

## TGIF

### A few clues on what to do this weekend

What to do this weekend seems to be the question on everyone's mind. So, other than watch the game, here are some possibilities for weekend entertainment.

The theaters are filled with new movies for viewer's pleasure, with something for older audiences, and something for younger ones.

For action fans, Steven Seagal and Keenan Ivory Wayans (Damon's brother) team up to offer "The Glimmer Man." Seagal plays an ex-U.S. assassin turned cop, who gets teamed up with another homicide detective, played by Wayans.

In "Feeling Minnesota," Keanu Reeves falls in love with his brother's wife, played by Cameron Diaz. She leaves the brother at the altar and goes with Reeves.

Tom Hanks makes his directorial debut with "That Thing You Do," a surrealistic look at the world of pop music in the sixties. Hanks himself plays the part of a corporate agent who "discovers" the band known as The Wonders. With two Oscars under his belt, Hanks can afford to write and direct a film himself — the only question is how good it will be.

And for the younger audiences, Emilio Estevez returns for "Mighty Ducks 3," the third film following the exploits of the little hockey team that could.

Tonight at the Culture Center, the Students For Choice offer an all-ages show, with Sideshow, the Third Sex and Christopher Becerra. The show starts at 9 p.m.; admission is \$4.

Knickerbockers will feature live music from Blind Fly and Wide tonight, with two Minneapolis bands, Six Day Lane and Push On Junior, on Saturday night. Both shows start at 10 p.m., and the cover for each is \$4.

The James Solberg Band (Luther Allison's back-up band) will storm the Zoo Bar tonight. The show is \$5. Saturday, reggae band Ashanti bring their house blend to Zoo's stage. Both shows start at 9 p.m. The cover is \$3.

"Wallace & Gromit: The Best of Aardman Animation" continues to play at the Mary Riepma Ross Theatre. Showtimes are tonight at 7 and 9 p.m.; Saturday at 1, 3, 7 and 9 p.m.; and Sunday at 3, 5, and 7, with the final show at 9 p.m.

The Mueller Plantarium's Laser Jazz Band features the music of Led Zeppelin this weekend, with shows tonight and Saturday at 8, 9:30 and 11 p.m. Sunday will be Laser Jazz, with a show at 3:30 p.m.

And of course, Melissa Ethridge will play at the Civic Auditorium in Omaha in "An Evening With Melissa" on Saturday. Show starts at 8.

Send submissions to: TGIF, c/o Arts & Entertainment Department, Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448.

# Have you heard the News?

## Newsboys bring hits, message to Pershing

By ANN STACK  
Senior Reporter

When Peter Furler founded the popular Christian band Newsboys ten years ago, spreading the word was not the idea behind it.

The idea was to pick up girls. "We weren't really Christians then," Furler said. "We were just playing for food, free drinks and meeting girls."

"Obviously, it turned into something completely different."

Apparently so. The band's sixth album, "Take Me To Your Leader," debuted at No. 35 on the Billboard's Top 200 chart in March, and has been selling well in Christian bookstores around Lincoln.

Susan Lamb, music buyer at Maranatha Christian Resource Center, said the album's success is overwhelming.

"It's gotten great response," she said. "It's always in our top 10."

In fact, "Take Me To Your Leader" has become Virgin Records' second-biggest rock act of the year, right behind the Smashing Pumpkins, the Oct. 3 edition of Rolling Stone magazine reported. The title track has gotten extensive air play on pop and alternative radio stations over the summer.

Furler, the band's drummer, principle songwriter and co-producer, founded the group in 1986 with lead

singer John James while the two lived in Australia.

After several lineup changes over the years, the band comprises Furler, James, New Zealand bassist Phil Joel, Australian keyboard player Duncan Phillips, percussionist Jeff Frankenstein from Michigan and guitarist Jody Davis from Indiana.

Furler said he never planned to become a Christian rock band — he didn't even know there was such a category — but when he came to America seven years ago, that's what happened.

"We never decided — it was decided for us," he said. "In Australia, there isn't a Christian scene. We played pubs and were on mainstream radio. We just had Christian music."

