David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Bruce Springsteen entertains his fans during his recent Lincoln performance.

Singers . . .

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He donned beads, braids, hats, make-up and other paraphernalia until he looked like a designer bag lady. Poof. The gimmick he needed to sell with a good voice.

Same way with Cyndi Lauper. She didn't have a hit record til she dyed her hair orange, shaved it on one side and started throwing her clothes on with a pitchfork.

But I'm glad not everybody is a phony. I'm glad there are some bad singers who have the courage to go out there and be excruciatingly real.

Rock just wouldn't be the same without Berry's sappy voice on "Maybelline" or Dylan's raspy voice belting out "Tangled up in Blue" or Springsteen's gutsy reality in "Born to Run." These people are real, and their voices are perfect for their songs. But, to say they have perfect voices would be stretching the truth.

Seriously, though, if I were Bruce Springsteen, I'd thank my bank account that I couldn't sing. Heck, he's got everything else going for him — rugged down-to-earth image, verve, energy, emotion, songwriting genius, tight pants, ripped shirts and enough charisma to charm a pig out of the mud. Why spoil all that with a good voice?

If Springsteen had a golden, pure voice — that is, if he could sing well in the absolute sense — I'm convinced he would be an unparalleled flop. You can't be the savior of backstreet rock'n'-roll America with an uptown penthouse voice. So, he's content to be an enormously successful diamond-in-the-rough — lots of rough.

So, there goes my excuse about a bad voice. But I don't *look* like a rock star. But hold on, again. Joe Cocker? Mick Jagger?

Whenever I see Jagger's motley face on stage, I get a good feeling. Tremendous confidence, you know? I mean, if he can be a major rock star with a face that looks like latex rubber, I should be able to ascend to emperor of the western hemisphere with mine.

I love Mick. I love Bruce. They're symbols of hope for us all. They don't know that they can't do what they're doing — they just go out and do it. And for that, I will be eternally grateful. Thanks guys.

Class...

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She began her first teaching job in Palisade at $90 a month. When she was offered a job in Cambridge, she took it because she got a $10 pay raise. And she moved again to Wilbur for a "whopping" $125 a month income.

In 1939, Arlene married a young Wilbur doctor and gave up her teaching job. Because jobs were scarce, married women were not allowed to work.

"Rules were rules and you accepted them," Arlene says. "We (women) were very gullible.

"You young folks today are so much more sophisticated — so much more aware of the world around you," Arlene says. "You are much better educated.

"We just lived in our own little world, here at the university."

Arlene recently moved back to Lincoln, and hopes to visit the UNL campus to see the changes.

Walter "Duke" Nolte, a 1934 UNL graduate, remembers his college years as the worst days of the Depression, 1932 to 34.

"They were very hard times," he says. "It was very rare that students had enough money to go to school."

Duke was born in Hiawatha, Kan. When he came to Nebraska to begin college, he joined the National Guard. He says that by being in the guard, he was treated as a Nebraska resident, and saved the $25 out-of-state tuition fee. He also made $1.23 per guard drill, which helped pay his expenses, he says.

Although the university was not as big, nor as popular as today, Duke says, "football was just as popular — just not as successful."

Even in those days, he says, Nebraska fans were very loyal. And Homecoming floats and parades were "big events." Duke lived in Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

"Fraternity's had a little more political influence in my day," Duke says. The fraternities had two parties, which operated the student government. And, he says, rivalries about issues were frequent.

Because times were so hard, 80 percent of the men in his fraternity had jobs. Duke says he paid $16 a month for room and board.

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