

Poster Kids play Duffy's Sunday night

Concert preview

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Poster Children are four musicians following through with their creative ambitions.

"We want to show others that they, too, can follow their own desires rather than those that have been packaged for their consumption," members said.

Sunday, those desires will lead the band to Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St. Pop Defect and Sideshow will also appear.

Poster Children members are Rick, guitar; Jim, guitar; Johnny, drums; and Rose, bass guitar.

Jon Taylor, member of local band Mercy Rule, said he met members of Poster Children when the band was touring several years ago. Taylor and his wife have kept in touch with members, he said, and traveled to see the band perform.

Taylor described the group as a rhythm-based band that is not reflective of today's music scene.

"They're not grungy at all," he said. "They don't have the now sound. They don't have all the sounds everyone is digging."

But people do like the band's original sound, Taylor said, and the band's popularity is growing.

"They're about as big as they can be without having a video on MTV," he said.

Poster Children's success has not gone unnoticed by record companies. The band recently was signed with Sire Records, a division of Time-Warner Communications.

The Champaign, Ill., band's latest release, "Tool of the Man," is a sarcastic response to fans accusing them of selling out.

"We realized we hadn't become a 'tool' upon signing to Sire," members said. "After all, we weren't any different the next day—we still had the same songs, wrote the same way and had the same ideas."

The band's previous releases are "Flower Power" and "Daisy Chain Reaction."

Taylor said he considers himself a big fan of Poster Children.

"They're about one of the best bands in the country," he said.



Julia Mikolajcik/DN

Beck Cook, right, prepares lunch for Jon and Laurie Camp at the Haymarket General Store. Camp said he and his wife eat at the store regularly. Matt Wichles is pictured at far left.

Nostalgic nook

Old-style variety store offers something for everyone



By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

In the days of soda fountains and cigar store Indians, the general store thrived.

Today, Lincoln has its own — The Haymarket General Store — which combines the atmosphere of the past with the convenience of today.

Like the old stores, the basic necessities are there, everything from bottled pop to crayons to toothpaste. Modern touches include a full deli and lottery tickets.

Co-owner Crystal McKenzie said conve-

nience, rather than selection, may be the store's strongest selling point.

"It's basically the same as a grocery store, aside from the deli and convenience of it being down here," McKenzie said.

McKenzie said she had not targeted The Haymarket as a location.

"I just kind of ran into it," she said. "It wasn't something I was searching out. The rent's cheaper, and it's a nicer area."

The difference between the modern-day convenience store and the Haymarket General Store lies in the general store's nostalgic appearance and atmosphere.

The store's interior, with hardwood floors, draperies and numerous plants, adds to its aesthetics, McKenzie said. The charm is enhanced by the country music that filters through the store, she said.

The back of the store resembles a cafe,

with small tables and chairs where customers can sit down and eat.

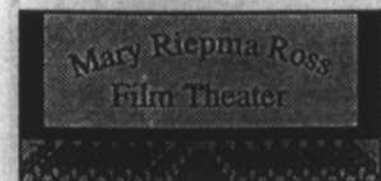
"I like it a lot," McKenzie said. "It makes you feel more comfortable, with the plants and everything. It's not so much a restaurant type (place), it's kind of a casual place you can go."

McKenzie said most of the people who come in are from local businesses in the Haymarket and that she has a good number of regulars. She even addresses some customers by name, she said.

"The good share of the clientele down here is the people who work in the area. People who are just shopping in the Haymarket stop by occasionally."

"It's kind of nice to have the variety of the convenience store and the deli," she said. "I also like the different types of people."

Dangerously excellent 'Chez Nous' could ruin Hollywood



The Last Days of Chez Nous

This is a film about families, and how they fall apart.

But it's neither depressing nor endlessly serious.

This particular family could al-

most be described as happy. They're Australians with a French father—an eccentric and fun-loving group.

They play together, but they don't stay together, which makes their inevitable breakup all the more poignant.

The characters are engaging, and there's not a villain in the piece, though plenty of villainy.

There's no room for villains here — these characters are as real as real people, maybe more real. And that makes "The Last Days of Chez Nous"

a work of high art.

The actors make it look easy — they are in turn charming and disturbing, light and dense.

They build a network of feeling and memory that bears the deep imprint of family, of long connections between people.

And at the same time they begin undermining our standards: after this, how are we to go back to Arnold Schwarzenegger and the ham-fisted crowd we've grown so used to?

The answer is that we can't really,

and a few more films of this caliber could ruin Hollywood forever — they might have to start producing the genuine article after all these years.

But acting is only an element in the alchemy of art. The powerful directing and writing show through here as well.

Gillian Armstrong directs a resonant film with a strong hand and clear vision.

Lisa Harrow and Bruno Ganz, who many will remember from "Wings of Desire," are more than stars, they are

craftpersons of the highest order.

The story they tell together is rich and deep and wholly human — it's a tale of how to forgive without forgetting, a kind of instruction manual of grief.

One senses that, years from now, when we are all older and much more weary from betrayals of our own, we will find it a good film to have seen.

"The Last Days of Chez Nous" opens today at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

—Mark Baldrige

Virgin-seeking vampire lesbians come to town Friday



David Badders/DN

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

"Guaranteed to keep the bad taste on the stage and out of your mouth."

With a tag line like that, "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," should have a sold-out weekend.

The play returns to the Lincoln Ensemble Theatre stage, 701 P St., Friday and Saturday for two midnight performances.

Paul Pearson, LET vice president, said "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," was staged at the LET facility last summer and sold out four out of five performances.

The midnight performances fit the theme of the show as well as the type of audience, he said, because it's the type of show that develops a cult following.

Directed by UNL student Channing Roos, the show also reunites most of the summer cast, Pearson said. Roos selected the cast from all aspects of the Lincoln theater community.

"Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," was written by Charles Busch and is the longest running off-Broadway non-musical around, Pearson said.

He said the play's success was no surprise.

"It's kind of a spoof of old vampire movies and Hollywood, with a bit of a jab at contemporary conventions," he said.

"Some of it is very funny and very campy," he said.

Busch created some "gender-bender" roles when he wrote the play, Pearson said, and this weekend's production keeps that tradition.

"It's really kind of silly stuff," he

said. "It's nicely naughty — which you can't help but have when you have people in drag."

The story begins in old Sodom, travels through Hollywood in the 1920s and ends in present-day Las Vegas.

Pearson said the story really had nothing to do with lesbians. Instead the story has two vampires chasing young virgins in order to survive.

"Which becomes more difficult as we get more contemporary," he said, chuckling.

Busch's material taps into the youth market very well, Pearson said, but should appeal to a variety of people.

"The title is the most shocking thing about it," he said.

Tickets are \$9, \$8 for students. Reservations can be made at the LET box office.