

Out & about

A&E WEEKEND OUTLOOK

TOM MAINELLI

Lincoln bar scene: One facelift, one farewell

This week marks a new beginning for one of Lincoln's classic drinking establishments, and the end for one of its most progressive.

W.C.'s recently completed some major remodeling, and bar owners Jim and Peg Kopetka are planning a little party to celebrate the new look.

But for fans of The Edge, there is little cause for celebration. This weekend will be the last for the post-modern dance club, manager Steve Pope said.

Renovations at W.C.'s, 1228 P St., have been going on for about three months, Peg Kopetka said. Improvements include increased seating, six new pool tables, a new dart board area, new bathrooms, another big-screen television, a new four-sided bar with comfy bar stools and a stage.

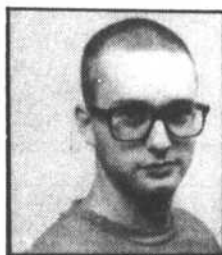
"The bar is still the same comfortable place; it's just better," Jim Kopetka said.

Peg Kopetka agreed.

"We still have all the old woodwork, the comfortable feeling," she said. "And of course, we still have peanut shells on the floor."

The new stage will allow the 12-

year-old bar to bring in local bands a few times a month. The stage was put to use on Wednesday night when Lie Awake played a free show to commemorate the bar's grand re-opening.



Lie Awake will play again at 9:30 Friday night. The cover is \$3.

As for The Edge, after this weekend it is gone, Pope said.

The bar ran into financial difficulties that had to do with poor local music support and some bad planning, he said.

"Rob (Fensler, the owner) booked too many bands," Pope said. "The last show, the Bad Brains one, made this necessary. Turnout was poor, and that was the end."

Fensler had a goal when he opened The Edge, first at 227 N. Ninth St. — about a year ago — and then when the bar moved to 1118 O St. in July, Pope

said.

"Rob had an idea to build up the music scene in Lincoln," he said. "But nobody was interested in doing it his way. He should have realized that sooner."

Pope said the move to the new location also probably hurt the bar.

"Things probably would have worked out financially if we had stayed in the old building," he said.

After The Edge closes, Pope said he planned to buy the bar. He will close it for remodeling, then re-open in about a month.

The new place will concentrate on being more of a dance club, with occasional live acts, he said.

But it won't be The Edge.

I wasn't a regular at the bar, but I always admired its attempt to improve the Lincoln music scene.

The owners, managers and Ernie — the public relations guy — worked hard to provide music lovers of all ages with some alternatives.

It was a nice effort.

Mainelli is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan Arts & Entertainment editor.

Wonderful Wizard

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Special effects, spectacular sets transform stage into magical Oz

Those people following the red brick road to the Lied Center this weekend will be transported to a time of magic, munchkins and the Emerald City.

The Royal Shakespeare Company presents "The Wizard of Oz" on Friday and Saturday on the Lied Center stage.

Based on the book by L. Frank Baum, which was first published in 1900, the story follows the fantasy travels of a young Kansan named Dorothy. She and her small terrier Toto are transported to the magical land of Oz in the swirls of a raging tornado.

Once there she meets munchkins, witches, and the talking Scarecrow, Tinman and Lion. Dorothy and her friends embark on a yellow brick road journey to the Emerald City to ask the wonderful Wizard of Oz to grant their wishes. Their experiences together fill the story with laughter, rollicking adventure and more than a little danger.

Joan Grayson, spokesperson for the show's production company, said the Royal Shakespeare Company decided in 1982 that the MGM film classic "The Wizard of Oz" would make a wonderful stage show. From that idea, she said, came this "visual, musical and theatrical" creation.

"What the stage play does is evoke memories of the film," Grayson said. "Some of the lines are verbatim from the film version."

The dialogue isn't the only thing the audience will find familiar about the stage show. It includes all the songs from the original Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg musical score, made famous by Judy Garland and company in the 1939 theatrical version. Songs include the Oscar-winning favorite "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and other notables such as "The Yellow Brick Road," "Ding, Dong! The Witch is Dead," "If I Only Had a Brain" and "We're Off to See the Wizard."

In addition, Grayson said, the stage show incorporates the song-and-dance number "The Jitter Bug," which was filmed, but cut from the final screen version. The film footage of the number was inadvertently destroyed, so it could not be restored on the videocassette reissue. Part of the number, caught by a crew member's video camera, is presented in an epilogue on the anniversary video release.

Grayson said he has heard various explanations as to why the number was not included in the film, but

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