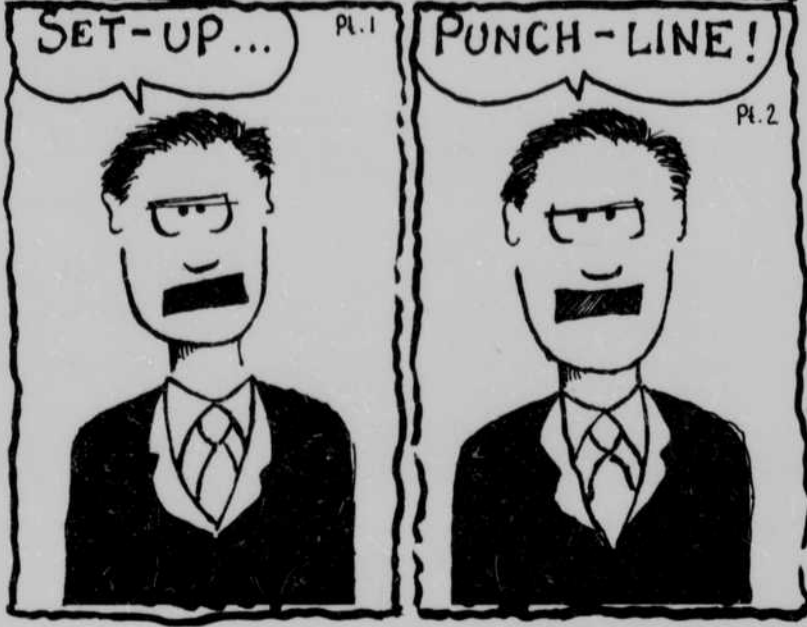


# ANATOMY OF A JOKE



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan



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Talking Heads "Naked" Fly/Sire records

With the release of their latest album "Naked," the Talking Heads have made a splendid comeback.



Courtesy of Fly/Sire Records

While never having actually broken up, rumors of strife in the band and of Byrne's domination during the making of "Little Creatures" and "True Stories" (they were essentially a soundtrack and outtakes from Byrne's 1986 film of the latter album's name), as well as their increasingly pop sound, had some Heads worried about the fate of their band.

Returning more to the direction they explored on the 1980s "Remain in Light" album, the first half of "Naked" is filled with African and

Latin rhythms. Most of the album was recorded in the "musical crossroads" of Paris.

The second side is mostly different types of music. Combined with Byrne's lyrics, they can even become scary.

Some of the scares Byrne inflicts are through his unflattering portrayals of human nature. In "The Democratic Circus" he compares our whole political process to a cheap carnival.

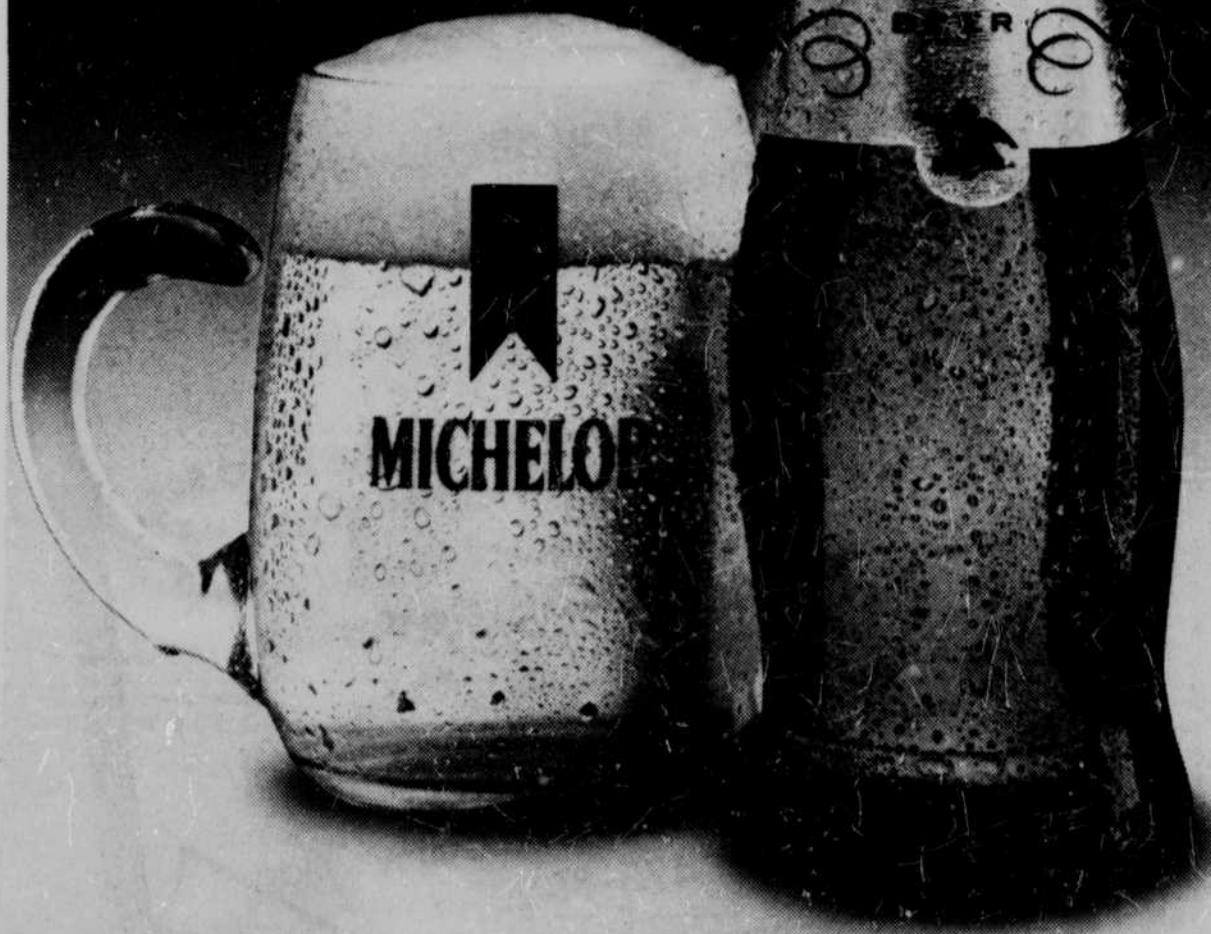
Highest praise to the album. The chart success the Heads have already gotten may help them stay successful with this side of their music, as well as help to follow up the success of Paul Simon's "Graceland" album in introducing African rhythms to U.S. mainstream music.

One complaint I have with the album is leaving off the song "Bill" on the vinyl version. Possibly because tapes and CDs can hold a few more minutes of music, the song will probably be released on the B-side of a single for fans who still want it. But the deletion practice is often part of a detestable attempt to discourage LP

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