

New bar looks to jazz up downtown Lincoln

BY SEAN MCCARTHY
Staff Reporter

Daryl Dickerson's dream of creating a jazz bar came true earlier this month.

Rogues Gallery quietly opened at 4 p.m. on June 11. Owners Daryl and Jody Dickerson, who also own Sandy's on 14th & O, began construction on the jazz bar in January. The success of Sandy's in its new location enabled the couple to make Rogues. Daryl said he has been impressed with the feedback Rogues has received since its opening.

"We're still in the developmental stages, but the reception so far has been great," he said.

The bar, located at 1100 O St., combines the intimate feel of an upscale lounge with the casual setting of a bar where you can play a good game of pool.

"We recognized the need for a gathering place that older people and young, sophisticated people did not have before," said Dan Bauer, the manager and entertainment director of Rogues Gallery.

"It has a definite atmosphere, something you don't notice anywhere else in town," he said.

Part of Rogues' atmosphere comes from the selection of art that hangs in the bar. Rogues purchased the currently displayed artwork from Malibu Galleries.

Bauer said he plans to employ local artists



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

JENNIFER FOLGER (left), a senior education major, and Ingrid Jordon, a senior horticulture major, enjoy their drinks at Rogues Gallery, 1100 O St. The new club's grand opening will be July 11.

to show their work in the future. Currently, Bauer said, he wanted to establish the proper atmosphere of the bar.

"But if someone wants to buy it (the art) off the wall, they're more than welcome to," he said.

Bauer said Rogues' location fits in well with the audience they want to attract. In addition to being close to eating establishments like Crane River, Rogues is also close to the Lied Center for Performing Arts, the Haymarket and Kimball Recital Hall.

"It's a good complement to the downtown bar scene. We offer a flavor that is definitely different," he said. In the upcoming weeks, Rogues will start to integrate jazz into its atmosphere.

The PA system is modeled after the system in Kimball Recital Hall, Bauer said. The system allows a rich, full sound to resonate through the bar, but still allows patrons to converse with one another comfortably, he said.

For its grand opening on July 11, Rogues will bring in a live jazz band with no cover cost to patrons. After that Rogues will experiment by bringing in live jazz a couple of nights a week.

For now they have an ample supply of more than 400 jazz CDs to entertain their patrons.

Though Bauer said he has been really busy the past few weeks, he's enjoyed the work. Aside from talking to various local artists, Bauer has also spent time helping tie down the music format of the bar, sifting through the

massive jazz collection.

"It takes a long time to establish a local following to any type of music," Bauer said. "We'll expose people slowly at first."

Rogues has a good selection of premium liquors, including single barrel bourbon and single malt scotches. Bauer said he plans on getting a couple of micro-brewed beers on tap to go with the import brew selections. Along with the premium drinks, Bauer said Rogues plans to have specialty champagne and ice cream drinks.

Though the lounge and martini fad seems to be in full smoking jacket swing among college students, Bauer said Rogues does not fit the stereotype of a typical lounge. One notable signature of lounges, cigars, has not fully penetrated Rogues yet.

Though Bauer said he would consider selling cigars over the counter, he wants to see how adequate the ventilation system is. And Rogues was created to be more of a jazz bar than a lounge, Bauer said.

Until the grand opening on July 11, Bauer said he plans to rely on word-of-mouth to get Rogues' name out. Bartenders will use this time before the opening to hone their skills, he said. Apparently, the positive word of mouth seems to be working in attracting new patrons.

"We're already having second generation patrons come in because their friends recommended us. It makes us really happy," Bauer said.

"We've really been pleased with all of the results so far," he said.

NU receives two more commitments

BY DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

On June 24, DeAntae Grixby became the third Nebraska athlete to give a verbal commitment to the Cornhuskers for the 1998-99 football season.

The running back from Omaha Central will follow the footsteps of former Husker backs Leodis Flowers, Calvin Jones and current NU I-back Ahman Green - all graduates of Omaha Central.

Grixby, who runs a 4.4 hand-timed 40-yard-dash, led the Eagles as a junior last fall with 1240 yards rushing on 151 carries. Omaha Central Coach Joe McMenemy said Grixby's quickness has made him one of the best backs in the state.

"He can cut on a dime," McMenemy said. "He can change directions and he is a very aggressive player. He sees the football field very well and he is a very physical football player."

The 5-foot-9, 190-pounder also played free safety on defense where he made "numerous highlight hits," McMenemy said. But Grixby, who was a freshman when Green was a senior in high school, is being recruited as a running back. McMenemy said.

"He isn't as big as Green, but he's quicker," McMenemy said. "He doesn't have the outright speed, but he does have a little bit more of a wiggle to him."

Grixby benches 275 pounds and squats 455, but needs to put on a little more weight during his senior season to be prepared for the physical nature of the Big 12 conference in 1998, McMenemy said.

But Grixby, who has qualified academically, wasn't the only high school athlete to give NU a verbal commitment last week.

Nate Kolterman will likely be the next Nebraska-grown football player to join the Cornhusker offensive line. Though high school seniors cannot sign letters of intent until February, the 6-foot-4, 310-pounder from Seward also gave the Huskers a verbal commitment for the 1998 season. Linebacker Chris Kelsay from Auburn became the first athlete to commit to Nebraska on June 13.

Kolterman had drawn attention from the Huskers since his sophomore season, Seward Coach Greg Welch said, but his performance at the first session of Nebraska's June camp sealed the deal.

Despite running a 6.0 40-yard-dash, Kolterman had the NU coaches discussing his talent all week, Welch said.

"I think Nate did some good things," Welch said. "They were monitoring him pretty close. They said he looked aggressive and has good technique."

As a junior last season, Kolterman blocked for the leading rusher in Class B as Seward finished 5-5. Kolterman, along with junior Andrew Schlueter - another Division-I prospect - paved the way for running back Dan Ellis, who rushed for 1760 yards and 21 touchdowns. In 1995, as a sophomore, Kolterman blocked for Dan Owens, who led Class B with 1690 yards on the ground and 22 touchdowns.

"We've had the top running back at the end of the season two years in a row," Welch said. "That's a great indication of the quality of your line. We're even hoping for bigger things this year."

A very physical player, Kolterman benches 355 pounds and squats 505 pounds and was an

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