

The Weekend in Preview

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The following is a brief list of weekend events. Please call the venue for more information.

CONCERTS:

Duffy's, 1412 O St.
Sunday: Bindlestiff Family Cirkus and Autonomadic Bookmobile Roadshow

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Friday: Deep Blue Something, Meelee
Saturday: Luck of Aleia, Raymond Nothing

The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Hwy.
Friday: JRZ System
Saturday: Michael Hartman, JRZ System

7th Street Loft, 504 S. Seventh St.
All weekend: Life Nine

State Fair, Bob Devaney Sports Center
Friday: Carrot Top
Saturday: Semisonic
Sunday: Def Leppard

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Friday: Mark Sallings and the Famous Unknowns
Saturday: Baby Jason and the Spankers

THEATER:

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "Limbo"

Star City Dinner Theatre, Suite 100, 803 Q. St.
Friday: Richard Carter

GALLERIES:

The Burkholder Project, 719 P St.
All weekend: works by Anne Burkholder, Nancy Childs, Bill Ganzel and Ellen Smith

Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: works by David Alles

Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St.
All weekend: works by Donna Barger

Joslyn Museum, 2200 Dodge St., Omaha
All weekend: Sandy Skoglund, "Reality Under Siege"

Lentz Center, Morrill Hall, 14th and U streets
All weekend: paintings by Shi Hu

Noyes Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: works by Gretchen Meyers, Susan Barnes, Evelyn Issacs, Lois Meysenburg and Tom Palmerton

The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
All weekend: works by John Stuart Curry, Richard Diebenkorn and Charles Rain's "Magic Realism"

Any way you spell it, state fair is F-O-O-D

Early September is not the time to budget fun or count calories

BY JASON HARDY
Senior staff writer

Every year, the International Student Association has a bazaar in the Nebraska Union that offers just about every type of ethnic food imaginable.

But they don't have cheese on a stick. For that there's only one place to go. Yep, the Nebraska State Fair.

Sure, the food isn't authentic. It's not supposed to be. It's supposed to reflect the melting pot of cultures this nation has become. That's why they sell things like Indian tacos and ninja chicken — they want to raise your cultural awareness.

Their philosophy is to bring together foods, regardless of race, color, creed or calories.

Well, at least the calories part is accurate. Oh yeah, we're going to put on some weight tonight.

Near the outskirts of the State Fair midway is a covered building that houses such eateries as Runza, A&W and other stock fast food places.

Just east of that sits what any red-blooded American can love and respect — The Beef Pit.

It's impossible to miss, mostly because it's called The Beef Pit, and it's not a pit. Oh, they do have some beef though, mad beef. Once inside, you can't miss all the signs touting the greatness of corn-fed beef. The workers even wear buttons that just say "Beef." When you look around The Beef Pit, you see people who know good beef. Beef, beef, beef, beef.

This ring of the State Fair food chain is brought to us by the good people of the Beef Council and the Nebraska Cattlemen.

For \$6, you can get a prime rib sandwich, coleslaw and corn. Every meal comes with a "bioplastic" fork that degrades after either 45 days in the elements or two to three minutes stuck in the corn or beef.

The tables are set up with cardboard displays that offer fun facts every Nebraskan should know about beef and corn.

Fact: Calcium Magnesium Acetate can be made from corn, and CMA is

used as a de-icer for airport runways.

Fact: Photographic films are made from the starch portion of corn.

Fact: The corn at the Beef Pit has 500,000 much butter on it.

The meal was excellent, and The Beef Pit's only drawback is that it doesn't have a place to take a nap.



STATE FAIR EVENTS

Sept. 3, 1999		
Event	Time	Location
Toot Sweet	5:30 - 7 p.m., 8 - 9 p.m., 10 - midnight	West Beer Garden
Karaoke Kraze	7 - 11 p.m.	Hooters Beer Garden
Carrot Top	8 p.m.	Bob Devaney Sports Center
Sept. 4, 1999		
Event	Time	Location
Strophic	5:30 - 7 p.m., 8 - 9 p.m., 10 - midnight	West Beer Garden
Shameless Semisonic	7 - 11 p.m.	Hooters Beer Garden
	8 p.m.	Bob Devaney Sports Center
Sept. 5, 1999		
Event	Time	Location
BossPhilly	5:30 - 7 p.m., 8 - 9 p.m., 10 - midnight	West Beer Garden
Sticky Fingers	7 - 11 p.m.	Hooters Beer Garden
Def Leppard	8 p.m.	Bob Devaney Sports Center
Sept. 6, 1999		
Event	Time	Location
Alabama	2 p.m.	Bob Devaney Sports Center
Flying Blind	3 - 7 p.m.	West Beer Garden
Alibi	3 - 7 p.m.	Hooters Beer Garden

The most obvious stop after The Beef Pit is a little stand that sells cheese on a stick. Cheese stand worker Jeremy Crutchfield described them best when he said, "It's like a corn dog but it's all cheese inside."

And he's right. Cheese on a stick is essentially just that: cheese stuck to a stick and stuck in a deep-fat fryer for a few minutes. This creates a crunchy outer shell with a melted cheesy inside. Imagine the power of one grilled cheese sandwich multiplied by a googol. That's cheese on a stick. Please, use the power for good, not evil, like Crutchfield does.

eat about two or three cheeses a day. I just don't get burned out on them," he said. When it comes to state fair food, the coup de grace has to be the newest addition to the lineup — fried candy bars. Creating something as timeless as fried candy bars takes three ingredients, all of which are easily found at the fair. In fact, it was only a matter of time before this happened. First off, get a candy bar. Second, get a stick. Third, stick the candy bar on the stick and stick it into a batter made up of some kind of chocolate composite. Finally, stick it into the fryer, wait a few minutes, and you get another direct descendent of the corn dog, but much sweeter.

For the most part, it tastes like s'mores, and once you finish one, you feel like a jumbo corn dog. But that's what it's all about. It's the Nebraska State Fair after all.

Linda Buss, candy bar cooker, said if you come to the fair, you'd better come ready to indulge yourself. There's no way around it.

"I mean, you're only at the fair a couple of days," Buss said. "You don't come to the fair and think 'Oh, I'm gonna watch my weight.'"

No, you don't.