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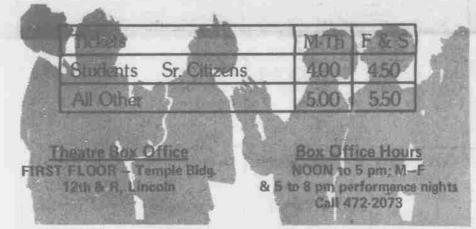
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TONIGHT!

Ghosts

November 7 thru 9 and November 11 thru 16 Studio Theatre at 8:00 p.m.



University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Stipe

David Creamer/Dally Nebraskan

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## R.E.M. echoes the reconstruction: 'the wall's been built up stone by stone'

By Charles Lieurance Senior Reporter

"I stood before our home the other day. Other people live in it now. Do you remember the big oak tree in front? The branches were cut back so as not to interfere with the telephone wires, and the tree died. The limbs are rotten, and there is a hollow place in the trunk. Also the cat here at the store ate something poisonous and died. It was very sad."

- Carson McCullers, "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter."

## Concert Review

R.E.M. takes the stage of the Omaha Music Hall Tuesday night, a parade of fleeting shadows, ghosts of the postbellum reconstruction. The wraiths are singing, "All I Have to Do is Dream" by the Everly Brothers. The song is dressed in cerecloth, something lost is rising up again.

The lighting is deep green and blue. colors flowing into one another. The acoustic bubbles over the stage are now soft, organic mushroom hoods, a brooding psychedelic field.

talking to themselves about the old says hello, doesn't talk to anybody and the beautiful, about their youth:

"The wall's been built up/stone by stone/The fields divided one by one. . .

Everything comes in patches. Lead singer Michael Stipe's long serious face is in the bright yellow light and then, quickly recedes into the shadow. Nothing can be held.

Blanche DuBois in "Streetcar Named Desire" backs away from Mitch into the shadows. She is decaying and wants only to be seen in the dim light. The southern Belle is old and rotting.

"Old man Kinsey wants to be a sign painter/First he's gotta learn to stand ... '

The backdrop is now a sky and whisps of clouds, fingers clutching at a cliffside.

'Old man Kinsey wants to be a dogcatcher/But first he's gotta learn to stand..."

Stipe crosses his arms over the microphone and lays his head on the arms like a drunk head down on the bar lamenting, lost in the endless filigree of conscience and memory. You know how that goes. . .

"Looking at your watch a third time/waiting at the station for Everything comes in patches, the the bus/goin'to a placethat's far, words become suddenly coherent and so far away/and if that's not

then fade into mumbling, like old men enough/you're goin 'where nobody they don't know/you'll wind up in some factory. . . "

The drunks in the south know everything. I suppose the drunks everywhere have the right idea. . .

"At night I drink myself to sleep/and pretend I don't care that you're not here with me/ ... but something better happen soon/or it's gonna be too late to bring me back. . .

Stipe tells a story about how a good old boy and his buddy get a truck and a coffin and go down to the supermarket. The audience is yelling. Stipe says he's

trying to tell a story. "Try and maintain yourself," he says. The good old boy confronts a woman in the parking lot and tells her he's got

a coffin in the back of his truck. The lady says she doesn't believe him. He says I'll show you. He takes her to the truck and opens the coffin. His buddy's in there, his arms folded across his chest. He opens his eyes and says, "Boo."

Like an evening in some Georgia bar, snippets of country songs fade ir and out within the songs. It's authentic Americana, sentimental ghosts, stories of the split, the horrible reconstruction, the great hollow tree:

Please see R.E.M. on 10