

## The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief guide to weekend events. Please call venues for more information.

### CONCERTS:

**Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.**  
Sunday: The 9s, Musico

**Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.**  
Friday and Saturday: Radio King

**Kimball Recital Hall, 12th and R streets**  
Saturday: Tomas Robertell, lute

**Knickerbocker's, 901 O St.**  
Friday: Johnson's Complaint  
Saturday: Happy Dog, The Mediums

**Mo Java Cafe, Suite D, 2649 N 48th St.**  
Friday: Wes Stebbins & Friends

**Mueller Planetarium laser shows**  
Friday and Saturday: Doors, U2

**Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 West O St.**  
Saturday: The Bobby Layne Orchestra

**The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway**  
Friday: Rockin' Fossils  
Saturday: Firehouse

**Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.**  
Friday: Little Mike and the Tornados  
Saturday: The James Solberg Band

### THEATER:

**Blue Barn Theatre, 614 S. 11th St.**  
All weekend: "Three Viewings"

**Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets**  
Friday and Saturday: "Pecker"  
Sunday: "The Governess"

**Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P streets**  
Sunday: "Swing Time" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers

**Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St.**  
All Weekend: "Light up the Sky"

**Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th and R streets**  
Russian National Ballet performs:  
Friday: "Swan Lake"  
Saturday: "Sleeping Beauty"

### GALLERIES:

**Center for Great Plains Studies, 215 Love Library**  
All weekend: "The North Platte Project: Photographing Nature's Works & Their Transformations"

**Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St., Suite A**  
Friday and Saturday: Harry Orlyk, landscape paintings

**Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St.**  
All weekend: "Dali's Mustache: A Photographic Interview by Salvador Dali and Philippe Halsman"

**Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.**  
Friday and Saturday: Faridun Negmat-Zoda, oil paintings; Max Cox, pottery; Tom Borg, blown glass



# Ghetto Superstars

A GLASS OF beer waits for a patron of Duffy's to take a drink as audience members sing karaoke.

RYAN SODERLIN/DN

HE AIN'T GEORGE STRAIT, and that's OK. Paul Peterson of Lincoln sings karaoke Wednesday night at The Neighbor's Lounge, 7010 O St. Aspiring performers can sing along with nearly 5,000 of their favorite songs.

MATT MILLER/DN



## Local karaoke bars let guests display hidden talents

BY JEFF RANDALL  
Senior staff writer

Rock stars lurk among us. On every street corner and in every building, there sit individuals who have not only the presence, but also the unrefined talent to become a cultural phenomenon unto themselves.

And every weekend, these human bundles of glitter and strobe lights unleash their secret rock-star personae.

They are a part of karaoke culture. Imported from Japan in the 1980s, karaoke takes the age-old tradition of singing along with the radio and turns it into a spectator sport. The music plays, the lyrics scroll and the people sing.

But this simple act of singing along with popular songs in front of an audience has divided people worldwide down a distinct love-hate line.

Those who hate it lament the skewering of beloved songs. And, on occasion, everyone can relate to that. Eric Carmen's "All By Myself" was never meant to be manhandled by a slightly intoxicated accountant. White boys probably shouldn't be attempting to riff their way through "Baby Got Back," either.

But karaoke lovers have found the ability to overlook the frailties of their fellow singers — even though, as every karaoke practitioner knows, *I always sound great.*

"You have to be confident, maybe even overconfident," says Mark Minchow, a 35-year-old Lincoln resident with a penchant for David Bowie and Cheap Trick. "If you think you suck,

then you'll never get up on that stage."

Although he's a recent Lincoln arrival, Minchow has been ripping through the '70s glam-rock catalogue at clubs in Des Moines for about five years now, and he thinks audiences everywhere are the same.

"No matter where you are, I think, people are going to clap and sing along when they hear 'Surrender,'" he said.

"It's just a given."

And after performing that song literally hundreds of times, Minchow has learned how to milk it for everything it's worth.

"Once you get up on stage, you want it to last for a long time. You've stepped up, and the hard part's over."

### A night at the club

For the typical karaoke hound, the evening begins at about 10 p.m. At popular clubs such as the Neighbors Lounge, 7010 O St., one must arrive early to insure a spot in the night's lineup.

"If I know I'm going to be singing, I'll come early," said Teresa Parks, a Neighbors regular. "I want to make sure I get my song request in, and I want to make sure nobody takes my song before I get to do it."

For the record, her song is "Crazy" by Patsy Cline.

At about 10:30 p.m., the crowd has begun to swell significantly. All of the tables and booths in front of the stage have been filled, and the sound system has been belting out everything from "Your Cheatin' Heart" to "Papa Don't Preach."

Teresa's name is called, and she grabs a cigarette.

and yellow lights bounce off the shiny gold wall behind the stage, and "Crazy, in the style of Patsy Cline" pops up on the big-screen television that displays the lyrics.

She looks over the crowd with a smile and wraps the cord loosely around her hand and wrist.

She starts to sing softly, and as the song progresses, her volume increases.

The song ends with the sustained "And ah'm crazy for lovin' yoooooooouuuuuu..." and as her voice fades, a smattering of applause is heard.

She smiles again, takes a slight bow and heads back to her table.

Her friend and self-described drinking buddy, Karen, voices her approval.

"That was even better than last time," she says, still clapping.

Teresa gives her thanks, picks up her



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

TOM TELLEFSEN, a senior English major at UNL, sings Elvis Costello's "Radio, Radio" as Shithook's Phil Shoemaker and the rest of the band provide the music.

"I don't usually smoke, but I do when I sing," she said as she lights it up. "I don't know why. Maybe I think it makes me look cooler."

She half-walks, half-trots to the stage, and pulls the microphone awkwardly from its stand. The red, green

Please see **KARAOKE** on 10