

## Midnight Oil warms to enthusiastic audience

### Australian group brings music, message, good will to Lincoln



### Concert review

to follow.

At 9 p.m., Midnight Oil hit the stage, and the audience on the main floor rose to its feet. Most remained standing during the 90-minute set, which focused on selections from the band's latest album, "Earth and Sun and Moon."

On stage, overhead purple and blue lights reflected on Garrett's sweating bald head — his stiff hand motions transforming him into a towering robot. At other times he moved with the fluid grace of a martial arts master.

The uninhibited crowd craned necks, screamed, swayed hips and heads and pumped fists into the air

“**Midnight Oil's environmental commitment is more than skin deep. It's what they live for.**

—Carter environmentalist

Monday's Midnight Oil concert was more than a University Program Council event — it was Ireland, Australia, an entourage of environmental organizations and an estimated 2,000 fans all under one roof at the Pershing Auditorium.

Opening the concert promptly at 7:30 p.m., the Irish rockers Hothouse Flowers proved they were no light-weight band.

Melodic keyboards, coupled with the voice of lead singer Liam O'Maonlai, ran the crowd through a gamut of emotions.

After an hour-long set, the band cleared the stage. As Midnight Oil's crew began to prepare the stage, fans wandered through the lobby, checking out the environmental booths.

Concerts for the Environment, an organization that connects environmentally conscious performers with benefit shows, sponsored three regional groups: Save Boyd County — Stop the Nuke Dump, C.L.E.A.N. (Citizens Leading Environmental Action in Nebraska) and the Omaha chapter of the Sierra Club.

Peter Garrett, lead singer for Midnight Oil, is on the board of directors of Greenpeace, which also was represented.

Farther down the corridor, Bob Carter of San Francisco answered questions about Coral Forest, a non-profit organization fighting to save the coral reefs.

Carter said he was lucky to be a part of the Midnight Oil entourage.

"The band lets us travel in the tour bus and has saved our organization \$7,000," he said.

"Midnight Oil's environmental commitment is more than skin deep. It's what they live for."

Garrett and his bandmates would make that commitment clear in the set

during every song, with the exception of "In the Valley," when respectful silence accompanied the piano and a gold beam of light focused on Garrett.

The singer built a solid rapport with the crowd. At one point he even invited a student on stage and questioned him about school.

"You have the best of both worlds," Garrett told him — a cue for the band to begin the next song, "Best of Both Worlds."

Throughout the show, guitarists Martin Rotsey and Jim Moginie, along with bass player Bones Hillman, boasted a brilliant network of guitars tied to the moves of Garrett, who even played the harmonica during the song, "Truganini."

Midnight Oil wrapped up the set with "Beds are Burning," followed by a short set of encore songs.

During "Bushfire," one of the final

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Travis Hoying/DN

Midnight Oil's Peter Garrett on stage at Pershing Auditorium Monday night. Hothouse Flowers opened the show.

## New KRNU disc jockey pushes 'heavier' heavy metal

### SPOTLIGHT

By Anne Steyer  
Senior Reporter

Radio listeners beware: "heavier" heavy metal hits the airwaves tonight at 10 p.m. when Mike Buell takes over KRNU's sound board for "Heresy."

Buell, a 21-year-old junior broadcasting major, said his metal show inherited the title "Heresy" from previous KRNU metal programs.

But, he said, he's planning on playing a different breed of metal than past disc jockeys.

"I try to stay ahead of everyone else, I don't want to play stuff that's a year old," he said. "I guess it could be called progressive metal — stuff that hasn't been heard yet, no mainstream."

Buell said the label "heavy metal" incorporates everything from glam rock, grunge, and death rock to speed metal.

He plans on playing a bit of everything, except the glam rockers, who Buell denounces as "lip-stick rockers — guys that spend more time on their hair than their music."

"You won't hear Bon Jovi on my show, or other would-be metal bands like Poison."

"Some you might have heard, but most of it is outer fringe," he said.

"I'm planning on having fun, so I want the audience to have fun."

His plans include on-air interviews and give-aways, and although Buell said he makes most of the music selections himself, he hopes to have more audience-oriented play lists as the show gains listeners.

Buell, an Omaha native, moved to Lincoln in August, after spending three years at UNO.

It was there he first encountered radio — Buell spent his free time as a volunteer at KBLZ, UNO's student radio station, working as music director for a year and metal director for two.

His time at KBLZ gave Buell much needed experience, he said, but it didn't do much for his school-work.

"Shuffling all that responsibility gave me a bad G.P.A. at the same time," he said.

Buell retired from double duty — station music director and metal director simultaneously — and concentrated on just the metal job and his classes.

His duties at KBLZ ended last spring, but he stayed on through the summer to train his successor.

"I gave him all my connections, who to call, that kind of thing," Buell said.

His decision to transfer to UNL was academic, he said. He was a journalism student in a school with



Therese Goodlett/DN

Mike Buell is KRNU's new metal man. His show begins airing tonight at 10 p.m.

no journalism college. UNO only offers journalism as a department within another college.

A possible job at KRNU was another draw, he said. UNO's station has a small broadcast area and can only be heard on campus in university buildings.

Buell said he contacted KRNU

last May about a spot as a regular DJ. Shortly after, he found out the metal director job was opening at KRNU.

Buell said that information was the push he needed.

He "played a little phone tag" and eventually contacted Rick Alloway, KRNU's station manag-

er, about the position.

While he was attempting to reach Alloway, Buell said a record label representative contacted KRNU music director Bill Homan and put in a plug for him.

"She just harassed him about

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