

UPC works to rope in more than country acts



By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

For years, UNL students have complained that big concerts don't come to Lincoln—but when they do, unless it's country music, no one attends.

At least that's how the members of the University Program Council see the situation. "People complain we never get anything big, but when we do, nobody goes," UPC

President Gary Doyle said.

Doyle said UPC's recent Midnight Oil concert was an example of the problem.

Travis Fox, UPC event director, said roughly 2,000 people attended the Midnight Oil concert.

"Obviously, we were hoping for a sell-out show, but we didn't know what to expect," Fox said. "Everyone expected the show to sell better than it did."

Doyle said when he started working on UPC three years ago, complaints about concert programming abounded.

"Even sitting in Memorial Stadium, people would be saying 'why don't we get concerts here?'"

It is possible to use Memorial Stadium for major concert events, Doyle said, but the catch is finding an entertainer on tour who is a big

enough draw to sell enough tickets.

U2 would have been a big enough draw, Doyle said, but UNL didn't have a shot at the band's Zoo TV tour.

"Ames had already proved itself," he said. "We weren't even in contention then."

But things are improving, he said. If U2 was to go on tour this year, UNL would "be more in the running."

Other improvements include simply the numbers of shows booked in Lincoln. In the past, UPC set out to bring in one or two major events a year. This semester alone, UPC has booked four major concerts in Lincoln.

"As far as country goes, we've done that really well," he said. "I can guarantee next semester we'll have a least two big country performers."

Country isn't the only type of music stu-

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— Doyle
president, UPC

dents talk about seeing, Doyle said, but it's the only type of concert that brings in a lot of ticket sales.

"We want to meet as many needs as possible on the campus," he said. "But it's very disappointing when we're putting a lot of time

See UPC on 10

Movies & Pizza delivers food and fun to Lincolnites



By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

Entertainment and eating are almost synonymous events in American culture. One Lincoln establishment has grasped that concept and is working to deliver it to the public.

Movies & Pizza, 27th and O streets, allows customers to rent a movie and order a pizza with a single phone call. The pizza and movie is then delivered anywhere within the Lincoln area.

Tyson Cyriacks, co-owner of Movies & Pizza, said he first contemplated the idea of movie rentals and pizza delivery about five years ago.

"I feel the two go together really well," he said. "You can rent a movie and order a pizza. It's like killing two birds with one stone."

The concept works well because people have busy schedules and they appreciate the convenience, he said.

"Basically, you can get both a movie and pizza at the same time," Cyriacks said. "It's at a good central location for people to return their movies, too."

Cyriacks said his business also offered good economics.

"No one else in Lincoln delivers movies," he said. "And our movie prices aren't any higher than theirs."

New releases cost \$2.99, other movies range from 88 cents to \$1.29. Rental are due back the next day. Membership is free.

Most video store customers like to browse before picking their movie. Movies and Pizza customers, however, usually have a specific film in mind when they call, Cyriacks said.

"People call a lot for new releases," he said. "If they don't know exactly what they want, we'll ask them if they're looking for a comedy, action, drama, or whatever and go from there. We have about 800 movies to choose from."



Kiley Timperley/DN

Tyson Cyriacks is a part owner of Movies and Pizza, a new business at 27th and O streets that delivers pizza and movies to your door.

Customers don't have to order their movie over the phone, he said. They are welcome to come in and check out the selection.

"At times you do know exactly what you want, other times you don't," he said. "Some people like to be able to look around, but it's also nice not to have to leave your room."

Customers don't have to order both a movie and a pizza, Cyriacks said.

Movies & Pizza does offer the basic movie rental service and regular pizza carryout. A minimum purchase of \$6.00 is required on all pizza orders, \$10.00 for deliveries.

After about a month of operation, Cyriacks said the concept seemed to be working.

"It looks as if a lot of people like the idea of both services," he said. "About 80 percent of the people who order a pizza rent a movie."

“*You can rent a movie and order a pizza. It's like killing two birds with one stone.*”

— Cyriacks
co-owner, Movies & Pizza

Besides the double delivery, Movies & Pizza is also very serious about the quality of the pizza, Cyriacks said. All pizzas are made from scratch,

and the restaurant has homemade specialty crusts. Pizza prices range from \$7.99 for a small to \$11.99 for a large.

Enough of 'Free Willy,' Lincoln needs some real movies

I've seen "Dazed and Confused," the new film by Richard Linklater — writer/director of "Slacker," the cult film of a couple of years back.

It was a pretty good flick. Set in 1976 on the last day of school, it's a nostalgic look back by an artist too young to have seen high school kids of the time as anything but ultra-cool.

It's a movie filled to overflowing with cool kids with clear complexions and hip hair who smoke grass all evening and drink beer by the trunkload, literally.

They never get too drunk to drive, they never get sick and, the cool ones at least, never throw up.

It's a film that's been eagerly awaited by some people — mostly fans of the original "Slacker." It's hard to be hip without screening this pic.

But as conspicuous as the absence of pimples on the "teen" actors' faces is the absence of this film from Lincoln theaters.

I saw it, but I drove to Omaha to do it — it's just not here.

Frank Rhodes is the film buyer for Douglas Theaters for Lincoln and Omaha.

"Right now we're really not sure when or even if that movie will come to Lincoln," he said.

Maybe "Dazed" isn't that important a film. After all, it's not making money hand over fist in other, larger markets.

But its absence is a symptom of a larger condition. Many films never come to Lincoln, and many more come late.

What ever happened to "Kalifornia"? Movie posters in Lincoln near its release date declared it was "Coming Soon."

Similar signs declared the imminence of

"Three Hearts," an eagerly awaited film in the gay community for its portrayal of a homosexual relationship in a positive light.

Neither of these films will ever come to Lincoln.

And other films have received late or inadequate showings.

"Hellraiser 3," though very successful at the box office shortly after its release, came to Lincoln four months late to play at the Starship.

Rhodes said the problem had to do with what he called "platforming."

"A film company buys, say, 300 prints of a film for the whole country. They're trying to keep their own costs down," he said.

"They open the film in the bigger cities at upscale theaters. After the initial run of three weeks or so, the copies are made

available to smaller markets."

That's where Lincoln comes in, apparently.

After the initial run, many companies drop all advertising for the film, he said.

Sometimes he is not contacted at all about certain films, "Kalifornia" and "Three of Hearts" for example, he said.

Maybe that's just the shakes of living in the Midwest.

But for those of us who love films, a little more aggressive approach by the powers that buy them for us might be in order.

Sure you'll make more money keeping "Free Willy" on the screen an extra week. But at the cost of the good will of some of us who'd pay to see the art films, the small films and films by independent companies.

— Mark Baldrige