



Jeff Reiner/ Daily Nebraskan

By Mark Lage
Senior Reporter

"Spike," the latest album by rock and roll's true king, Elvis Costello, finds "the beloved entertainer" looking out more than in lyrically, and forward musically.

Known throughout his career for clever, wordy, and witty lyrics about such personal subjects that sometimes no one but him knows what they're about, with "Spike" Costello tends to aim his witticisms more towards the outside world, in the form of little musical narrations.

Musically, this album features an incredibly large list of musicians, playing a very diverse list of instruments. Often the combinations are interesting, too, and it all adds up to become a varied, ambitious album.

The first song, "... This Town ... features three very big Macs -- Roger McGuinn, Paul McCartney and Declan MacManus. McGuinn plays 12-string electric guitar, McCartney plays bass (think it might be a catchy song?), while MacManus (a.k.a. Costello) sings about entrepreneurial scum -- Mr. Getgood moved up to Self-Made Man Row/Although he swears that he's the salt of the earth/He's so proud of the 'kick-me-hard' sign that they hung on his back at birth."

In verse three there is some traditional Costello witty perversion-- "They made love while she was changing her dress/She wiped him off, she wiped him out and then

she made him confess."

Two songs on "Spike" were actually co-written by McCartney, although there's probably a tendency to make too big of a deal out of this. When you team up a songwriter who's consistently put out great stuff over the last decade (Costello), with a songwriter who has consistently put out sugary pap over the last decade (the other guy), and the results are two good songs, who probably deserves more of the credit?

McCartney does make his presence felt, though, especially on side one with "Veronica." With its incredibly catchy poppiness and its faraway horns, it sounds a little bit like Elvis Costello meets Sgt. Pepper.

The other most notable "Spike" songs are found on side one as well.

"Let Him Dangle" is a strange, twisted capital punishment tale, based on a actual crime. Only Elvis could do a capital punishment song like this without sounding like a fool. "Dangle" also adds musicians like Marc Ribot and Michael Blair (Tom Waits), and Benmont Tench.

Also on side one is the hilarious "God's Comic," about a comedic, drunken priest, "With a joke for the flock and a hand up your fleece."

Side two gets a little long, slow and drawn out during certain songs to hold the listener's interest the way side one does, but it isn't without some fine songs.

The other co-McCartney song is here, "Pads, Paws and Claws," fea-

turing a backwards, turned-inside out rockabilly beat.

Also on side two is "Baby Plays Around," written mostly by Costello's girlfriend, Cait O'Riordan. Elvis performs it solo, with vocals, bass pedals, and sparse acoustic guitar.

Overall, "Spike" simply features plenty of pure Costello. He takes on some big issues, he takes on some personal issues, and he tells some good stories, being by turns obnoxious, offensive, thoughtful and a little perverted.

In the end the only question to ask about a new Elvis Costello album: How many great songs does it have? Well, Spike has plenty, with fresh-sounding music to boot.

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Ted and Wally's owner says he likes new store

By Lisa Donovan
Senior Reporter

The neon sign in the window that can be seen while walking north on 14th Street is fun, subtle and inviting.

The old-fashioned bench adds a certain small-town hominess to the block and the building it sits in front of.

As the finely crafted wooden doors are opened, the sweet smells and the large philodendrons and ficus plants throughout the room frame the counter, which the owners pride themselves on building. Soft music creeps perfectly into the ear.

The rich, bright colors on a suspended chalk board convey the day's ice cream flavors.

Most are curious about who Ted and Wally are, and that's why it's hard to believe that Ted Weber, co-owners, would be asking whether a customer wants one scoop or two.

"I'm working more than I did two or three years ago," Weber said. "But I do it because I like it."

Weber recalls three years ago when he and his partner Dean Wally found out they would have to move out of their 12th and Q

street location.

Ted and Wally's ice-cream store is one of the many businesses that were forced to relocate due to downtown redevelopment. . .

"I think it's sad to see the downtown die. It was just a real disappointment," Weber said of the move.

According to Weber, he and partner Dean Wally regretted having to move.

"I don't think anything can compare with your first store," he said. "We had a skylight and a little park on the side of the building between the Temple Building and ours; it was just a perfect spot."

Occupying the old building from 1984 to 1986, Weber said he and his partner were told they would be in that location for about 10 years.

Moving the tables, the ice cream maker and other things, Ted and Wally's made its new home at 124 N. 14th St.

"We sunk a lot of money into moving," Weber said, "about \$60,000."

Taking over Lincoln Office Equipment's former offices, Weber

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