

Brooks breaks records with 5 Lincoln shows

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America's biggest selling solo artist in U.S. music history.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would do five shows," Hug said. "We were planning two and felt comfortable with three, but we needed five."

As of late Tuesday afternoon, there were still a few seats available to the Sunday night show. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

And when Brooks hits the stage at about 9 o'clock tonight, it will be his first concert appearance in Lincoln since his 1993 sold-out performance at the Devaney Center.

About the only people who aren't happy that Brooks decided to add the extra show in Nebraska are the people who will be attending the 31st Annual Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tenn., tonight.

Why? Because Brooks, who is nominated for country music's Entertainer of the Year, won't be there.

Karen Byrd, his publicist, said she thought it would be only the second time he has ever missed the industry's top awards show. The first time happened in 1994 when he was touring out of the country.

"That's unique for someone of his stature," Marsh said. "He is the industry. For him not to be present at the awards is amazing."

Hug said that it took a performer such as Brooks to bring such an excit-

ing atmosphere to the city.

"He is such an energetic and powerful entertainer," he said, "and those who do get the chance to see him once want to see him again and again."

People from all over the region, country music fans sitting next to alternative music fans sitting next to jazz music fans, realize Brooks is one of the most popular entertainers in the world, Marsh said.

"He has had quite an impact on people - country music fans or otherwise," he said. "This is an event that is not to be missed. People realize this and don't want to be left out."

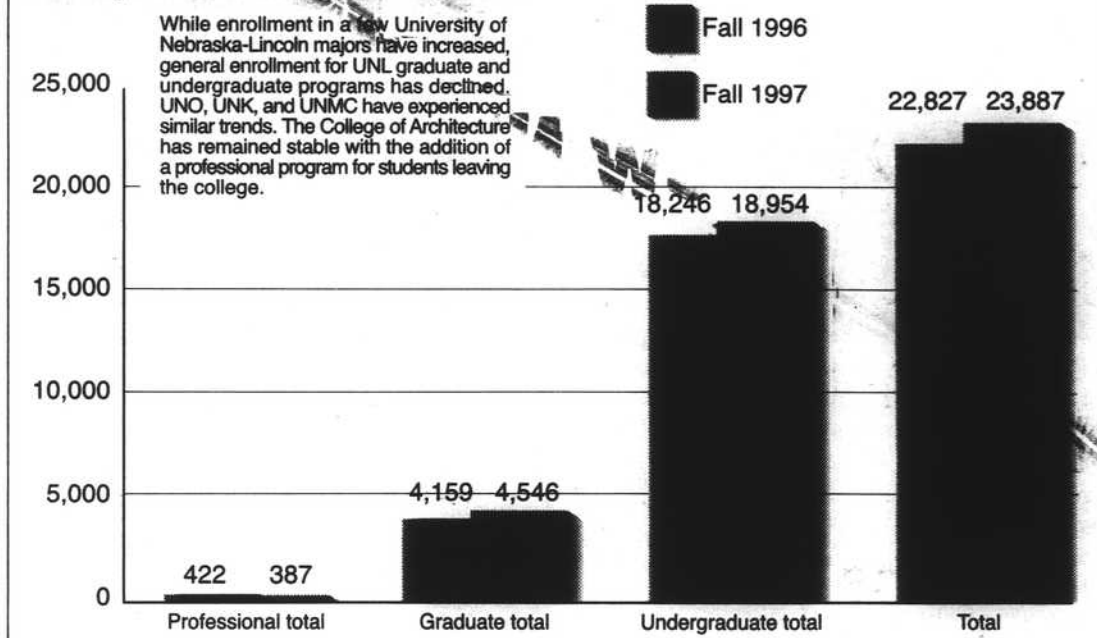
And while Brooks provides music and fun for his fans, he hopes they will give a little something back in return.

As part of the national program endorsed by Brooks, Feed the Children barrels will be placed near the Devaney Center entrances. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring canned or nonperishable food that will be donated to the Food Bank of Lincoln. All the food collected will stay in Lincoln or the surrounding counties.

Hug said he hoped concert promoters would take a good look at Lincoln and the reception Brooks has received when they book bands in the future.

