

Band uses versatility to overcome size

By Lise Olson
Staff Reporter

The Finnsters have been playing together since July. But the friendship between the three band members goes back to the seventh grade.

In those days, Rick Cowling, Terry Olson and T.K. Olson had a band that often performed at Irving Junior High dances. Throughout junior high and high school, the trio continued to play together and separately in bands like Cast of Players, New Movement and the Pud Brothers.

REVIEW BEAT IS LINCOLN MUSIC REVIEW

So the formation of the Finnsters last July was just another step in the intertwined musical careers of the three friends.

The Finnsters play new wave music, '60s tunes and original music that is easy to dance to. The group can be surprising. Amidst a set of U-2, Police and the Clash, the band might break into a wild rendition of the Surfari's "Wipe Out," or a Monkees' tune.

The group's name also reflects its humorous side. "Finnster" is a mutation of the name of the Adam's family TV series character "Uncle Fester."

The group is a little more serious when it comes to performing its original songs. The group's style reflects the influences of groups like REM and the Beatles. The band members plan to record one of their songs, "On the Way," as a single, and eventually make an album.

Band members admit that sometimes their sound is limited by their size. But, Terry said, three-piece bands have fewer arguments. T.K. shares his brother's positive attitude.

"I've been in bands with as many people as seven, T.K. said. "I'm more pleased with the progress of this band than any other I've been in."

The Finnsters compensate for their size with their versatility: all three can play guitar, bass drums and keyboards. They divide the responsibilities. T.K. usually plays drums, and Terry and Rick take turns with the guitar and bass. All three sing lead and background vocals.

The band seems to have few problems coordinating its efforts without a "lead singer." "We're familiar and comfortable with each other's abilities," T.K. said.

On stage, the Finnsters play as much for their own pleasure as for that of the audience. They smile often, and move around comfortably in tennis shoes. Their vocals are clean.

Terry gives part of the credit for the group's quality to "sound man" Tim



The Finnsters, Terry Olson, left, T.K. Olson and Rick Cowling.

David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan

Kechley, owner of Master Trax, 1844 N St.

The Finnsters try to appeal to the college crowd.

"We'd like to try to get a following on campus — it's a good way to start," T.K. said.

T.K. is a senior majoring in pre-law at UNL. Rick is a junior computer science major. Terry, a former UNL student, is taking the year off from school to concentrate on making money and music.

All three say they would be ready to

drop everything else if the Finnsters began to make it big, but until then they plan to have a lot of fun playing part time.

This semester, the Finnsters plan to perform two or three weekends a month at private parties and nightclubs.

Album due in March

Iowa's Boys with Toys invade union

By David H. Sjuln
Staff Reporter

In 1982 a group of boys from the University of Iowa came to Lincoln. The score then was Nebraska 42 and Iowa 7.

That was three years ago. At that time another group of boys from Iowa City were starting a band. That band was Boys with Toys.

This Friday Boys With Toys will invade the Nebraska Union's Centennial Room. The non-alcoholic dance is open to the public and will run from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The dance is being

sponsored by Beta Theta Pi, the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs and KXSS radio.

This year the score promises to be different. The Boy's unique brand of rock and pop is becoming one of the areas hottest attractions. The music is fast and furious with only one thing in mind — dancing.

The Boys' music is simple but infectious. They have just finished an album titled the *Big House*, which is due out in late March.

Boys With Toys consists of Bradley Jones on guitar, Joel Carey on bass and Tommy Meyer on drums. Each grew up in Iowa and they met while attending the University of Iowa.

Even with these strong Iowa ties the group had nothing but praise for Lincoln. "The people in Lincoln have big rock'n'roll hearts," Jones

When asked to compare Nebraska college crowds with Iowa's, Jones said, "Nebraskans seem less inhibited, and more willing to kick up their heels."

With this attitude the Boys' aren't at all apprehensive about playing their first non-alcoholic party.

The Boys' reputation is growing and UNL students can catch the fun Friday night in the union. The tickets are available for \$3 from members of Beta Theta Pi or at the door.

Shorts

Because of unavoidable scheduling conflicts, the following changes have been made in the schedule of the screenings of "Metropolis." It will be shown at 1, 7 and 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20. All screenings that day are open to the public. The 7 p.m. screening on Thursday, Feb. 21 is open only to the guests of the College of Architecture's Department of Urban Planning. There will be no 9 p.m. screening that evening. "Metropolis" will show as scheduled on Friday, Feb. 22 (7 and 9 p.m.) and Saturday, Feb. 23 (3, 7 and 9 p.m.).

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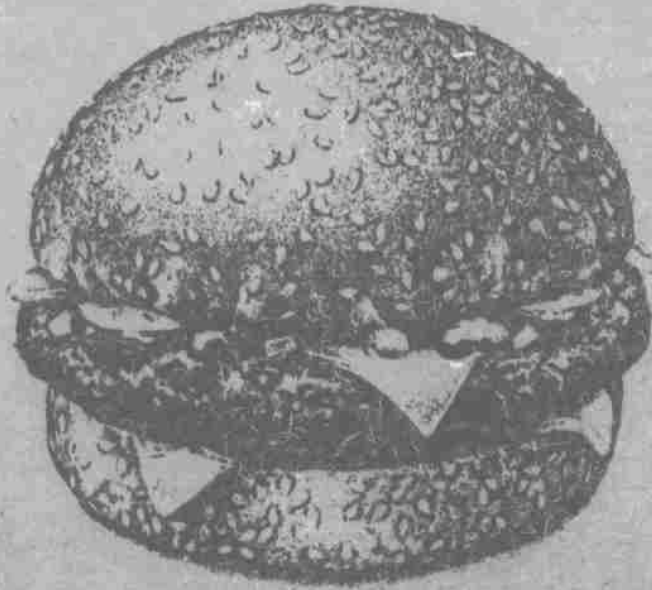
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