

THE PUNK SHOPBOYS

14th Street locale gives shoppers new alternatives

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Staff writer

A punk mall.

It may sound like a paradox, but that's how some have described the new building that houses the Ozone, Zero Street, The Location and Caulfield Records.

With its vintage clothes, independent music and flavored coffees, the triple-whammy bazaar brings several of Lincoln's counterculture offerings under the same roof.

"All we need are toys and corn dogs, and we'd be Gateway Mall," said Clay Lewis, employee of The Location.

Not that the owners are striving toward mass-consumption success. All the shops are intentionally anti-establishment in both style

and substance.
"All we need are toys and corn dogs, and we'd be Gateway Mall."

CLAY LEWIS
The Location employee

The Ozone deals almost exclusively in retro and/or counter-culture clothes and accessories. Zero Street does the same for music, specializing in punk and indie recordings.

While not actually selling much merchandise, Lincoln's most famous label, Caulfield Records, shares the basement

of the store after years of being operated out of owner Bernie McGinn's home.

Rounding out the store is the newest addition to Lincoln's burgeoning alterna-shop scene: The Location, an herb and coffee shop that peddles beverages while shoppers peruse merchandise.

Located at 120 N. 14th St. between A Novel Idea and Eyes of the World, the new space represents a new partnership among young Lincoln entrepreneurs, incorporating Ryan Bird (owner of The Location), Carrie and Jim Stevens (owners of the Ozone) and Kevin Chasek (owner of Zero Street).

Zero Street and the Ozone formerly occupied opposite sides of the abandoned State Theater on O St. between 14th and Centennial Mall Streets. But it wasn't long before the stores' owners decided their spaces were too small.

So they decided they could afford to increase the size of their stores if they combined their resources.



CHRIS BENDET/DN
KEVIN CHASEK (front) and Ryan Bird share a new building at 120 N. 14th St. Chasek owns and operates the music section in the basement of the store while Bird owns the coffee shop and herbal products bar. Chasek said he designed his basement music store, which carries new and used compact discs, tapes and vinyl records, to resemble the Antiquarium in Omaha's Old Market.

Caulfield Records finds new home at Zero Street

BY JIM ZAVODNY
Staff writer

When Bernie McGinn founded Caulfield Records in 1988 as a senior in high school, he intended the label to be a means to release albums created by his band.

"(Caulfield) was definitely started just to put out Sideshow records because no one else was interested in doing it. We would send out demo tapes, and all of the responses would be, 'Your band is cool and everything, but we really only put out records by our friends,'" McGinn said.

Instead of giving up hope for releasing Sideshow's material, McGinn took to the offensive and created one of Nebraska's most

respected and successful labels, which he based out of his home and named after Holden Caulfield, the lead character in J.D. Salinger's epic novel "Catcher in the Rye."

Since then, Caulfield has released a total of 31 recordings by bands from across the country. As the label has grown, McGinn has found it increasingly difficult to run the operation from his attic. So in June, McGinn talked to Kevin Chasek, owner of Zero Street Records, about moving the label into the basement of his record store, and Chasek agreed.

"I just wanted to see what it was like not living almost 24 hours a day in the record label. And I wanted to see whether that made it more efficient, if I would be more focused

Please see CAULFIELD on 8



COVER ART COURTESY OF CAULFIELD RECORDS
MERCY RULE is perhaps the most productive and popular of the bands Caulfield Records has carried over the past 10 years. "The Flat Black Chronicles" is Mercy Rule's latest release. Owner Bernie McGinn is working on an album for his own band, Luck of Aleia.

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