

Swing town

Lincoln provides many entertainment options over break

By Gerry Beltz and Cliff Hicks
Senior Reporter and Staff Reporter

Even if you're staying in Lincoln for spring break, (unlike all the people who have money), that doesn't mean you have to live without entertainment.

The music scene over spring break contains a virtual plethora of audio attractions with something for everyone.

Tonight Lincoln bubbles over. The Self-Righteous Brothers and roots-rockers Shithook are playing at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.

"It's a Vegas style glam-lounge thing. Tell all the guys to bring their best gals and leave 'em there. It'll make 'em feel all squishy inside," said Mr. Righteous, singer for the Self-Righteous Brothers.

Also tonight, power-pop Wakeland performs at the Mill, 800 P St., and punk bands Red Max and The Chicken Hawks play at Knickerbockers, 901 O St. All Knickerbockers shows, which start at 10:30 p.m., have a \$3 cover charge and are for 21-and-older audiences. The Mill has no cover charge.

On Saturday, rock bands Grimace and Nodding Begonias put in a performance at Knickerbockers.

On Sunday, Ben Folds Five offers up a show at the Ranch Bowl, 1600 S. 72nd St. in Omaha with The Customers and Blue Moon Ghetto. Tickets are \$7.75, \$8.75 the day of the show.

On Monday night, techno-rockers God Lives Underwater appears at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway, with Mr. Miranga. It will play again at the Ranch Bowl on March 21. The Lincoln show is an 18-and-older one only, while the Omaha show is all-ages. Tickets for both shows are \$8 in advance, \$10 the day of show.

Space Hog storms the Ranch Bowl March 20, with Ruth Ruth and Mr. Miranga. Tickets are \$8, \$10 day of show. Also that night, Hog (not SPACE Hog, just HOG) will play at Mudslide Slims, 1418 O St. There is a \$3 cover charge.

On March 22, goth band Morphine Angel and rock band Sawdust Devil perform at Knickerbockers, while Saturday Knickerbockers houses punk acts One Size Fits Most and Violent Nine.

Also on Saturday, The Goops will play a special early show at the Ranch Bowl with Bouncing Souls. Tickets are \$5.50, \$6.50 day of show.



Photo courtesy of "Mr. Righteous"

Local legends the Self-Righteous Brothers will bring its swinging sounds to the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., tonight.

For a lighter selection of music, the School of Music and the Lied Center for Performing Arts will offer some concerts of their own.

Saturday at the Lied Center, UNL's University Singers and the Nebraska Wesleyan University Chorus will join members of the Lincoln Orchestra Association in a rare live performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Passion According to St. John." Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performance are \$15 and \$10, half-price for students.

On March 23, a little post-St. Patrick's Day cheer will fill the Lied Center when Cherish the Ladies and the Clancy Brothers take the stage. The Clancy Brothers is one of Ireland's

most popular folk groups and Cherish the Ladies is an all-women, all-American ensemble. Both groups will perform an array of traditional song-and-dance tunes. Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are \$24, \$20 and \$16, half-price for students.

Fear not, moviegoers, for the local cinema establishments will rescue you from the never-ending "Chips" reruns.

This week, a couple of different flicks hit the screens. "Executive Decision" will be a smash with the action fans. Starring Kurt Russell and Steven Seagal, this "Die-Hard-in-a-Plane" flick has a military team docking with a mid-flight 747. The goal is to disarm a lethal nerve-gas bomb before the

plane lands in Washington D.C. and kills 40 million people.

Also this week, Matt LeBlanc makes the jump from television ("Friends") to the movies in "Ed," a story about an orangutan that can throw a baseball.

What will be showing up next week isn't set in stone and can change at a moment's notice, but it looks like "Race The Sun," "Girl 6" and "Diabolique" will be the three new flicks.

"Race The Sun" stars James Belushi and Halle Berry, and follows a group of Hawaiian kids entering a race across Australia involving teamwork, self-discovery and a solar-powered car.

