

Arts & Entertainment

Bob Popular calls its music energetic

By Susan Kisicki
Staff Reporter

The adage "two heads are better than one" might be applied to a new local band called Bob Popular.

Several members from two disbanded groups, Why Not? and New Movement, pooled talent last summer. Guitarist Dave Farrens and drummer Rich Egger II are former members of Why Not?. Tom Fricke, who plays several instruments including keyboards and acoustic guitar, and bass guitarist Jay Bee are former members of New Movement.

Members of Bob Popular are all UNL students.

Local Band

The members work part time and attend school full time. Yet they find time to perform on weekends, usually at parties and bars such as Chesterfield, Bottomsley & Potts or the Drumstick.

Bob Popular plays rock, reggae, new wave and even a few psychedelic songs. The band describes their music as "energetic dance music."

The group performs some songs that aren't well-known, Bee said, like the music of the Undertones, an Irish band, or Let's Active, a Georgia band.

But the group also performs songs by REM, the Beatles, the Who, the Romantics, U2 and the Clash, he said.

Reading delivers poetry plus jazz

"In Transit," a dramatized poetry reading with live jazz accompaniment will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Nebraska Directors' Theatre, 1110 Q St.

A donation will be requested at the door.

In the piece, two street people find comfort and companionship in an alley. As they share their wealth, they tell their stories about lives in alleys and on highways.

The "stories" are poems written and performed by two Lincoln poets, Bob Marion and Kurt Laurson.

The musicians include Dave Novak on drums, John Carlini on piano, Dennis Taylor on bass and Dick Hess on trombone.

"In Transit" was a poetry magazine published in Lincoln during the 1960s. The participants hope that this performance might renew interest and publication of the magazine.

About a third of Bob Popular's songs are the group's originals.

Like many aspiring musicians, members of Bob Popular have a dilemma: They can play the music they like or play the music that sells.

Unfortunately for many local groups, their original music doesn't sell. Farrens said that to play at many bars or parties, groups are required to play songs familiar to the crowd. He said Bob Popular overcomes the problem partly by mixing their originals with old favorites.

Bob Popular members seem to have a sort of disdain toward popular, trendy music. The name Bob Popular reflects this disdain. Egger, who thought of the name, said that it was first used satirically to describe groups that crowds flock to see, as if they were "Bob Popular."

Farrens said the legal drinking age is part of the reason their original songs don't fare well. About the only college students who can see the band perform at bars are upper-classmen, he said. And these students have been conditioned to certain types of music. He said an 18-year-old would be more open to new and different music.

Bob Popular opens at 9:30 p.m. for the Model Citizen's Club at the Drumstick, 547 N. 48th, tonight and Saturday. The cover is \$3.



Bob Popular

David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

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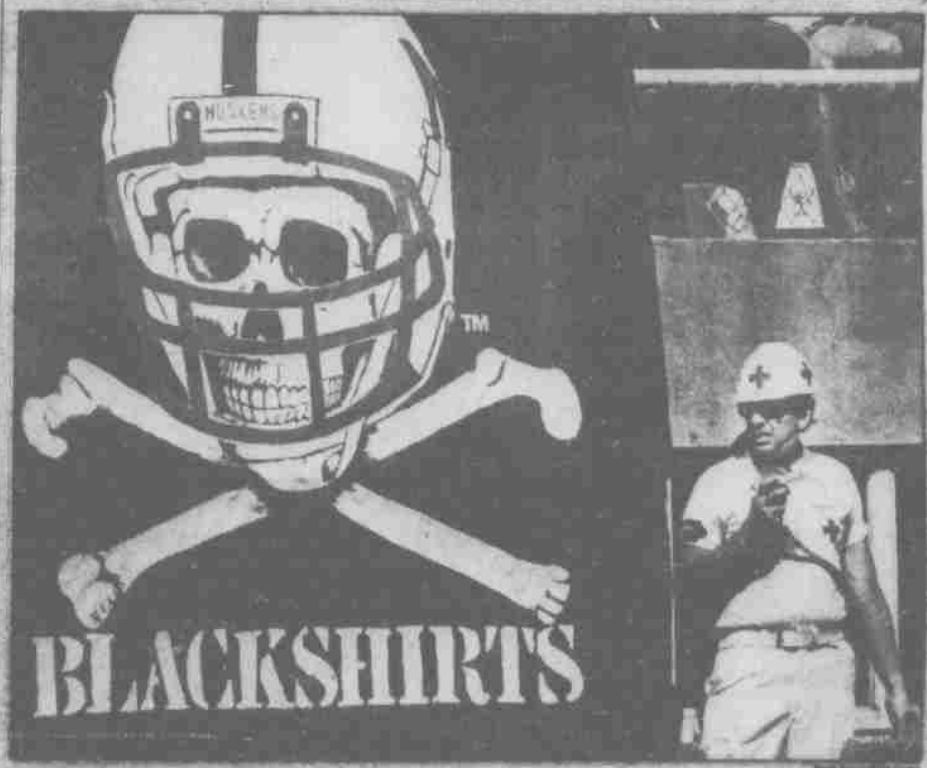
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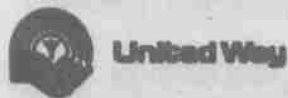


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