

Four Shillings never short on variety

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

Quick. Say Aodh O'g O'Tuama five times fast. It's not exactly your ordinary name, and he's not exactly your ordinary guy. "You might have trouble getting a hold of him," singer Tom Martin said. "He's always on the road." The road is his home. Traveling and entertaining is his life. O'Tuama and his wife Christy Martin are Four Shillings Short, a band which has existed since 1985 but has seen many different faces. Now, the band is the couple's baby. Throughout a number of different band members, O'Tuama has been the one face that has stayed present in Four Shillings Short since its start. On Saturday, Tom Martin will open for the band, which will perform a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. at the 7th Street Loft. The concert is presented by the Lincoln Association For Traditional Arts. "They're completely different from

anything most people have heard, and they add their own little brand of comedy to the show," LAFTA board member Kerry Krause said. The repertoire of Four Shillings Short includes Celtic, British Isles and American folk tunes, and French Flemish songs, classical pieces and original music. Those who attend the concert will hear instruments such as the mandolin, sitar and Irish drum. Christy Martin is especially gifted at playing the sitar, and the duo shows off her playing in several numbers, Martin said. Krause said Christy Martin's talent is refreshing. "It's unusual to hear that sitar, especially in Irish music, but she really does an exceptional job with it," Krause said. The band is based out of Palo Alto, Calif., where it gained hometown popularity, but for the most part the couple has taken the show on the road since O'Tuama and Christy Martin met in 1995.

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Kerry Krause
LAFTA board member

"They travel nonstop and have really had to stay organized and make their business work on the road," Tom Martin said. LAFTA is just happy to have Four Shillings Short and their unusual style of music in Lincoln for a night, said LAFTA board member Rebecca Carr. "Diversity is one of the main goals of LAFTA," Carr said. "We always want to bring in a wide range of music." A wide range of music also brings in a varied audience to the Loft.

Performance Preview

Four Shillings Short

Where: 7th Street Loft,
7th & J
When: Saturday, Oct. 14
@ 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$12 for adults,
\$6 for students

"We don't just want to bring in a man and his guitar," Krause said. "We strive for variety. We have a totally different audience for almost every show, and we hope to bring them in on other styles of music."

Kung Fu visits Lied

From MONKS on page 5

for Lied Center patrons, Bethea said. "They are from the heart and soul of Chinese culture," he said. "They come straight from history, and we are privileged to have them come here." The warriors will re-enact a day at the famous Shaolin Temple from sunrise to sunset, using a choreographed theatrical production of their martial arts skills, Bethea said. "They will show what it is like to spend hours meditating and training," Bethea said. "They put a great deal of emphasis on not only the physical aspect of martial arts but the spiritual aspect, too." Parks Coble, a UNL history professor, said the hours the Shaolin monks spend meditating and practicing their martial arts are meant to cultivate Qi, an energy source believed to build up superhuman powers. The monks also train to show their dedication to their religion, Daoism, but Coble said the serious undertones won't take away from the show. "I don't know what exactly they will be doing on stage, but whatever it is, it'll be an amazing spectacle," he said. "When it comes to martial arts, they are the cream of the crop."

Orgy emits nothing new on 'Vapor Transmissions'

BY ANDREW SHAW

Orgy. Sounds good, doesn't it? But after they kicked their way onto radio overplay with their techno-goth cover of "Blue Monday," listeners chalked this band of pretty boys up as one-hit wonders - and the listeners may be right. On its sophomore album, "Vapor Transmissions," Orgy stays with the old ideas and instrumentation, not willing to budge an inch and risk losing the small cult-like following they have won. They sound like a barbed-wire fleece pullover: thick and fuzzy guitars with a healthy amount of bite. While this fashion may work on the runways of Paris, the pretension of the staged art-techno-goth-rock makes it difficult to find long-lasting enjoyment in Orgy's music. Orgy members are obviously putting on a show, painting their faces and spiking their hair like sexy androgynous space-rockers. The exhibit wears thin quickly. The first track of "Vapor Transmission" is an extended intro to the album, featuring excessive ambient sounds and voice-overs welcoming you to the "Andrio System," as if you have just stepped off of your intergalactic space-travel capsule into the world of Orgy. Strangely enough, this world features high-powered rock that sounds dangerously similar to Marilyn Manson. The vocals whine, the drums pound out a strict beat spiced with off-beat

hihat, and the guitars swell into walls of distorted noise. The sound is not original, but it finds a way to hit you in places that make your heart race and energy rise. That may be the whole point of Orgy: to lose one's better senses and let the moment sweep you up into its flow. "Vapor Transmissions" attains this outcome, but it becomes a rock opera with no plot and no point except to make noise for an hour. After three songs of blindingly loud techno-rock, the band starts to back off a bit and offers "Fiction (Dreams in Digital)," the track slated as the first single from the new album. At first the sound is quieter and shows that Orgy has the potential to try something different but later the over-powering guitars and sensational technologically inspired lyrics take control. "Fiction" turns into another strict techno-goth tune filled with lackluster electronic drums, fuzzed-out guitars and a predictable song form. Every song on "Vapor Transmissions" fits this mold. Nothing stands out as a departure from Orgy's style on