"Diabolique," about a married

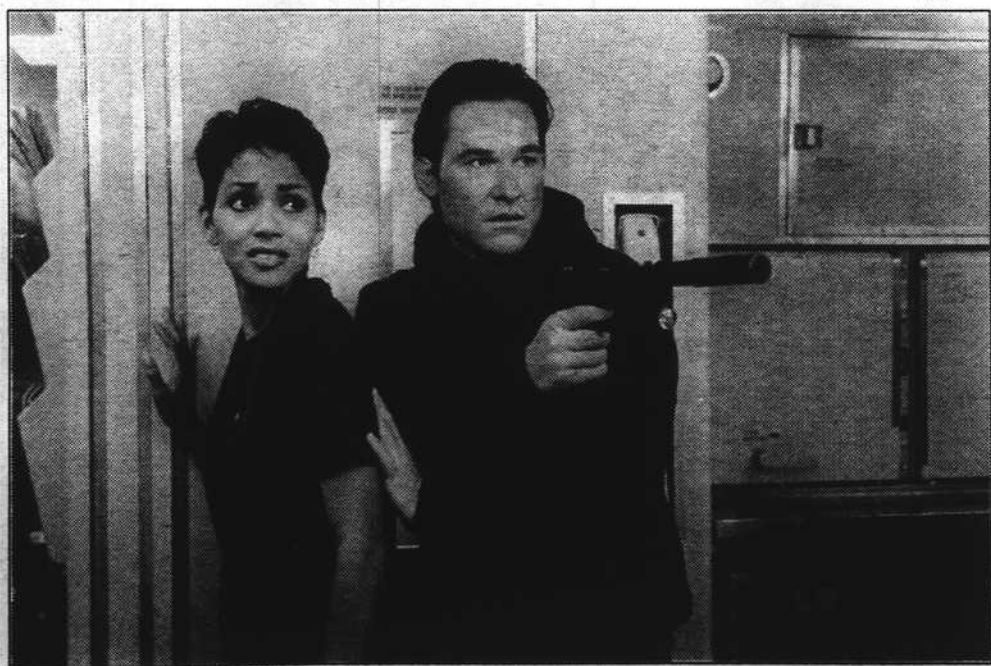
woman who plots to kill her husband with the help of another woman, is a mystery-thriller and stars Sharon Stone and Chazz Palmentieri.

"Girl 6" is the latest offering from Spike Lee, taking a look at a woman who finds herself embroiled too deeply in the phone-sex industry.

Returning movies this weekend are "12 Monkeys" and "The American President," and on March 22, "Jumanji" will open at the Joyo Theatre.

Films will be a-changing at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre also, with "Living In Oblivion" being the new kid on the block.

Star-studded cast carries poorly executed 'Decision'



Halle Berry and Kurt Russell star in the new action-thriller from director Stuart Baird, "Executive Decision."

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

You may notice the absence of Steven Seagal's name in the cast listing for "Executive Decision."

This isn't out of lack of respect, but lack of time on screen. Suffice to say, his name and face are used only to get your five bucks (or whatever), plus however much else for popcorn and drinks. After that, PHFFFT!

But I digress ...

Standard plot line: Terrorists have taken over a 747 en route to Washington D.C.; terrorist leader (David Suchet) has a nerve gas bomb on the plane; a team of military dudes must board the plane in mid-flight; stop the bad guys and defuse the bomb.

Add the fish-out-of-water element when the leader of the team isn't able to make it onto the plane, and the political analyst (Kurt Russell) and plane engineer (Oliver Platt) arrive with the rest of the military squad. By the way, the bomb expert (Joe Morton, "Speed") ends up out of commission.

Don't forget the clock is running. The objective is to kill 400 passengers on the plane to save 40 million people on the East Coast, and the team has no way to communicate with the out-

side world that they survived the transfer.

Throw in one heroic flight attendant (Halle Berry) and a standard complement of recognizable faces (Marla Maples Trump, J.T. Walsh), and we have the movie of the week, all set for Sunday night with popcorn and your 2.3 children.

This is better than that. Not much, but it is better.

"Executive Decision" is the director debut for former editor Stuart Baird (the first two "Lethal Weapon" flicks, "Tango and Cash"), and while he has assembled an excellent cast, filled to the gills with talent, he just fumbles the ball occasionally.

(Like the first 45 minutes of the film ...)

The tension does begin to mount, and the plot twists begin to multiply as the movie continues, eventually becoming an enjoyable film, but it just takes so long to get there.

John Leguizamo ("To Wong Foo") is also excellent as the humor-spouting, trigger-happy Rat who provides a great deal of comic relief to both the team and the audience.

David Suchet's bad guy has the depth of Kleenex and holds just as much tension. Stick to the stage, David.

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