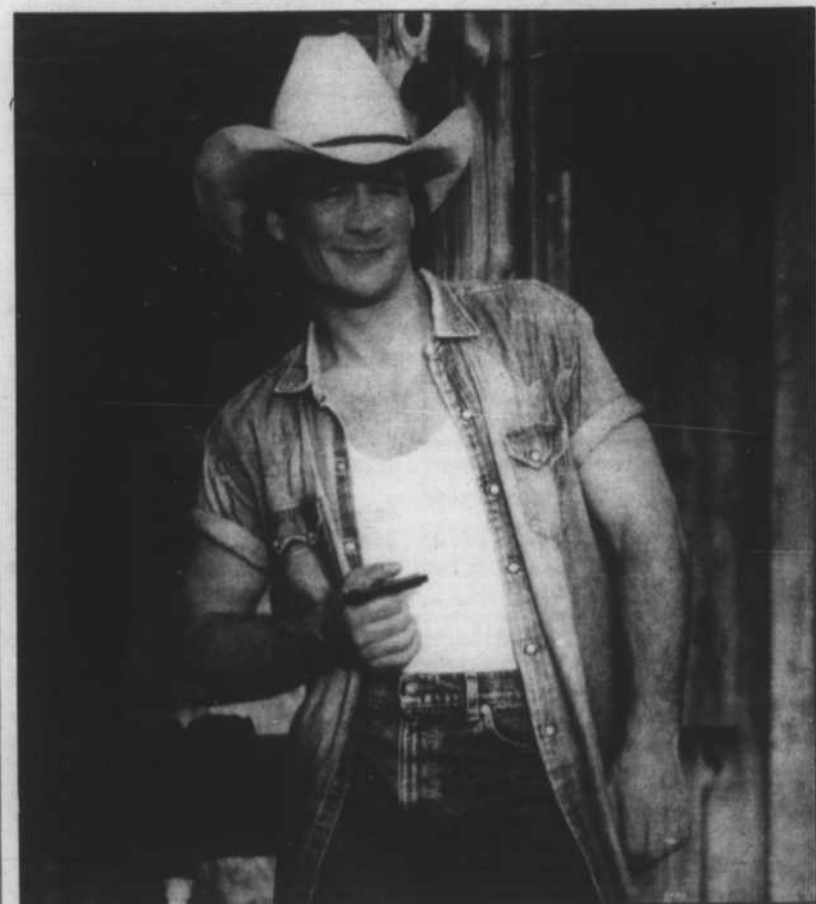
your stout . . . well . . . stout. If dark beers have frightened you in the past, you may find this beer more to your liking.

The food, judging by the french fries and the black bean soup, is good

standard fare (for Lincoln even quite good), if just a little pricey.

So wear a tie, come prepared for atmosphere and taste the new beers in town.

You can't hardly not enjoy yourself.



Courtesy of RCA Records

Clint Black will perform with Aaron Tippin Saturday evening at Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

Pershing holiday performance to feature singer Clint Black

From Staff Reports

Pershing Municipal Auditorium will be the sight of a Black Halloween Saturday evening.

Country and western singer Clint Black will perform at 8 p.m. in support of his latest album, "The Hard Way."

Saturday's concert is one of 150 tour dates that Black will perform this year.

Black is known for his hit songs such as "A Better Man," "Killin' Time," "Nobody's Home," "Walkin' Away" and "Nothing's News."

Opening for Black will be Aaron Tippin.

Reserved seating is \$19.50. Tickets may be purchased at the Pershing Auditorium box office or through all TicketMaster locations, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Union.

Cinema quality of 'Dr. Giggles' proves to be a laughing matter



"Dr. Giggles"



By Gerry Beltz
Staff Reporter

For the most part, the sloppy teenage hack-'em-up movies have been dodged by the theaters and get released straight onto the video shelves.

Unfortunately, movies like "Dr. Giggles" (Plaza 4, 12th and P streets)

have still been able to ooze onto movie screens nationwide.

Music provided by Brian May (legendary guitarist for Queen and Starfleet Project) would be enjoyable if one didn't have to watch the movie to hear the soundtrack.

Larry Drake (the finger-chopping gangster in "Darkman") portrays Evan Rendell, an escaped mental patient whose father was a small-town physician who cut out his patients' hearts while they were still alive.

The angry townspeople dragged the father into the street and stoned him to death, but his 7-year-old son (who allegedly helped him) was never found or seen again.

Now, some 35 years later, Evan has returned to the small town of Moorehigh to avenge his father's death and to continue his father's work in heart transplants.

The film degenerates into the typical slasher flick syndrome, complete with Drake delivering morbid one-liners akin to his character.

"It's time to do what a doctor does best!" Rendell says, as he reaches for his golf clubs.

Naturally, his victims are the unsuspecting teen-agers of Moorehigh. All are portrayed with the depth of a shallow puddle.

An annoying subplot thrown in is the recently discovered heart condition of one of the teen-agers.

Golly, will Doctor Giggles try to save her with his untested techniques and tools and leave a bloody trail of her friends and relatives in the process? Will he do it with even more snappy one-liners that Freddy Krueger hasn't used yet?

Probably.



Weekend preview

"Reaction" (Theatrix) at the Howell Theatre, today and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. \$2

The Chris Duarte Group (guitar blues) at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., today, Saturday and Sunday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$5 today and Saturday, \$4 Sunday.

"Cloud Nine" (University Theatre play) in the Studio Theatre of the Temple Building, 12th and R streets, today and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults.

Hubbard Street Dance Company at the Lied Center for Performing Arts today and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$22, \$18 and \$14 for adults with half-price available for students.

University Symphony Orchestra at Kimball Recital Hall, Sunday at 3 p.m. Free admission.

David Badders/DN