

National acts will perform for charity

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

It's the season for giving, and five national acts will be giving Lincoln some of their time to a charity concert for underprivileged children.

As a benefit concert for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots Program, local radio station KIBZ-FM, (106.3) The Blaze is presenting the Second Annual Toystock '96 on Tuesday.

The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway.

Scheduled performers are: Helmet, The Hunger, Gary Hoey, The Hazies and Darlahood. Most of the bands picked for Toystock have played in Lincoln before, except for Darlahood, whose first album, "Big Fine Thing," was released less than two months ago.

"We're trying to play shows with radio stations that have helped us out," Darlahood singer/guitarist Luke Janklow said. "We're doing a lot of benefit shows right now, to help raise money for someone who really needs it."

All proceeds from the concert go directly to Toys for Tots, said Tim Sheridan, program director at The Blaze.

"All the bands are essentially playing for free," he said. "A hotel donated rooms, the food's donated, Dietz (Music Store) is helping — everyone's chipping in for a good cause. We even pay for gas. It costs the bands nothing but their time."

Darlahood's album was produced by Bob Clearmountain, who has worked with such acts as Roxy Music and the Rolling Stones.

"He normally works with heavy-duty pop groups, but he wanted to work with a metal act," Janklow said. That's not to say this is a pop album — but it does have an eclectic blend of nasty, pop-infused melodies overlaid on loose, crunchy hooks.

But that's the beauty of Darlahood — the band has such a wide variety of influences (Scal to Chicago blues to Helmet), no song sounds the same as the one before it. And that's something the band strives to capture live, Janklow said.

"We're like a power-rock trio with a rhythm element," he said. "When we recorded the album, we didn't want to dress it up, so what you hear is really what we're like live."

Darlahood can be caught live as the first band to perform at Toystock. Another act featured at Toystock is The Hunger, from Houston. Although the band's been around for six years, their newest album "Devil Thumbs A Ride," is their first release on a major label.

Founded by brothers Thomas and Jeff Wilson, The Hunger is an innovative industrial rock band that recently played a string of opening dates for the rock legend Kiss.

"It was cool being on a tour like that," drummer Max Schuldberg said. "The arenas have been a cool place to play, but for us it's been a gradual ascent."

The band's upward spiral, going from tiny clubs to packed arenas, is indicative of its staying power, Schuldberg said.

Please see **TOYSTOCK** on 13

Magic Slim

The Man and his Music

Legendary guitarist brings Chicago-style blues to Lincoln concert venue

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Finals week giving you the blues?

Try a shot of Magic Slim and the Teardrops — they can cure what ails you. The legendary blues guitarist and singer and his band will perform all week at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.

Magic Slim, whose real name is Morris Holt, and his Teardrops have been called "one of the last great Chicago blues bands," and with good reason.

Born in 1937 in Grenada, Miss., he picked up the guitar at a young age.

"I've been playing all my life, ever since I was able to know what the blues were," Holt said. "I'm 59 now; I've been playing a long time."

During his lifetime Holt has played to audiences all over the world, starting by playing bluegrass and country and western in rural Mississippi. Holt said throughout his career, he has influenced more musicians than other musicians have influenced him.

"I've never had any influences," he said. "I'm just doing what I do."

What he does is an original classic blues set, circa 1950, with a sound all his own.

"Magic Sam (blues musician Samuel Maghett) told me, don't try to play like nobody else, get yourself a sound of your own," Holt said.

Holt did just that — moving to Chicago and making the blues his way. That was more than 30 years ago, and he's still blazing the trail for contemporary blues artists.

"He's a real individualistic guitar player," said Larry Boemer, owner of the Zoo Bar and long-time friend of Slim's. "His sound is authentic Chicago blues. Really, he's the classic blues artist, moving from Mississippi to Chicago, playing vintage, straight-ahead blues."

Boemer also plays bass with the Heartmurmurs (formerly Not All There) and will be sharing the stage with Slim Dec. 25 and 26 in place of Holt's regular band, the Teardrops.

Holt makes his home in Lincoln now, moving to Nebraska three years ago to keep his son from the Chicago crime scene. Holt's son and Boemer's son now play in a blues band together.

"I love the crowd at the Zoo, but they're a whole lot different than Chicago," Holt said. "The crowd gets into it a lot more here."

Although Holt lives in Lincoln, he plays to audiences here less than he did before he moved. He has released more than 15 albums, including his most recent release, "Scufflin'," and he spends quite a bit of time touring.

His popularity is a promising sign, Holt said, because it's indicative toward the growing popularity of blues music.

"Blues is coming back," he said. "There's more young people getting into it. I think that's great."

Magic Slim and the Teardrops will be at the Zoo Bar all this week, with a \$4 cover charge Monday through Wednesday, and a \$5 charge Thursday through Saturday.



Movies provide escape from hectic holidays

By GERRY BELTZ
Movie Critic

It happens every year around this time.

The holiday feast has been snarfed. Aunt Mildred has had one too many gin-and-tonics (minus the tonic), and Uncle Wilbur is telling everyone once again about having his catheter break off halfway through the operation.

It's time to go to the movies. Granted, catching a flick during this season can be somewhat troublesome (theaters as cold as the wind outside, loads of unsupervised children, etc.), but on the flip-side, this is also the time of year when lots of quality films are released.

Naturally, these release dates are

tentative and can change without notice or reason (kind of like Nebraska weather).

Just this past weekend, we had a trio of hot new openers, which included "Jerry McGuire" (Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding Jr.), "The Preacher's Wife" (Denzel Washington, Whitney Houston) and the all-star "Mars Attacks!"

Friday we have possibly the greatest number of opening films for the month of December.

Michelle Pfeiffer and George Clooney find romance together in "One Fine Day" and racism rears its ugly head once again with "Ghosts of Mississippi," starring Whoopi Goldberg, Alec Baldwin and James Woods.

Also, those empty-headed enter-

tainers from MTV come to the big-screen in their first movie, "Beavis and Butt-Head Do America" (rumor has it that Demi Moore does one of the female voices), and Jack Lemmon and James Garner star in "My Fellow Americans" as two ex-presidents seeking re-election while evading the plots of the current president (Dan Ackroyd) to stop them.

Wes Craven uses the movies to scare us with "Scream," where kids are being killed for breaking the rules of the movies (don't go the basement, don't have sex, etc.).

Years ago, "Terms of Endearment" was filmed here in Lincoln, and now its sequel — "Evening Star" — opens on Christmas. Also on the 25th, John "Career Reborn" Travolta, Andie

MacDowell and William Hurt head up the cast of "Michael," a story about angels (and not saints).

Although the official release date for the musical "Evita" is Dec. 25, it probably won't be hitting our movie screens until Jan. 10. Madonna plays the title role of this former South American first lady who, through her own determination and compassion, ended up adored by millions.

On that same day, Jackie Chan flies onto American movie screens once again with "Jackie Chan's Police Story," which is actually the fourth installment in his immensely popular "Police Story" series. The highlight stunt of the film? Possibly the underwater fight scene, complete with a shark!