They were "discovered" (and subsequently pigeonholed in American culture), when they opened for the American Christian hard-rock group Whiteheart in Australia. Furler said they hadn't planned on touring America, but found themselves on a plane to New York six days later, on their way to making their first album, "Read All About It."

Since then, the Newsboys' sound has definitely matured. "They're young records," Furler said of the first three albums. "Some bands make their best albums first; we made most of our mistakes early on."

On their latest effort, they had the presence of Tom Lord-Alge, the mixing mastermind behind Live, the Goo



NEWSBOYS are, from left: Jeff Frankenstein, Peter Furler, Jody Davis, Duncan Phillips, Phil Joel and John James (standing). COURTESY PHOTO

"Some bands make their best albums first; we made most of our mistakes early on."

PETER FURLER  
drummer for The Newsboys

Goo Dolls and the Dave Matthews Band. The songs show the growth inherent from contact with star performers: they're longer, more mature and show increased levels of musical ability as compared to previous efforts.

But the album is nothing compared to the live show, Furler said.

"We're 10 times better live than on records," he said. "If I could get what happens live and put it on a record, it'd be amazing."

Furler said one thing that hasn't changed — be it live or on vinyl — is the fact that the Newsboys are still fol-

lowing their hearts and minds and not the everyone else in the business.

"We don't follow trends," he said. "We've never been the flavor of the month. When grunge was huge and flannel was everywhere, we had a lead singer in a silver suit."

That same philosophy applies to their music as well.

"We're not a Christian version of something," he said. "We've got our own sound — no secular band sounds the same."

Please see NEWS on 10

## Comedy features talented friends

Play explores progress through growth of friendship, love

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Staff Reporter

If your new next-door neighbor forces herself into your life and begins to share all her problems, it might be difficult to decide exactly how to handle yourself.

But the John Ford Noonan comedy "A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking," which will be performed in the Temple Building this weekend, attempts to address this issue. The play deals with the lives of Maude and Hannah Mae and progresses through the growth of their love and friendship.

While mainly a comedic piece, director Amy Rohr and cast members explained that there are some serious undertones to the play.

"The more we worked on the play, the more we realized ... it's not all funny. There are some serious subtexts to it," Rohr said.

Rohr, a senior theater major, read the play this summer and immediately thought of the two women she would eventually cast, Kathy Dudley and Becca Babbitt.

Both Babbitt and Dudley have bachelor degrees in the area of theater. Babbitt has a master's degree in theater history, and Dudley is working

"Everything in my world can be used toward my craft. (Theater) is like a big candy store just waiting for me to come and pick what I want."

KATHY DUDLEY  
actress

towards her doctorate in theater.

Rohr, who just finished working on "The Sunshine Boys" at the Dinner Theatre, has directed four shows prior to this one.

"Amy and I were working for Nebraska Repertory Theatre this summer and she said she saw Becca and I in the roles," Dudley said. "What was ironic is that I had worked on a monologue for this show before."

Rohr said that because the three were friends and because of the small size of the cast and crew, dealing with rehearsal time constraints was easy. The crew began rehearsing the show only 2 1/2 weeks ago.

The women were also brought together by their love of theater.

## Make note of weekend music shows

By EMILY WRAY  
Staff Reporter

UNL's School of Music brings the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker to this weekend's concert schedule.

In other words, the School of Music will bring Cello-bration 1996, The Wind Ensemble concert and pianist Guy Wuellner this weekend.

Karen Becker, professor of cello, directs tonight's and Saturday's musical event, Cello-bration.

Participants in the cello workshop include high school students, cello teachers and university students. Throughout the workshop, 25 to 30 musicians from Nebraska and Kansas explore a variety of cello ensembles.

In the last few years, the number of cello ensembles has steadily increased, Becker said.

One reason for the popularity of cello ensembles is the instrument's range, she said. The cello's lowest register includes part of the base range, while its highest register reaches violin range.

Some music played by cello ensembles is commissioned while other music includes pieces trans-

Please see MUSIC on 10