

# Acts gear up for Edgefest

By CHRIS THOMAS AND PATRICK MINER  
Music Critics

For the third consecutive year, KEDGE (the Edge), Omaha's largest modern rock station, is sponsoring an all-ages, sold-out, daylong, music fest. Featuring new and returning guests, Edgefest '97 will be at the Westfair Amphitheater in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Saturday, with gates opening at 10 a.m.

Headlining this collage of old and new acts will be Nebraskanative Matthew Sweet. His current album, "Blue Sky On Mars," now is receiving airplay, though he is most remembered for his break-through album, "Girlfriend," from 1990. The stage veteran always puts on a good show and manages to please most any crowd. Hailing from Lincoln certainly helped Sweet obtain a spot at Edgefest, and he is the obvious choice to headline a show that is otherwise full of one-hit wonders and relative unknowns.

Sugar Ray, another Edgefest act, is enjoying continued success from its blockbuster single, "Fly." The band recently grabbed a share of the side stage on the Warped Tour, which also featured the announced - but not attending - Edgefest band Mighty Mighty Bosstones. Sugar Ray's performance on the Warped Tour featured a harder sound than did "Fly," which included tracks from the band's newest release, "Floored," and its debut album, "Lemonade and Brownies." Sugar Ray was definitely one of the weaker bands to grace a stage on the Warped Tour, and it seems unnatural for this band to suddenly be one of the highlights of a sold-out amphitheater show.

Also in the category of current one-hit wonders is Smash Mouth, a band out of San Jose, Calif. The group is known for flooding the airwaves with the mindless, yet catchy, "Walking on the Sun."

With ideas like the ones vocalist Greg Harwell has in mind, it doesn't look like the band is going too far.

"We formed the band with the intention of getting on the radio and making a record," Harwell said. "I don't want to be cool and broke; I'd rather be cool and have dough."

The Edge held a battle of the bands on Aug. 23 to determine what



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL RECORDS  
**RADIO IODINE WILL PERFORM its trip-hop verses and radio-friendly hooks Saturday at Westfair Amphitheater in Council Bluffs, Iowa.**

regional act would be included in this weekend's lineup. Omaha's Grasshopper Takeover won the spot. With this makeshift version of the Kind being proclaimed as the best band in the metro area, it's a sad statement for Omaha's music scene. Recent concerts Grasshopper had with 22 Jacks and Jimmy Skaffa, as well as with other Omaha bands, showed little progression from the act in the past year.

The most amazing announcement of the show has to be that the Nixons would be back for a threepeat. The group's self-titled new album features the cliché-heavy and predictable, "Baton Rouge," leaving "Sister" its single hit. Someone needs to impeach the Nixons, like Richard, but we wouldn't suggest using a tape recorder. The other return performer will be the Refreshments, performing in

support of their new album, available on streets later this fall.

Despite some of the obvious disappointments in booking for the show, several promising new acts are slated to play this year, including Soak, Artificial Joy Club, Naked and Radio Iodine. Soak's industrial rock and heavy bass lines are smoothed over with the powerful, yet soothing vocals of Jason Demetri.

Radio Iodine features a competent blend of Portishead and Garbage, with its trip-hop verses and radio-ready hooks tinged with alt-rock guitar. Song's like "Understand," "Never Meant To" and the current single, "Things I Do," speak well of the band's debut effort. Also appearing will be Puzzlegut, Outhouse and Sister Machine Gun with new material from its month-old album "Metropolis."

# Faculty will perform free recitals

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Senior Reporter

On Sunday, instead of watching the documentary on underwater basket weaving for the billionth time, make a trip to Kimball Recital Hall or Cornerstone for a free concert.

The School of Music's faculty recitals continue this weekend with performances by Scott Anderson, professor of trombone; Ann Chang-Barnes, assistant visiting professor; and graduate student Denise Witfoth Makinson.

"A lot of the faculty recitals are of a high caliber, and out in the real world, people would be charged admission," Chang-Barnes said. "I think it's a great opportunity for students at the university, as well as the community,

to take advantage of these concerts and come see as many as they can."

The department will feature Chang-Barnes and Anderson in a 3 p.m. trombone and piano recital Sunday at Kimball. This collaborative effort will feature works from 20th century artists.

"I don't believe that 20th century music is played at this university as extensively as it ought to be," Anderson said. "This recital takes more traditional works like Paul Hindemith's 'Sonata,' as well as a work by Neal Corwell."

Anderson also plans to perform a piece he has worked on for the last two years - "Keren for Unaccompanied Trombone" by Iannis Xenakis.

"It's the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Anderson said. "It scares me to death, but it's something I have to do."

Later on Sunday afternoon, Makinson will present an organ recital featuring works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Samuel Scheidt and Georg Muffat. The 4:30 p.m. concert will be at Cornerstone.

Chang-Barnes said the recital series is one of the perks of working at the university.

"Playing with your colleagues is one of the highlights for all the faculty here," she explained. "It's also a wonderful chance for the students to see you perform, and to give them something to aspire to."

Anderson said the series provides a chance to pass on his enthusiasm for more classical types of music.

"If we don't keep people enthusiastic about this music, it will die on the vine," he said. "If we don't teach it and perform it well, no one will be interested."

# Radio stations tell of Garth Brooks' arrival

From Staff Reports

Garth Brooks is coming to Lincoln. Local country radio stations announced Thursday that Brooks' "Fresh Horses" tour will stop at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sept. 26. To discourage scalpers, a lottery

system will be used for fans to obtain tickets.

Fans must first pick up wristbands at any Omaha or Lincoln Ticketmaster location Sept. 8-12. Those who have purchased a wristband will then be asked to return to the same ticket outlet for a ticket lot-

tery on Sept. 14th.

A random wristband number will be drawn and tickets will be sold in order beginning with the first selected number. Obtaining wristbands will not guarantee that holders will receive tickets.

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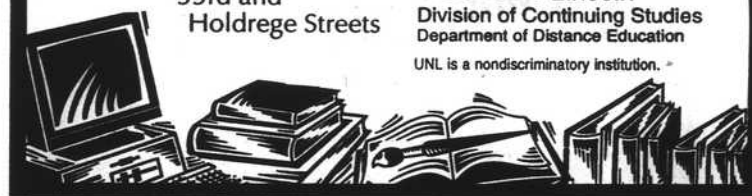
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