

# Benes' new tape establishes him as writer and musician's musician

By Mick Dyer  
Staff Reporter

Lie Awake  
Roger Benes  
Independently Produced Tape

This is a confession. I liked Roger Benes' solo-performed and solo-produced tape, "Lie Awake."

I really liked it. I wasn't prepared for that, because I generally don't go for that brand of catchy pop-funk melodramatic glamour rock.

Hmmm... that's quite an admission for a long-time, long-haired alternative rocker to make. Here are some reasons this tape grabbed my ears.

## music

But first of all, some clarification of terms about the tape. Roger Benes is a member of the band Lie Awake. The music on this tape is single-handedly written, performed and produced by Roger Benes. It carries the name "Lie Awake," because the band of the same name sometimes performs these same songs. It's really a Roger Benes tape, but it's kind of a Lie Awake tape, too.

Got it? This tape was great fun to listen to. Lie Awake's popularity at certain bars, college parties and high school proms speaks for itself. At any rate, the music on this tape sounds as good or better than anything I've ever heard on KFRX, seriously.

That's because the tape is extremely well-arranged and well-produced. Each song effectively delivers a subtle balance of musical elements. Rhythms and melodies never struggle for dominance, but work together to enhance one another. Tempo and volume dynamics take turns driving the song forward. Many songs appropriately are garnished with bells, flutes and unusual percussion sounds. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts, and the result is a slick-sounding tape.

As for the songs themselves, they are safe, neo-disco techno-pop tunes full of 1980s sexual angst -- reminis-

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## Benes: Future of Lie Awake not in Lincoln

By Mark Lage  
Senior Reporter

Roger Benes, lead singer, keyboardist and songwriter for the Lincoln band Lie Awake, said his main goal right now is to be able to make a life out of music.

"And I don't want to do it playing cover songs," Benes said. "I want to be writing music."

In its two-year existence, Lie Awake has been known around campus as primarily a college-music cover band, but Benes said that the band's live shows now are comprised of about 25 percent original music written by Benes.

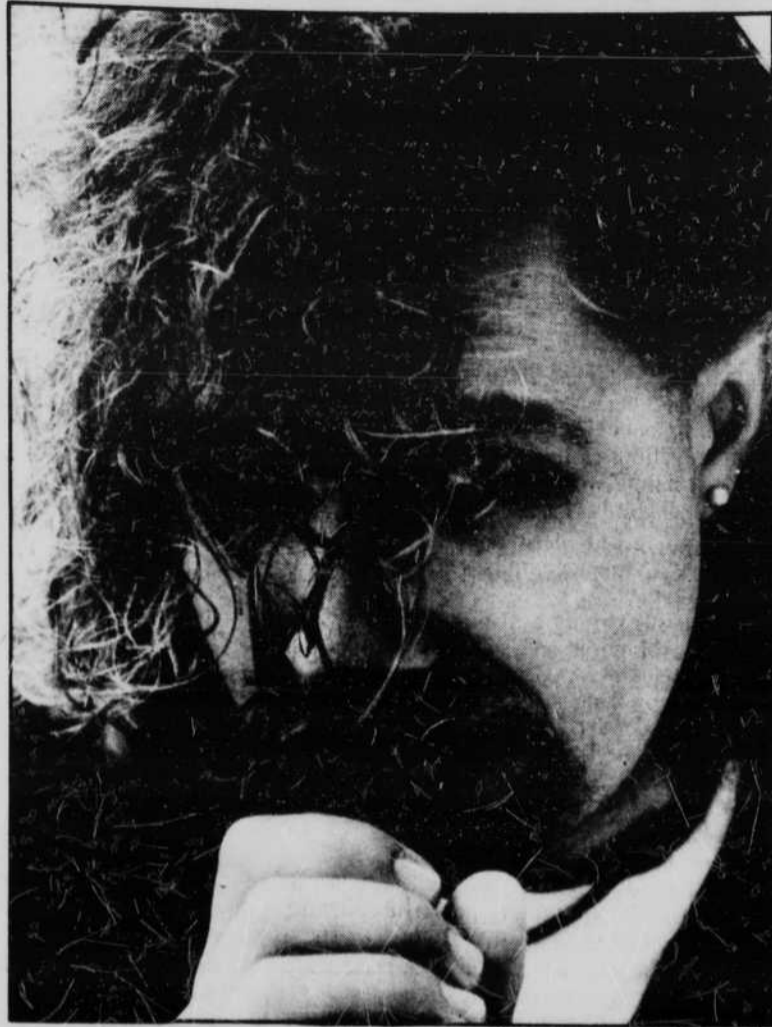
And Benes recently has released an independent cassette containing nine of his songs. The tape was recorded entirely on an eight-track recorder in Benes' own apartment. Although Benes does all the playing and singing on the tape, he named it "Lie Awake" because the band plays the songs live.

Benes said he has been writing songs for about six years, and cites among his main influences bands like The Cars, The Fixx, The Police, and The Red Hot Chili Peppers.

"I never played in high school," he said, "and then, midway through my senior year -- music!"

Benes attended Lincoln's Pius X High School, and then moved on to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He graduated from UNL about a year and a half ago, with a degree in business, he said. Since then he has concentrated all of his time on playing

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Roger Benes

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