"I hope this will open the doors to more concerts," he said. "We've had kind of a drought when it comes to concerts. I hope this puts our name back on the map."

Down for the count



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

UNL enrollment takes dive

Mooser expected drop, says number should rise

From Staff Reports

Enrollment at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln dropped by 4.4 percent, or 1,056 students, this fall compared with the fall semester last year.

Official enrollment figures released Tuesday showed a 5 percent drop in enrollment for the entire University of Nebraska system, from 49,032 students in fall 1996 to 46,565 this fall.

NU officials have said a number of factors may have influenced enrollments, including a robust Nebraska economy that might encourage potential students to enter the workforce and postpone their education.

Last spring, James Griesen, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, said a drop in enrollment was expected following tougher admissions requirements at UNL this fall.

Some uninformed graduating high school students would think they couldn't qualify for admission and would refuse to apply, he said.

UNL Chancellor James Mooser said at the time he expected lower enrollments for a few years and then a rise because of the increased prestige of the university.

Two weeks ago, Mooser reiterated during a UNL Academic Senate meeting that he expected a drop, but added he was surprised by its level.

He also said he worried about the long-range financial impact of the loss in tuition.

He expressed greatest concern over the drop in graduate student enrollment at UNL, which Tuesday's report stated had dropped by 8.5 percent. Enrollment in the NU College of Law dropped by 2.6 percent.

Among UNL undergraduate programs, the greatest enrollment drops occurred in the divisions of continuing and general studies, vis-

iting students and the College of Architecture.


But a new professional program in architecture admitted 45 students, resulting in no change in the college's overall enrollment.

Undergraduate enrollments rose in the colleges of engineering and technology, fine and performing arts, human resources and family sciences, and journalism and mass communications.

At the University of Nebraska at Omaha, enrollment dropped by 5.3 percent, including a 5.3 percent drop in undergraduate enrollment and a 5.2 percent drop in graduate enrollment.

Enrollment declined by 3.7 percent at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

At the University of Nebraska at Kearney, enrollment dropped 7.1 percent, including a 2.8 percent drop in undergraduate enrollment and a 26.5 percent drop in graduate enrollment.



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NO COVER CHARGE

UNO plans for dormitories

UNO from page 1

The university will not seek land in Elmwood Park for either project, said UNO spokesman Lou Cartier.

The park, adjacent to UNO's main campus, sponsors a popular Shakespeare on the Green festival each summer and includes a public golf course.

Contrary to reports in the Omaha media last week, UNO also has no immediate desire to acquire the 3.7-acre park for any other residence halls or UNO expansion projects, Cartier said.

"There's no question that that piece of ground makes sense for the university," Cartier said. "If we had that property, I'm sure we could find an excellent use for it."

"But that's different than saying we have an active proposal to put a parking garage there. That's not the case."

New UNO Chancellor Nancy Belck mentioned during a UNO

Faculty Senate meeting this month that she and other university officials for years have looked at Elmwood Park as an attractive location for university expansion, Cartier said.

But Belck did not say the university planned to acquire the park, he said.

Regent Nancy O'Brien of Waterloo agreed that, for several years, Elmwood Park has surfaced in university discussions as an attractive location for UNO expansion.

But when the regents approved UNO's desire to start planning building the halls on its campus last fall, they expected the halls would be built on UNO's main campus, probably in its southwest corner, O'Brien said.

Neither Elmwood Park nor Ak-Sar-Ben, which the university acquired 70 acres of July 1, was presented as a possible location for the halls, she said.

Ak-Sar-Ben, about one-half mile south of the campus' Pacific Street

border, wasn't considered as an appropriate location because many students choose to live in school dormitories who don't own vehicles and cannot drive to campus, O'Brien said.

And although Ak-Sar-Ben is the site of the new Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering, which will be completed in August 1999, the institute will be Ak-Sar-Ben's first university building.

"If you're living on campus, you want to be at the heart of campus, not on a campus with only one building," O'Brien said.

Regents first hoped to see the new dormitory plans as early as this summer, but they later decided the new chancellor should have input in the proposal. Now, regents are "just waiting" for the proposal.

Castilow said most other regents support the project, and he will be "greatly relieved" when the project gets their approval.



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