MUSIC REVIEW

Orgy

Title: "Vapor Transmissions"

Label: 2000 Reprise Records

★★★ of 4 stars

"Candyass," its first album. Maybe Orgy is a more fitting name than one first thinks. Sure, it has its shock value, but Orgy follows through on the theme in its music. At first the experience is exciting and energizing, and it makes you feel like you are encountering something potentially dangerous. But its 15 minutes are over, and it might be time to cuddle and leave the Orgy behind.

East meets West meets bad taste

■ The Chinese restaurant in Southpointe's food court won't draw many back for more.

BY J.J. HARDER

There's something about a food court that is an automatic detraction from a meal. It may be the diversity of gross fast-food smells that induce nausea, the dirty plastic trays reminiscent of the high school cafeteria or possibly the constant scream of rugrats coming from the arcade. In the case of the food court at South Pointe Pavilion, there are more high-class issues. The food court isn't a food court at all; it's more of a food island in the archipelago of the "mall." And it's quite clean - more detracting is the South Beach color motif that is so wild you need to wear sunglasses. Until last week the food island didn't make much of an impact on me. And then oriental and occidental forces had a collision. East Meets West, a new restaurant, opened. For all intents and purposes, East Meets West is the token Chinese place in the food court. Amigo's and Valentino's both claim Lincoln as their home and stronghold. Arby's is a national chain with a few other Lincoln stores. The most natural choice for the final spot would have been Runza, but they chose to be in another part of the 27th Street & Pine Lake Road development. So anyway, we get East Meets West, which really is too bad. The worst part about this place is that East doesn't even actually meet West. On the Food Network cooking show, Asian influences are fused with Western traditions. But you won't find a sweet and sour corn dog at East Meets West (not that you'd necessarily want to). At EMW you'll find standard

Restaurant Review

East Meets West

Type: Chinese food
Where: 27th Street & Pine Lake Road
Entree: \$5-10
★ of 4 stars.

Chinese fare - the kind that, if someone asked you how it was, would make you shrug your shoulders and unconvincingly say "OK." The Cashew Chicken wasn't bad, but it wouldn't make me go back again. The portion was adequate, but the meat was slim. The Kung Poh Pork (which I ordered extra spicy) was decent but only because the spices masked the blah flavor of the dish. The Crab Rangoon were small and cold, and the restaurant was out of egg rolls. (Out of egg rolls? At a Chinese place!) The Mongolian Beef was downright bad. The only redeeming value of EMW was the nice old man behind the counter. He was inefficient and couldn't figure out how to run the cash register, but he hurried his best, showing he really cared about the customer. He even gave me some free fortune cookies. I hope that I just managed to catch EMW on a bad day, and it's better than I had this time. The old man's friendliness really makes me want to like it. But with this dinner as my experience, I would say go to the food court, but go straight to Amigo's. And if you're hungry for Chinese, visit the nearest Egg Roll King. Better yet, don't eat lunch and go for a big meal at the Great China Buffet on O Street.

Dropped Notes

UNL lecturer to display quilts
Beginning tomorrow, quilt lovers will be able to view the works of a world-renowned quilter who is now a UNL faculty member.

"Patterns of Thought: Quilted Constructions by Michael James," opens Friday and will be displayed until Nov. 10 in the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery in the Home Economics Building on East Campus, across from room 234. James, credited with helping to make quilts an art form in the 1970s, has works displayed in such museums as the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, the American Craft Museum and the Museum of the American Quilter's Society. For the past three years, he has been on the board of the International Quilt Study Center at UNL, the largest public collection of quilts in the world. This semester is his first as a senior lecturer at the university. "The patterns that you'll see in the quilts assembled in this exhibition represent either directly or indirectly, consciously or subconsciously, my thinking process," James said in a press release. "They are textile documents that reflect my search for order and for my place, as an artist, in a frequently chaotic and unpredictable world."

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