

Local group pushes positivism, not drugs



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Chris Allerheiligen
Staff Reporter

The Tone Def Crew is a rap band with a positive message.

"We're not pushing dope like other rap artists," said Doc, otherwise known as Don Sanders. "Everything we do is positive."

The Great White Shark, a.k.a. Eric Johnson, said the band centers its themes on putting a positive view to the future world.

"Drugs and crime is not where it's at, but living the good life. Point, word and exact," said Shark, quoting a line from the band's song "This is Def" off of their album "Grand Def Audio."

The band first got together through mutual friends. Doc said that he and Shark shared music interests and got together and rapped.

The band came up with the name "Tone Def Crew" from "Tones that Definitely Hit Home."

Sanders, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln senior majoring in pre-law, said he gets his stage name from "the way we operate, work to-

gether and dissect the music."

Johnson, "Shark", a junior majoring in architecture at UNL, said, "the way I bite the beat and tear it apart," was the reason for his name.

Tone Def Crew is primarily a rap band. Doc said Shark usually writes the lyrics while Doc writes the music, but they often interchange duties.

Shark said the band likes rap "cuz it's hard to bring our message across in classical."

"We're diverse. We're not locked into rap, but rap has what rock lacks today," Doc said.

Doc said the band's rap music is different from the stereotypical rap.

"There is a lot of music in our songs, not just drums," he said.

"Our lyrical patterns are different," Shark said.

After doing commercials for KFRX and Dirt Cheap, the band was encouraged to write other songs, Shark said.

Doc said people have said the band has potential and the members' talent shouldn't go to waste.

The band chose to do a song on the Huskers because "it's something we

know about," Doc said.

In 1987, the band recorded the song "Hell-Raisin' Tour '87" for the Oklahoma game. The band members said the song was played on Lincoln radio stations.

The band then wrote and recorded "Danny Nee Rap." The band also recorded a video to this song.

After last Christmas, the band members wrote "Huskers '88" to commemorate the Cornhusker 1988 football season.

The song was recorded in July and released in August. The song found airplay on Lincoln radio stations KFRX, KHAT, and KQKQ, Doc said.

The band also has recorded and produced its own album, "Grand Def Audio," which includes "Huskers '88." The album is sold at Twisters, Nebraska Bookstore, Stadium Shop and Homers in Omaha.

As for the present, the band is negotiating a record contract with Hot Productions, a subsidiary of Warner Bros.

The band members hope to plan a tour, Shark said, but right now, school is their top priority.

'South of the Mountain' spins Appalachian family tale

By Micki Haller
Senior Editor

Somewhere in the Appalachian Mountains, folks are still spinning yarns like they have for generations.

kimball REVIEW

Roadside Theater's "South of the Mountain" traces two generations of a mountain family from the farm to the modern way of life in the coal mines.

But "South of the Mountain" is more than just a play.

On Kimball's stage, Nancy Jeffrey, Tommy Bledsoe and Ron Short told stories, danced, sang and played guitar, banjo and harmonica.

"South of the Mountain" was more like sitting in the kitchen at a family reunion than attending a cultural event.

In fact, many of the events in the play are taken from the memories of Ron Short's family.

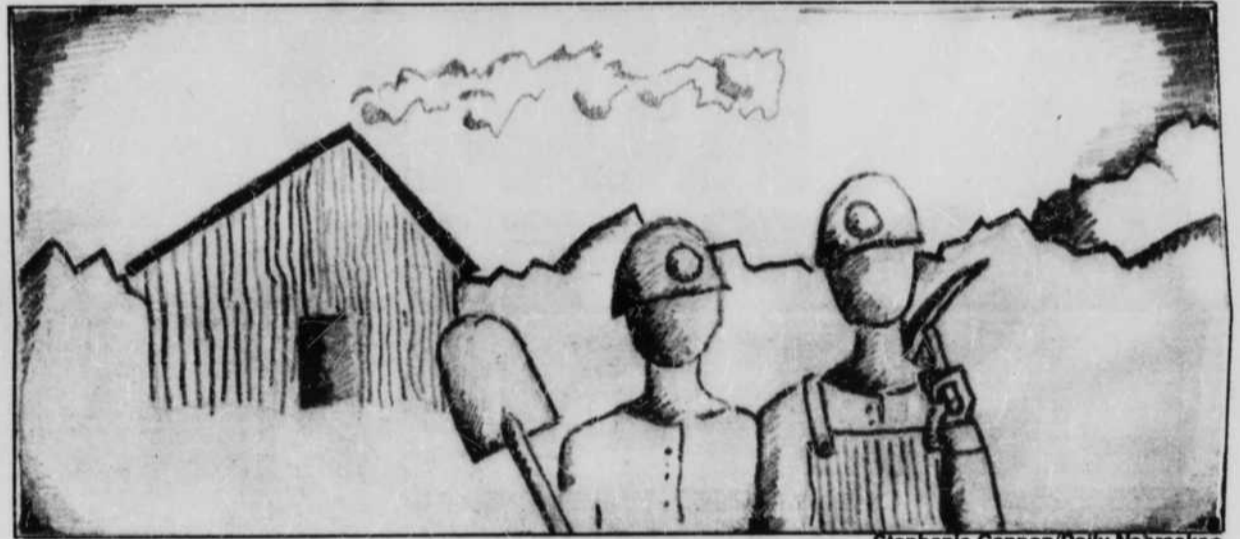
From the beginning, the storytellers drew the audience into the tale.

"Can you see me," the younger brother asked the people in the balcony. Not drawing much of a response, he asked, "Can you hear me?"

The audience responded, and he launched into some weather talk.

"One thing I noticed about Nebraska is the weather changes quick," he said, referring to Tuesday's sudden snowstorm. "I don't know why y'all

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Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

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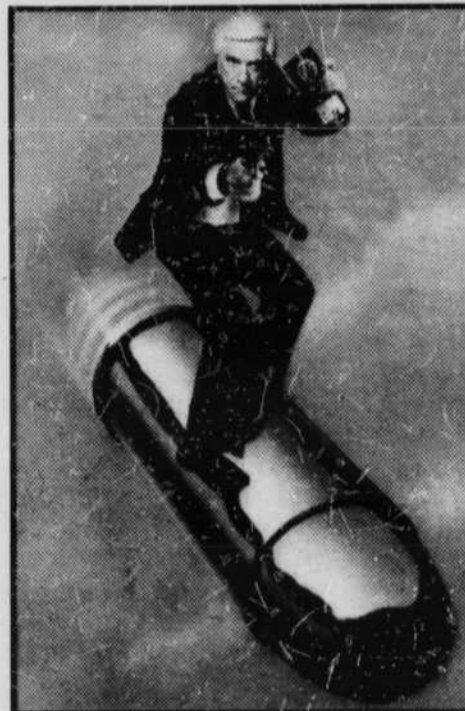
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