

# One Whisper to play at union

By Elizabeth Snuttjer  
Staff Reporter

One Whisper is coming out of the basement into the flourishing local music scene.

## Band Preview

This Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union they play with For Against and the Lunch Cats in a promotion called "New Band Land." All proceeds will go to the food bank of Lincoln. Admission is \$3.

One Whisper is Roger Benes on keyboards and lead vocals, Les Bennett on guitar, Jeff Dell on the drums and Pat Yarusso on bass.

The group's members have played in several former local bands. Bennett was in The Untouchables,

Boy Friday and The Mystery Zone. Yarusso was in The Pedestrians and French Leave. Dell was in French Leave and Benes was in The Mystery Zone and The Pedestrians.

One Whisper plays mostly originals and some covers. Their music includes anything from rock to funk and jazz.

"We try to keep away from heavy metal," Bennett said.

About 60 percent of their tunes are original, Benes said. "Our originals aren't as obscure as some band's. They are songs that people can relate to right away," he said.

What are their songs about? "About 3 minutes," Benes said.

In general the songs respond to situations involving people, feelings and actions, said songwriter Benes. Titles include "Looking for a Better Day," "Listen to Your Heart," "I've Noticed You," and "Nothing's Changed."

"We work for what we get and if we don't get it we know we didn't work hard enough," Bennett said.

"Practices are kind of military," Yarusso said. There is a set time, place and punishment if you are late, he said, adding that practices usually are four times a week and last 2 to 4 hours.

"We spend all day getting ready for a gig... for example, last Friday setting up for a Greek party, we got there at 1:30 p.m. and didn't get home until 3 a.m.," Benes said.

Why invest that time?

"We love it!" Benes said.

"The money's nice," Dell said.

"We are doing it for chicks. Where are the chicks?" Bennett said, shrugging.

One Whisper has played Greek parties, bars and various private parties. If you miss them tonight, they play at the Drumstick Nov. 16.

# BTO belts out sound with intensity; but new songs lack raw energy

By Bill Allen  
Senior Editor

"We're going to play some rock 'n' roll tonight — BTO style," C.F. Turner promised the Royal Grove crowd Tuesday night. They delivered.

Opening with their 1974 hit, "Let It Ride," Canada's Bachman Turner Overdrive came out rocking and kept on rocking, sometimes barely audible over the roar of the nostalgic audience.

## Concert Review

The recent interest in blue collar rock has propelled such bands as John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown band to national fame. It has given Bruce Springsteen the superstardom he has deserved so long, and it has brought

back BTO for another tour.

Cafferty played to a sold-out house at the Grove a couple months ago. BTO was awarded the same honor. By the time the show started at 10:45 the grove's dance floor was converted by sheer mass to a standing-room-only concert reunion.

The reunion was reminiscent of a time before bands got by on echo chambers, synthesizers and video stations. When BTO was popular you had to be able to *play* the instruments and write songs, not just look good on film.

BTO hit every chord, belting out the sound with precision riffs and hard-jamming intensity that picked up the crowd and shook them.

The only new member of BTO is Garry Peterson, formerly of the Guess Who. His licks were crisp, yet booming and seemed to applaud the guitar work of

Tim and Randy Bachman and Turner's bass.

When they played the old stuff, like the classic "Taking Care of Business," the concert ranked as an all-time great, but BTO's new songs lacked the power of their earlier work. "Fragile Man," seemed forced and grasped unsuccessfully for that old energy.

While the music of "Just Can't Wait for the Weekend," wasn't spectacular, the lyrics were among BTO's better new work and magnify their working class themes for the working class crowd:

*"Only one thing I like/only one thing gets me through/Just can't wait for the weekend, baby/and just being with you."*



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