

Schmit, Shaw produce paltry singles

REVIEW from Page 8
sive album that will probably wind up next to your Bauhaus collection of cool party music.

—Mick Dyer

Timothy B. Schmit, "Boys Night Out," MCA Records.
Tommy Shaw, "No Such Thing," Atlantic Records.

If they can put men on the moon, why can't they put a stop to Eagles and Styx solo albums?

For some reason, Schmit seems to think his bankrupt material demands a smooth, soulful voice. He seems to think he has one. It seems to make me think he'd be better off as a street mime.

He's not quite as annoying as, say, a George Michael or a Michael McDonald (no relation); at least they

have a certain level of competence. Schmit's vocal range and style contain all the subtle style and beauty of balloon rubbing. As all three — singer, songwriter and musician — Schmit was easily the worst Eagle ever. No mean feat.

Fortunately, and probably because of this, everything else about the song is equally wretched, so things balance out pretty well in the end.

Remember that great, pathetic, whining Eagles classic, "I Can't Tell You Why?" Yup, that was Schmit. His voice hasn't lost that grating quality, but this time he's warbling about something or other going on "down in Mex-ee-co-oh." He wants to be Glenn Frey, but can't quite find the depth and magnitude within himself to come up with a meaningful Pepsi jingle or nuggets for "Mi-

ami Vice" soundtracks. If he only had an inkling how low his sights were set.

Shaw, on the other hand, doesn't pretend to have a smooth, soulful voice. Nope. Shaw's horrible arena-rock nose-yowl is perfectly suited to this song. After what must have been excruciating weeks of production and overdubs, "No Such Thing" emerged from the mix sounding like a lame Boston on a bad day — but even shlockmeisters like Boston would never stoop to such drivel.

You have to give credit where credit is due, however. At least it doesn't sound anything like Styx. Foreigner or Loverboy, perhaps, but nothing at all like Styx.

In any case, if these are the hit singles, there's no way I'm going near the albums.

—Geoff McMurtry

Brave Combo leaves them dancing

By Mick Dyer
Staff Reporter

Brave Combo left a standing-room-only crowd on its feet after an encore performance at the Zoo Bar Wednesday night.

The self-styled nuclear-polka band from Denton, Texas, played to a mixed age-group audience at the bar.

Concert Review

Brave Combo is well-known for its eclectic musical style. While performing, the band was comfortable and competent with a variety of musical styles, ranging from polka and waltz to blues and Latin. Their ability to blend these styles gives them a distinct sound. The band members punctuate their music with a zany sense of humor, making the music exciting to listen to.

They played a variety of classic pop tunes, including "My Girl Lollypop," "Keep Me Hanging

On" and "Woolly Bully," with a polka twist. Representative of their philosophy towards music was their version of "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" with accordion accompaniment. A cha-cha version of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and a cumbia version of "16 Tons" rounded out their repertoire of musical styles.

The band played several originals, including "New Mind Polka" and "Ice Machine in the Desert."

The band was full of musical jokes, like inserting new songs in the middle of the song being played. Both band members and audience delighted in the jokes.

Carl Finch is the lead man. His mania on stage was only exceeded by his musicianship. He plays keyboards, electric guitar and accordion, while providing most of the vocals. Occasionally he teased the audience, telling them that the mambo was a dance invented by Arthur Murray in the '50s.

Bubba Hernandez, playing electric bass, tuba and providing vocals for all of the songs sung in

Spanish, added his own form of craziness to the band's energy level.

The multitasking Jeffrey Barnes, who plays flute, saxophones, clarinet and a penny whistle, is full of musical intensity, although he stood nearly motionless through two sets and one encore.

Mitch Marine, mild-mannered drummer and vocalist, created a good-natured spirit behind the other band members that deserved attention of its own.

Audience participation was mostly toe-tapping during the first set. But by the end of the second sets, the tiny Zoo Bar dance floor was a throbbing mass of people. Brave Combo's encore medley — "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," "If I Had a Hammer," "Day Tripper" and "Roll Out the Barrel" — left the whole audience participating in one way...or another.

For the \$3 cover charge, Brave Combo is one of the best entertainment values Lincoln has seen in a long time. Band members said they plan to play in Lincoln again sometime next spring.



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