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The Lunchcats' menu is full of pop, funk and country snacks

By Terri Tabor
 Staff Reporter

Clothhopper funk. That phrase is one used to describe one of Lincoln's freshest new bands, the Lunchcats, performing Friday and Saturday night at the Drumstick.

Band members agree, their efforts are a conglomeration of country, funk, heavy metal and pop.

"It's a totally divergent thing here — strange threads have come together and I hope they weave themselves into a chord," said Bruce Nelson, guitarist for the Lunchcats.

The Lunchcats, with Sara Kovanda on vocals and keyboards, Mark Penner on bass, Bruce Nelson on guitar and Rodney McCoy on drums formed in mid-July of this year.

In three months, they've created enough original material to do two sets. Kovanda, former lead vocalist for the Click and Progress, writes all of their material.

Songwriter Kovanda also has an overpowering stage presence.

"We put everything into it — every single performance," Kovanda said. "We're looking to be a show, a production. If people can dance, they will

dance, and if they don't, they will be thoroughly entertained by what they see."

One entertaining aspect is the band's multi-image "dissolving slide show," put together by Daniel Westra.

"It's a combination of different animated short subjects. They're all different," Westra said. "Some show a sequence and the beginning and the end make sense. It (the slide show) does something exciting. It's based on the same type of concept as the 'Plastic Exploding Inevitable' by the Velvet Underground."

Spontaneity is another aspect of the Lunchcats' shows Kovanda has been known to open packages and put on lipstick while performing on stage.

"We don't even know what we're gonna do sometimes," she said.

Goose lights, mother goose rings and eccentric dress have all been part of the Lunchcats' performances. Kovanda is capable of making a dress to wear five minutes before a show, McCoy reported.

The Lunchcats just finished a tour in Iowa which the band called a great success.

"It was great," McCoy said. "People in Iowa are real responsive. Everyone

respects live music there. It's a different atmosphere."

Nelson believes that Iowa has more of a "club atmosphere" than Nebraska, but said Lincoln is lucky to have clubs like The Drumstick and The Zoo.

"People should realize how valuable clubs are — they give bands a chance. I'm looking forward to the 1990s and to seeing something solidify in Lincoln. There's a serious attitude in creating a scene here. It just takes a couple of people to stick their necks out to create it. Maybe we'd like to try and do that or be a stepping stone to someone else," Nelson said.

"We're planning on making a video someday. It'll be a combination of live action and animation," Westra said.

"It'll be our own little version of 'War and Peace,'" Penner added.

Band members said they would like to tour more. "It's fun on the road," Penner said.

The Lunchcats said their goal is to become a successful band. However, Penner said, he won't be happy until "all of our faces are on lunchboxes." Kovanda said one of her goals is "to be on the Phil Donahue Show."

For now, the group is working on establishing a local reputation.

The Dead Kennedys are alive

DEAD from Page 9

Flouride is everywhere with his long-necked bass, spinning, his white shirt flying. Jello is lying on the stage, his head over the edge. The skinheads leap onto the stage and somersault off into the mass: double flips, belly flops, mayhem only slightly controlled. East Bay Ray is exceeding noise limits on his guitar. The owner of Rainbow Sounds has his back turned.

"Slam dancing is fine. Jumping off the stage is great. But are any of you really listening? Do any of you under-

stand what we're saying?" Jello, who can hear?

"You such like a leach/you want everyone to act like you/Kiss ass while you bitch/so you can get rich/but the boss gets richer off you..."

The police in Amsterdam arrested a friend of one of the Kennedys' roadies. "They got him on the ground and they were kicking him and kicking him and kicking him. The mob that had gathered burned practically every police station in the city. You don't hear that on television...I guess this is a good time for

'Let's Lynch the Landlord' " incites Biafra.

"Roaches up to my knees/turn the oven on, it smells like Dachau, yeah/Til the rain pours through the ceiling/but we can, we know we can/Let's lynch the landlord..."

That night, to get to sleep I counted 15-year-old skinheads leaping over my bed. I had this dream: Jello Biafra was Pontius Pilate and he was asking a whole room full of leather Jesus' "What is truth?"

Osborne's 'More Than Winning' first on UNL best seller list

The following is a list of the best selling books compiled by the University and Nebraska bookstores. Once again Stephen King is well-represented with two books on one list and three on another.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

1. "The Bachman Books," Stephen King (N.A.L., \$9.95)
2. "The Talisman," Stephen King (Berkeley, \$4.95)
3. "Valley of the Far Side," Gary Larson (Andrews, McMeel and Parker, \$5.95)
4. "Thinner," Stephen King (N.A.L. \$4.50)
5. "Deadeye Dick," Kurt Vonnegut (Dell \$3.95)
6. "Penguin Dreams and Strange Things," Berke Brethed (Little, Brown \$6.95)
7. "More Than Winning," Tom Osborne (Thomas Nelson \$12.95)

8. "Job: A Comedy of Justice," Robert Heinlein (Del Rey \$4.50)

NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE

1. "More Than Winning," Tom Osborne (Thomas Nelson, \$12.95)
2. "The Talisman," Stephen King (Berkeley, \$4.95)
3. "Heaven," V. C. Andrews (Pocket \$4.50)
4. "The Bachman Books," Stephen King (Plume, \$9.95)
5. "Garfield Rolls On," Jim Davis (Ballentine, \$5.95)
6. "Jitterbug Perfume," Tom Robbins (Bantam, \$4.50)
7. "Valley of the Far Side," Gary Larson (Andrews and McMeel, \$5.95)
8. "Lake Wobegone Days," Garrison Keillor (Viking, \$17.95)