

IN THE GROOVE

By Jeff Randall

Vinyl-bound faith remains interesting

As a rallying point for all humanity, religion is pretty much an unbeatable force.

And that's just one of the reasons I collect Christian music.

To be perfectly honest, I'm not what one would call a "good Christian." I've spent many nights wondering exactly what place religion holds in my life.

But no matter how high or low my faith is on any given day, my small but saucy collection of Christian tunes always manages to brighten my day.

From the fantastic, glamorous splendor of "Jesus Christ Superstar" to the modest, simplistic song works created by Centerville, Iowa's, Gateway Singers, every Christian album in my possession has its own character and approach to the single subject of praising the Lord.

Some of the more appalling elements of the Christian music spectrum reside in albums recorded for the PTL Club (you remember Jim and Tammy Bakker, right?). Tammy's solo effort, "Tammy Sings ... You Can Make It!," is a cheaply produced collection of original songs by Mike Murdock, whose lyrical and musical abilities are difficult to distinguish from most elevator-destined pop tunes.

But the most obvious reason to dislike this and other PTL albums is the ugly story that lies behind them — Jim Bakker's thievery and Tammy's materialistic whining outside of these albums amount to nothing less than hypocrisy. Christian music by two people whose actions have proven to be decidedly un-Christian is hard to listen to without getting queasy.

On a more trustworthy Christian musical note, Teens 4 Christ's album, "Just a Little Talk," has a more believable tone. The group was a four-part, all-male vocal harmony group with piano accompaniment and occasional female vocals. Based in Murdock, Neb., Teens 4 Christ were far from the singing sensations of 1969 and '70. But their slightly off-tempo, out-of-tune renditions of songs such as the title track and "I Am on the Battlefield for My Lord" are full of young enthusiasm that would be difficult to fake.

And, if you look at what popular Christian music was originally designed to do — spread Christian teachings with sincerity and, if at all possible, catchy music, Teens 4 Christ and a piano succeed where Jim, Tammy and an auditorium-sized orchestra fail.

The small-town, makeshift religious groups have talent that is questionable, but faith that seems unshakable. And, sales figures, mass popularity and marketability aside, that's what Christian music really should be about.

Randall is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan associate news editor.

Corn maze adds to Halloween fun

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

John Zacovec knows something about Halloween. He's lucky enough to live with the holiday year-round.

Zacovec is also known as Grandpa John of Grandpa John's Pumpkin Patch, located at 4801 NW 48th and Hwy. 34.

For the past five years, he's made it his business to scare the pants off people. Besides selling pumpkins, he offers a haunted hayrack ride, a jump-in-pumpkin and Pumpkinland fun house for kids, mini-golf and a haunted house called "the dead zone."

New to his Halloween-fantasyland this year is the Amazing Maze, a four-acre corn maze planted in the shape of a jack-o'-lantern.

"The corn maze is the biggest addition we've made," he said. "One good thing about it, we didn't have to get any building permits to make it." His wife, Judy, helps run the farm and has a boutique with Halloween accessories.

One thing Zacovec hopes the patch offers is an enjoyable family experience, he said.

"It started as a way to mix the inner city people with us in the country," he said. "We just want families to come here and create memories — annual memories."

That shouldn't be too difficult considering the amount of things there are to do at Grandpa John's. Just admiring all the old farm equipment, the Siamese pick-up truck (a real must-see) and the rescued water wheel from the now-defunct Peony Park could take up an afternoon.

New this season is a 70-foot silo with a great view of the maze — you can see the face of the jack-o'-lantern in the center of the maze. The nose, a



JAY CALDERON

JOHN AND JUDY Zacovec operate Grandpa John's Pumpkin Patch at NW 4801 and Hwy. 34. The patch is open from Sept. 28 through Halloween.

couple of haystacks, bears a sign reading, "Congratulations! You made it."

The view is worth the trip up 70 stairs. There's even humor on the way up the silo — a painted sign reads, "If you love something, set it free. If it doesn't come back, kill it!"

If you're planning on touring the maze, Zacovec said to allow about 45 minutes to an hour to tour it. And definitely wear sneakers and jeans — the corn stands six feet tall in some places,

completely obliterating the skyline.

But going through the maze is a fun time — Zacovec is even inviting some of the city political figures — including Mayor Mike Johanns — out to "see how much they know about corn" Friday night.

The trip out to Grandpa John's is definitely worth the price of admission, which is very reasonable. For only \$2, you get in the gate and it covers the hayrack ride, the dead zone and the silo

climb. Another dollar covers mini-golf and the corn maze is \$3.

The corn maze will be open week-ends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays until Sept. 28, when the maze, the hayrack ride and the pumpkin patch will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The haunted house opens for week-end visits Oct. 11. Then it will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 7 to 11 p.m. and Sundays from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Dayroom jams with unclassified style at Duffy's

By BRET SCHULTE
Staff Reporter

The band Dayroom played live at Duffy's Monday night, and after hearing them play I remembered why the name was stuck in my mind. A year ago, I had seen the Athens, Ga. band in South Carolina and these fellas positively jam with an enthusiasm that bands like Phish could learn a lesson from.

Once Dayroom ripped out the first wall of electric pleasure, I realized I was going to rapidly run out of adjectives for the word "funk." However close Dayroom runs to comparisons of Widespread Panic and Phish, they dodge true classification.

They are grassroots, I suppose, but how many grassroots bands feature a keyboardist who prefers using the synthesizer as a church organ, or a carousel score to create a carnival environment?

Throughout the show, Brad Zimmerman, the drummer, pounded the skin like he was exorcising the devil. Manhandling the guitar, Mike Winger kicked his bare feet to meet his forehead, singing and howling. After this show, I think for the first time, I finally know what the word "love" means.

Supa-lounge, from Omaha, kicked off the evening and Dayroom didn't



THE BAND DAYROOM from Athens, Ga. played Monday night at Duffy's. Guitarist Mike Winger enjoyed playing in Nebraska, and hopes to return.

get started with their hour-long show Damme. Everyone else seemed satisfied with a simple evening of light head-bobbing.

After the set, I got the chance to speak with Winger, vocalist and guitarist for Dayroom. He said that Dayroom has been almost exclusively a road band for almost two years. However, the band still appreciates the studio and what it can

do for both the band and the fan.

"The road and the studio are two very different vibes. I couldn't do just one. You get to experience life full-force and in your face on the road," Winger said. "But the studio gives you a chance to make something perfect, and even capture something a little more enduring."

Dayroom shrugs off comparisons to other bands known for both their extensive touring and studio intensity.

"We don't really see ourselves being influenced by Phish or Widespread. We do listen to a lot of Prince bootlegs in the van, though. But, of course, not the widespread Prince," Winger said. "Traveling in the van really lets you get to know the songs. What you can do with them and how you can keep it interesting each night."

It is that mentality that keeps Dayroom going, night after night, and the crowds notice.

"People are starting to follow us around, which is both cool and freaky at the same time," Winger said.

Winger said he really enjoys playing in Nebraska, and feels that our local scene is comprised of some great up and coming bands.

"I really like Nebraska and I hope we end up playing here a lot more".