

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Jon Waller/DN

Diana Lynch, owner of The Flicker Shoppe, poses in front of a store window that overlooks the Haymarket. The Flicker Shoppe specializes in unique and hand-dipped candles.

Whiff of wicks, wax will work wonders

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Diana Lynch hasn't bought a candle since 1978.

Lynch has been a candle fanatic since she was 16 years old, and when retail candles didn't meet her standards, she did the best thing she could. She created her own.

"Now, the UPS man can smell my house from three blocks away," she said.

Lynch took her passion for wicks and wax and lit up The Flicker Shoppe, a candle specialty store inside the Creamery Building in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket.

It's hard not to find The Flicker. A mixture of powerful aromas grabs passers-by by the nose.

Inside, the walls of this antique building are adorned with beeswax, taper, votive, silhouette, star and floating candles in unique shapes and vibrant colors, creating a sweetly hypnotic atmosphere.

Carved candles by local artist Don Pitts and festive pumpkins, ghosts and witches sit across the room from "stained glass" candles and sunflower-shaped Citronella candles.

Trademark fragrances such as vanilla, honeysuckle, cranberry and coconut mix with specialty scents—"Rain Fresh," "Mown Hay," "Berry Nilla" and "Sea Moss."

Of course, Lynch's candles are far from ordinary. A sign tacked to a column inside the store makes six claims—"Made in Lincoln. Triple scented to smell better. Individually poured or dipped. Formulated to burn longer. Complimentary gift wrap. Tailor made."

Lynch said the quality of her candles even made the Better Business Bureau take notice.

"They told me I was making too many claims, and they wouldn't approve me until they tested my candles," she said.

But she received approval from the bureau, and the sign still hangs.

"I want a good product I can stand behind," she said, "and I have it."

While Lynch touts her products to her customers, her candles have been good to their creator as well. In the past few years, Lynch has had many personal struggles.

She said she needed something physical to regain control. Candles soon became more than an obsession—they became her life.

"Candles were our first utility," she said. "I like them because of the atmosphere they create. Candles add life and warmth."

Lynch started making the candles in her home and peddling them at art stores and markets.

"I went to the doctor's office one day, and the people there told me to bring my candles with me," she said.

She refused at first, but she eventually accepted the offer and sold more than \$73 worth of candles.

Lynch, who always has been involved with sales marketing and research of some kind, said she finally decided to open her own retail store.

And since then, she hasn't gotten much sleep. The Flicker Shoppe has been busy since it opened June 18, and Lynch has been working night and day with her "recipe" book at hand.

According to Lynch, the essence of candle-making—and the well-kept secrets—lie in the melting point and wick size. The process involves creating a certain blend of waxes, melting it down and adding color and scent. The wax is then poured into a mold.

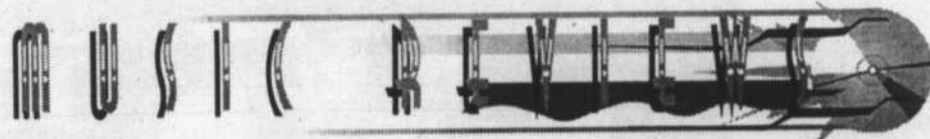
The Flicker Shoppe will "pour to please," Lynch said. She makes custom candles for all occasions. And she makes sure people know how to take care of their candles.

"Education is the key," she said. "There is not one person who comes into the store that we don't talk to."

Lynch offers educational material on how to make candles last longer and burn better.

"Candles are an impulse item. They have high visibility. They're great presents," she said. "People use them for light in an emer-

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"Stoned and Dethroned" The Jesus and Mary Chain American Recordings Grade: B+

Jim and William Reid could make a trip to Hell as somber and melancholy as watching paint dry, but in some odd way, it's beautiful. It's incredibly beautiful.

The Jesus and Mary Chain performed a miracle with its new release, "Stoned and Dethroned." "Stoned" is one of the best albums to emerge from the rubble of this year's new music.

Reid's crooning voice gave "Stoned" a soulful core of a laid-back kind of intensity. Yes, it's a paradox, but it works. And what's really amazing is that it works on every song.

Seriously, it's near to becoming the best thing since sliced bread and Mango Madness Snapple.

"Stoned," true to its name, touches every lobe in the brain and penetrates the innermost sensory nerves.

"Black as night black as life/Hungry for some of that easy life/Stoney cold and a twistin' moon/Live it fast you're gonna get there soon/Look out world 'cause we know how to fight/Someone's gonna get shot tonight," is a sam-

pling from "Bullet Lovers."

It sounds like it should correspond with thrashing guitars and an emphatic vocalist emerging from an all-night acid trip. It's not. It flows like the smoothest wind current rippling through the night.

The sweetly devilish voice of Hope Sandoval paired with the gnawing slur of Jim Reid makes "Sometimes Always" a dialog of persuasion and stinging truth.

The Jesus and Mary Chain takes much of its credit from an interesting mixture of musical talents.

Ben Lurie plays bass, arpeggio guitar, 12-string guitar and harmonica while Jim and William Reid trade off between vocals, 12-string guitar, slide guitar, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, rhythm guitar and fuzz bass.

Alas, poor Steve Monti is limited to drums and percussion, but he does a good job of it.

On "Never Saw it Coming," The Chain features a plethora of musical instruments with a slow strum beat paired with a harmonious drone of vocals and acoustic guitar.

It's an unglamorous look at life in a nebulous haze of despair, hope, hate and love. It's truth in a box.

"Stoned and Dethroned" gives

The Jesus and Mary Chain its last supper with its "just desserts."

—Paula Lavigne



"God Shuffled His Feet" Crash Test Dummies Arista Records Grade: A

The Crash Test Dummies played a concert at the Nebraska State Fair on Friday. They made us feel sweet and marshmallowy inside. Therefore, this band deserves an album

review, dammit.

Because "God Shuffled His Feet" is wild, whimsical and just plain zany, it deserves a stream-of-consciousness review. This will be much more pleasant to read than, say, a stream-of-flatulence review.

I enjoyed listening to "God Shuffled His Feet." It's happy music. It made me dance and shiver and shake. It made me want to rub the bellies of really fat guys to see whether I could hear the ocean.

Crash Test Dummies have a unique sound, mostly because of Brad Roberts, the lead singer and guitarist. His low, croaky voice makes the music flow and gurgle.

The group generally is thrown into that big, diverse college-rock barrel. Crash Test Dummies' sound is more toward the easy-listening end of that barrel. The music isn't heavy or thrashy or screechy; it is straightforward, no-frills rock 'n' roll.

But Roberts' frivolous lyrics are what make Crash Test Dummies stand out.

The lyrics are cool because they're weird. They're not laugh-out-loud funny, but they make you smile and relax and think of tall trees.

Here's a sample from the title song:

"The people sipped their wine/
And what with God there, they asked
him questions/ Like do you have to
eat/ Or get your hair cut in heaven?
And if your eye got poked out in this
life/ Would it be waiting up in heav-
en with your wife?"

Now, when I listened to these lyrics, I felt cool and confident. I didn't know what the lyrics meant. But I'm fairly certain no one else will, either. So no insecurities here.

The most popular songs on the album are "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" and "Afternoons and Coffeespoons." These songs both have a robust, tangy flavor—like fish.

Also, the title of "Mmm Mmm Mmm Mmm" contains 12 'm's, which is cool.

Other huggable highlights include "In The Days of the Caveman," "I Think I'll Disappear Now," "The Psychic" and the title song.

So the next time the moon is full, the lights are low and the stomachs are shiny, listen to "God Shuffled His Feet." You'll feel flippant and free.

—Mike Lewis