

"Sound"

Having been refreshed by recent travel, my return home was made all the more pleasant by the appearance of a few surprisingly good recordings in my mail pile.

From across the Atlantic, Britain's Bluurg Records has produced the versatile "Open Mind Surgery" compilation, which highlights a small but growing trend among hardcore labels: bands using a variety of musical styles. Nine bands from three continents each contributed two songs. Each band also contributed a page of writing and art to an informative booklet that comes with the album.



fifth by bryan
column peterson

One standout is Culture Shock, whose vocalist Dick sang for the Subhumans. Culture Shock has a heavily reggae influenced style. Steve L. sings and plays acoustic guitar on two of the album's best songs, "There's a Place" and the brilliant "Song of Freedom." Civilized Society, who just released "Shrapnel," and fellow Brits the Depraved unleashed some mighty thrashers.

The two non-English bands on this album provide further interest.

K4, hailing from New Zealand, uses alternating male/female vocals in a pair of songs about sexism and chauvinism. Americans Scream contributed two more blasts of unpredictable reggae-funk-punk mix. Songs of all styles are interspersed on each side, resulting in a very listenable outpouring of music and lyrics.

Forethought, a three-piece band from San Francisco, is gaining many listeners with its toned-down hardcore style, sometimes reminding me of fellow SFers Short Dogs Grow. Forethought, however, has crafted more serious, challenging lyrics. An inability to provide labels gives Forethought's music its attractiveness.

The band's earlier, 10-song demo tape is full of quirky, catchy songs that strike me as "almost hardcore," slower and more laid back, with a greater emphasis on musical ability. One of the best songs is "Life is Revolution" The song's entire lyrics are: "Beauty can't be made/From diseased bricks/Life is change." Other notables include "I Found" and a vicious attack upon American "Easy Life."

Last October, Forethought released an EP with five pointed songs in a similar style. It is titled in Spanish and lyrics are printed in both English and Spanish — "English is a foreign language too." Forethought also touches on this idea in "Let Them Come Across," concerning "illegal" immigration. It urges, "Storm the borders/That legalize greed/Don't label me/No government is mine/I'm a member of humanity."

As if to balance a number of positive songs (notably "I Love Life" from the tape), Forethought offers "What Makes the Machine Keep

Running?"; a wrenching look at despair and the system's absorption of individuals. The overall effect is a well-rounded, enjoyable pair of releases.

The seven members of the Netherlands' the Exhave completed an interesting package about the 1936 Spanish Revolution. Included are four songs recorded on two 7-inch discs and a 150-page book. The book is made almost entirely of black-and-white photos from the Spanish Civil War.

The songs combine folk and post-punk influences and are quite listenable. Lyrics alternate between English and Spanish, since three are based on songs popular during the revolution. The fourth song, "People Again," describes how the revolution transformed the lives of ordinary people; with lyrics culled from an interview with a day laborer of the time.

The photographs document the people's support of anarcho-communist trade unions such as the CNT and its anarchist core, the FAI. The photos are taken by people in the movement and reveal the human aspect of the revolution. Much emphasis is placed on the activities of these unions and their fight against the fascist forces of Franco, who was struggling to control the whole of Spain.

The entire package is an excellent source of educational material, from Emma, the longtime squat in Amsterdam. Emma, a vacant warehouse basement, served as home, gig space and recording studio for many European hardcore and otherwise underground musicians. Yet they plan soon to release another followup to their earlier double album/poster/booklet set, "Blue Prints for a Blackout."



BIG RED POOL ROOM SPECIALS

SUNDAY: FREE Hour of Pool with \$1.75 purchase

MONDAY: Tournament Night Cash ★ Food ★ Prizes

WEDNESDAY: \$1.50 Pitchers & 50° Draws

MON thru FRI: \$2.00 per hour Pool 2-5 pm

SPRING BREAK HERE IN LINCOLN!

RECORDING ARTISTS
FIREHOSE
FEATURING MIKE & GEORGE FROM THE MINUTEMEN AND ED IRONHORN

D.C.3

FEATURING DEZ FROM BLACK FLAG, PAUL FROM TWISTED ROOTS AND LOUIE AND CAESAR FROM THE STAINS

CRIMONY

FEATURING PAUL FROM D.C.3 AND MIKE FROM FIREHOSE!

HAHDKÖR '87 TOUR

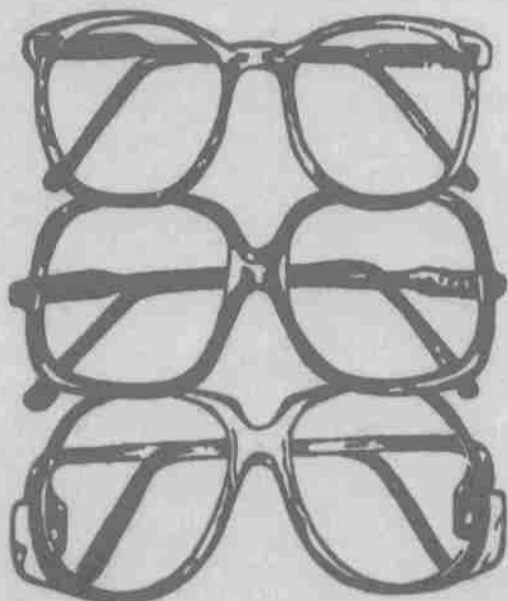
APPEARING MARCH 27TH

At 813 "Q" Street, Lincoln, Haymarket

Advanced tickets \$5.00, available at: Pickles (Omaha & Lincoln), Dirt Cheap (Lincoln), Drastic Plastic (Omaha). Admission at door: \$6.00.



You Can't Pay More than \$39.95!



Complete Eyeglasses

SINGLE VISION **\$19.95**

BIFOCALS **\$29.95**

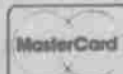
1,000 frames to choose from. First quality lenses only. Our only Extras: Cox Coating (scratch guard)-\$10 and Photo Grey Extra (lenses that darken)-\$10.

Optical Outlet

1304 Harlan Dr.
(Hwy. 370 & Galvin Rd.)
291-5669
BELLEVUE

237 S. 70th St.
(2 blks. south of "O" St. in Esquire Pl.)
489-2644
LINCOLN

5102 S. 108th St.
(1 blk. north of "Q" St.)
339.5310
OMAHA



M-F 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.