

Diversions



Kurt Eberhardt/Daily Nebraskan

Burton aims beyond local spotlight

By Mike Grant
Staff Reporter

Charlie Burton, of Charlie Burton and the Hiccups, was tired. He laid his head against the back of the booth in the Union's Corncrib and closed his eyes as he answered questions.

Trying to push a local band into the national spotlight is no piece of cake, yet even at the end of a long day, Burton fields questions about his latest album "I Heard That!" with infectious wit.

"The technical quality is the first thing we stressed for this album," Bur-

ton said. "We took a lot more time, and we had a real producer this time."

Burton said the band's producer and engineer, Lou Whitney, (formerly of the Moreells) added a country influence to the record.

"We even got the title from the southern Missouri ambience," Burton said. "Down in Springfield, Missouri, if you agree with someone, or if you don't even know what they're saying, you just say 'I heard that,' and you're covered."

There has been a lot of confusion over the name of Charlie Burton's back-up band.

The original name of the band, "The Cutouts," was dropped because record buyers associated the band with cut rate records. They dropped the next name, "The Go-Cups," because in Missouri slang it means the container for off-sale liquor.

One night, while playing at the Howard Street Tavern in Omaha, Burton said the band noticed that someone had crossed out "Go" on the posted schedule and wrote over it "Hic" — "The Hiccups."

The band liked the name and sent it in to the printers who were making the

album cover. The alteration is one of the reasons the album took so long to come out, Burton said.

In the past, Burton's music has been called "garage-band punk." Burton said he shies away from such terminology, "because the garage-band sound was developed by only a few bands in about 1966 to 1967.

"I think people have called us that in the past because the technical sound of our last records was so shitty," Burton said.

More than any other quality of the band, Burton's song-writing ability

stands out. Few other musicians can weave love stories and life messages around something as mundane as a garage sale, and still make it rhyme.

Burton said he credits his ability to an offbeat combination of influences, ranging from Gilbert and Sullivan to Chuck Berry.

"I like making double meanings and multiple rhymes within one line of a song like they did," Burton said.

"I got a lot of my influences from my parents. My folks were always listening

Please see **BURTON** on 8