planet PALOOZA

Concert to rock Broyhill

By Chad Lorenz
Staff Reporter

Seven bands rocking out at Broyhill Fountain will capture the attention of the entire planet Saturday.

PlanetPalooza — featuring national acts Dead Hot Workshop and Universal Honey, Lincoln-born regional band Mercy Rule and local bands Heroes and Villains, For Against, Cloey and Blaster — is set to shake UNL for more than eight hours.

The University Program Council, the Residence Hall Association and 104 One The Planet will sponsor the free marathon concert, expected to draw up to 2,000 students and 4,000 concertgoers total.

The show starts at 2 p.m. with Blaster. Mercy Rule will play at 4:30, following Cloey and Heroes and Villains. Dead Hot Workshop will take the stage at 7:30, after For Against. Universal Honey plays last, at 9.

Sophia John, a radio announcer at the Planet, said the show would be a unique opportunity to see great music at no cost.

"There's never any free entertainment in this city," she said.

John said DaVinci's will provide free food and said the show will be competitive with other concerts like the HOARD tour and EdgeFest, which cost $15 to $30, John said.

She said PlanetPalooza also will expose Lincoln to some great bands.

"Lincoln is one of the hottest up-and-coming music scenes," she said.

Jon Taylor, guitarist for Mercy Rule, said the show would promote the band's name.

"There's a lot of people who haven't heard us yet, so we hope to reach them," Taylor said.

The band will play new songs they're planning to record for a new album, he said, but concertgoers should expect the signature Mercy Rule sound.

"It's the same loud, messy rock we've been playing for two years. It's going to be a blast," Taylor said.

> **"It's the same loud, messy rock we've been playing for two years. It's going to be a blast."**
> **Jon Taylor, Mercy Rule**

John said Mercy Rule, now on Relativity records, was an example of a quality band working its way to the top.

"They've taken steps a lot of other bands haven't been able to take," she said.

Dead Hot Workshop, a band from Tempe, Ariz., has toured in New York and Los Angeles with the Gin Blossoms. In Tempe, the two bands literally live next door to each other.

The band also will conduct an interview and an acoustic set on the Planet at 5 p.m.

Universal Honey, a band from Toronto, comes heralding the release of its debut album, "Magic Basement."

Alert magazine described the female-fronted group as "a guitar-smart, pop-rock quartet." They have opened for the Goo Goo Dolls, Big Audio Dynamite and Moist.

Universal Honey's interview and acoustic set will broadcast at 2 p.m.

John said For Against was a part of the Lincoln scene's musical beginnings.

"They were one of the first original bands on the local scene," she said.

Heroes and Villains recently was honored by playing at a college music seminar in New York, John said.

Lincoln band Cloey, fronted by Hurricane Manager Troy "Bubba" Way, will contribute its up-beat funk to PlanetPalooza.

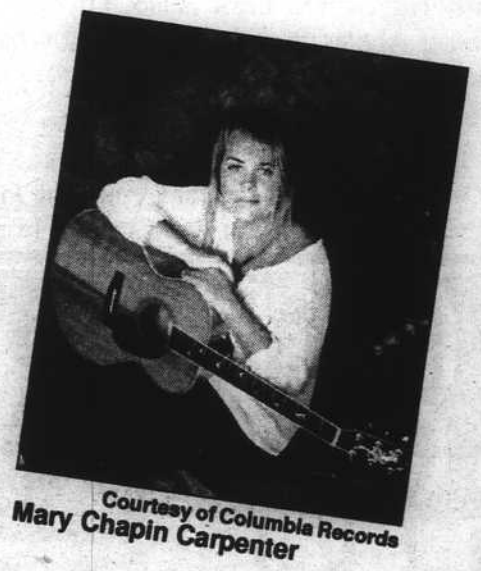
"We like to call it alternative groove," Way said.

He said he thought the free show would be a great way to get a lot of younger college kids into the Lincoln music scene.

"I'm not in it for the money," Way said. "I just want people to hear our music."

Courtesy of RCA Records
Clint Black

Courtesy of Warner Bros.
Little Texas members, top row from left, Porter Howell, Dwayne O'Brien and Tim Rushlow. Bottom row from left, Duane Propes, Jeff Huskins and Del Gray.



Courtesy of Columbia Records
Mary Chapin Carpenter

Little Texas kicks off a hot country line-up

By Jeff Randall
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska State Fair has assembled a lineup of country music's finest for a series of concerts that should be enough to satisfy even the hardest-to-please audiences.

The first group of concerts at the Bob Devaney Sports Center features nightly shows, tonight through Tuesday.

Little Texas will open the series at the Devaney tonight at 7:30. Touring in support of its third album, "Kick a Little," Little Texas is one of country music's hottest groups.

The band's first two albums have been outstanding successes, resulting in a number of Top 10 singles and sales of 1.9 million copies for both albums.

Two of country music's most popular songwriters — and its top performing duo — Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, take the stage Saturday night.

Famous for their powerful writing and unrestrained honky-tonk music, Brooks and Dunn are currently supporting their third album, "Waitin' On Sundown."

The duo's credits include eight No. 1 singles, the Country Music Association's 1994 Vocal Duo of the Year award and a 1994 Grammy for Best Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal.

Ricky Van Shelton will hit the stage Sunday night as one of this year's fair's most seasoned country artists.

Since his debut in 1986, Van Shelton has recorded eight albums, including 13 hit singles. His music has garnered him a number of awards, including the TNN/Music City News Awards' Entertainer of the Year and Male Artist of the Year honors for two consecutive years in 1990 and 1991.

Van Shelton is currently touring in support of "Love and Honor."

Clint Black, one of country music's top solo artists, will perform on Monday night. Black's soulful vocal style and distinctive songwriting abilities have propelled him to the top of the country music charts.

Black's first three albums sold more than 6 million copies worldwide, and his fourth album, "No Time to Kill," was a platinum-plus sales success that produced five Billboard chart-topping singles. His fifth album, "One Emotion," is due for release on Oct. 4.

Mary Chapin Carpenter caps off the first round of concerts at the Devaney Tuesday night. Carpenter has made the transition from critically acclaimed artist to multi-platinum star and multiple-Grammy Award winner within the past eight years, and is now one of country music's top draws.

Carpenter's 1992 release, "Come On Come On," remained in the Top 100 Best Selling Recordings in the United States for more than two years and sold nearly 2.5 million copies. Her fifth album for Columbia Records, "Stones in the Road," continues her established reputation as an emotional and consistently strong songwriter.

Kathy Mattea, Merle Haggard, Pam Tillis, Aaron Tippin and Nitty Gritty Dirt Band round out this year's fair concerts.