

## National and local artists to gather for jazz festival

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

The sounds of jazz will echo through Lincoln at the third annual Nebraska Jazz Festival Feb. 3-5.

With talented drummer T.S. Monk and the Gary Burton Quartet as headlining acts, the festival combines university faculty members, students and local musicians for three days.

Festival director and saxophonist David Sharp said the event tried to bring out jazz musicians from around the state with a variety of performances and clinics.

"There are a lot of fine jazz musicians in Nebraska," he said. "The festival always tries to use those players."

Sharp said for Lincoln's population, jazz was stronger here than in larger cities.

"Jazz is never going to die. There will always be jazz," he said. "We've had a resurgence in the past couple of years."

The thirtysomething crowd has turned to jazz instead of pop or country, Sharp said.

And this trend has hit Lincoln, he said.

"Lincoln is a fairly cultural city. Jazz is fairly popular, and I see it thriving."

The festival's format is unlike those of other cities and also serves as a recruiting tool for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music.

"We have a high school band competition," he said. "We limit it to 10 bands instead of having several. We want them to get close and work with clinicians."

The UNL Faculty Jazz Quartet and the UNL Jazz Ensemble will kick off the festivities Thursday at 8 p.m. at Kimball Hall. The ensemble will perform with guest saxophonist Kerry Strayer and guest trombonist, bassist and vocalist Earlie Brags.

Tickets are \$5 — \$3 for students and seniors.

The UNL Faculty Jazz Quartet is composed of Sharp, guitarist Peter Bouffard, percussionist Albert Rometo and double bassist Russell White. All are instructors at the school of music.

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festival director and  
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Bouffard said the festival would provide exposure to jazz music by allowing it to be legitimized.

"I think it's a good thing in general that we're making jazz accessible to students," he said. "It's truly an American art form, but in some people's view, it's still just a popular trend."

The quartet will perform a variety of jazz standards and more modern variations, he said.

The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra will perform Friday at 8 p.m. in Kimball Hall with two guests, saxophonist and Omaha native Steve Slagle and guitarist Dave Stryker.

The orchestra, founded 18 years ago, started as more of a recreational band, but eventually turned professional.

Ed Love, saxophonist and director of NJO, said most of the musicians had another occupation to "put bread on the table."

"We have a few lawyers, teachers, accountants," he said. "They all have a love for big-band jazz music."

The NJO performs everything from classic Duke Ellington to contemporary sounds with Latin or rock influences, Love said. They also play music written by band members and other Nebraska musicians.

The orchestra has recorded three cassettes and a compact disc.

"We're not really popular yet, but we're working on it," Love said.

Tickets to the NJO performance are \$10 — \$5 for students and seniors.

The festival will conclude with a performance in the Lied Center for Performing Arts by nationally known jazz artists T.S. Monk and Gary Burton. Tickets are \$22 and \$16 — \$11 and \$8 for students and seniors.



Courtesy of Adrian Buckmaster

A Saturday night performance by jazz percussionist T.S. Monk will close the Nebraska Jazz Festival.

## 311 feels cool California vibes

Locally bred band continues work on second album

By Tom Mainelli  
Staff Reporter

What happens when a Nebraska-bred band living in California experiences an earthquake that measures 6.6 on the Richter scale? They freak out.

"It was a wild thing," said Nick Hexum, lead singer for 311. "I was just lying there in bed, and all of a sudden the house was shaking and the lights were flashing on and off. It was like a scene out of some horror movie."

Hexum said 311, which moved to Van Nuys, Calif., about two years ago, escaped the quake with no injuries and little property damage.

"We were all pretty shaken up," he said. "But when it was all over, our health — and equipment — was fine."

The band needs that equipment to continue work on their follow-up to last year's major-label debut album "Music."

"We're doing it in two halves," Hexum said. "We've already completed six of the songs. Now we are working on the second six."

The band is recording at Sound City in Los Angeles, where Nirvana created "Nevermind," he said. The band has enjoyed working at the studio.

"The place has a really cool vibe," Hexum said.

Music veteran Eddy Offord has stepped behind the controls again to produce the album, which Hexum said he hoped would be in stores by May.

Fans, however, might have to wait longer than that to get a hold of the new disc.

"We expected the last album to come out a lot sooner than it did," he said. "That stuff always gets screwed up."

But Hexum is confident the album will be worth the wait.

"We're working to put together a good, solid album," he said. "It is going to take our music to a whole new level."

While the band's music is evolving, Hexum said fans could expect to find all the same basic ingredients.

"It's all in there," he said. "Some rap, some reggae, some funk — it's our musical niche, just a step up."

Band members are hoping to build on the success of "Music," which sold about 50,000 copies, Hexum said.

They would, however, prefer to have that success on their terms.

"We want to do it through the underground," Hexum said. "We want to build it slow and not end up a flavor of the month."

Hexum said bands like Stone Temple Pilots, whose first album exploded on the charts, had a hard time making it last.

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lead singer for 311

The guys in 311 plan on sticking around, he said.

"We plan on making a new album every year, then touring," Hexum said.

Taking the music to the people helps to build a good, strong fan base, he said. Last year, the band played 115 shows and loved it, he said.

Hexum said it was especially gratifying to visit a big city like New York City and find loyal 311 fans.

"It's pretty cool when these people are singing along to your words," he said.

But nothing beats coming home to Nebraska, he said. Omaha and Lincoln will be some of the first stops after the band completes the album and starts a new tour.

"I really love getting back to Nebraska," Hexum said. "We've got lots of friends and good fans there."

## Film depicts 'dazed' generation



"Dazed and Confused"



"Dazed and Confused" brings to life the ambiguous rebellion of the '70s generation in a vague and entertaining fashion.

"The '50s were boring. The '60s rocked. And the '70s just suck" was how one girl described the era in which she was living.

Written and directed by Richard Linklater, "Dazed and Confused" tells the story of the students in one high school during the generation that "just sucked."

On the last day of school in 1976, the seniors are graduating and the juniors are assuming the mantle of power. This involves initiating the new freshmen.

The new senior guys chase down the freshmen boys and whip them with paddleboards they have made in shop. The senior girls subject the freshmen females to humiliation.

The introspective seniors who aren't involved analyze the hazing and wonder why it is a generally accepted policy.

Meanwhile, the star quarterback, "Pink" Floyd (Jason London), is confronted by the coaches, who demand

that he sign a form promising not to drink or use drugs over the summer. He debates throughout the film whether to conform to the system.

The show climaxes with a huge party at Moon Tower, a secluded area in the woods outside of town.

The film is only one day in the life of these students, but the audience gets a good sense of the bewilderment in their lives — having all the rebellion of the previous generation but no direction in which to point it.

With so many colorful characters, it would be difficult to make an individual stand out. But several of them do. London is excellent as the jock who is caught between his desire to please his football buddies and his personal ambitions.

Rory Cochrane plays "Slater," one of Pink's friends who goes through life stoned. He is convincing in his portrayal of a pothead — not an easy task to do sober.

Wiley Wiggins as the freshman "Mitch" is at first subjected to a beating and later accepted by the seniors. He tries to adjust to the fast-paced, illegal lifestyle of the older crowd in one night.

The cinematography is done well, with interesting angles, timely slow motion and confusing close-ups.

It's a story about being stoned, drunk and dazed, but it's also a story about finding a direction in life.

"Dazed and Confused" won't win any awards, but it is an excellent film that helps outsiders understand the '70s generation and insiders relive it.

— Joel Strauch