

## Success inevitable with band's vibrant sound

By Michael Deeds  
Senior Editor

Caterwaul's mix was mono Wednesday night at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.

But it may as well have been stereo.

Not for a long, long time has a band come across so crisply as this

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alternative quartet from Phoenix. Fronted by moaning/wailing she-devil Betsy Martin, Caterwaul pushed a dreamy world of ethereal, but gutsy, melodies onto a crowd of about 150 Lincolniters.

The eclectic, wispy Martin is a Stevie Nicks on acid; a twirling, sighing focal point for a band that specializes in creating a wall of sonic bricks.

But Caterwaul doesn't fade into a zone of uncontrollable distortion. Instead, they rely on money, technology and a talented Vancouver soundman to keep their tones exceptionally clean.

Guitarist Mark Schafer and bassist Fred Cross slid through a stack of midi effects and flashing LED lights as drummer Kevin Pinnt pounded out a reverberating attack of percussion that simply rolled through Duffy's.

Caterwaul played a few oldies,

most notably "The Sheep's A Wolf," but stuck mostly to their latest and perhaps most well-defined release, "Portent Hue."

The band has compared their music to artwork in the past, and the likeness of splashing musical color certainly is there.

Martin is what every female vocalist wants to be -- her vocals are about as odd as they come, yet her sound falls into a mainstream style somehow, a clique that is entirely difficult to peg.

"Manna and Quail" best displayed Martin's talents, which fall into a yodeling mode at times. She also displayed ability on the mandolin, which she pulled out to accompany her eerie sirening.

Schafer displayed a weakness for the whammy on "Bulldosage," which added another drifting strangeness to the evening's performance.

Opening act The Acorns, from Omaha, showed improvement and some promise, generating more energy live than was captured on their album.

Overall, the night was an enjoyable display of female-fronted bands, a rarity and a treat that is tough to find in what seems a male-dominated rock world.

Stereo or mono, if Caterwaul maintains such a vibrant and exceptionally clear sound, larger scale success is inevitable.



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

A negative print of Caterwaul vocalist/lyricist Betsy Martin at Duffy's on Wednesday night.

Bands fill Lincoln again

## Timeless classics ensure great music this week

By Mick Dyer  
Senior Editor

The three best songs in the world are: "Skip to my Lou," "This Old Man," and "The Farmer in the Dell." You can sit on your front porch and play them on the five-string banjo all morning long. You probably won't hear anybody on this list play these timeless classics, but who knows? At any rate, since all songs are just variations of these three great songs, all the music on this list should be good too, get it?

### Alternative:

Saturday, five Lincoln bands will perform a benefit concert for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Art League at The Commonplace, 14th and R streets.

Sideshow, Sawhorse, 13 Nightmares, Leafy Green Things and Flesh Petal will play.

Sunday, Sawhorse and The Cows will play at Duffy's, 1412 O St. See accompanying story.

Wednesday, The Return will play at Duffy's.

The Return can be described best as a pre-heroin, Beatlesque pop band with a sound as clear and clean and

wide-open as a Nebraska sky on a cold spring morning. God, it's wholesome stuff. Seriously, The Return is another example of the level of excellence Lincoln bands are capable of reaching. This will be a free show to celebrate the release of the band's new tape, The Return:To.

### Country:

Tonight through Sunday, the Sandy Creek Band will play bluegrass at The Prospector, 640 W. Van Dorn St.

### Jazz/Blues:

Tonight, Mr. Peabody will play '60s soul and Motown sounds at Chesterfield's, Lower Level 245 N. 13th St.

Tonight, the Lightning Bugs, The Tablerockers and Clarence Fountain and the 5 Blind Boys will play at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.

The Lightning Bugs is an a cappella singing group from Lincoln.

The Tablerockers is the Zoo Bar house band and plays '50s- and '60s-style Chicago and Texas blues.

Clarence Fountain and the 5 Blind Boys is the band you don't want to miss. The group was formed in the early 1940s at the Talladega Institute for the Deaf and Blind in Alabama and has been singing some of the best

foot stomping, put-your-hands-together-now, straight forward, praise-the-lord, true gospel, ever since.

James Brown used to listen to Clarence Fountain records when he was a little kid. And comparing the two men's voices and singing styles,



it's fair to say that Clarence Fountain is James Brown's primary vocal influence.

When Clarence Fountain and the 5 Blind Boys was at the Zoo last August, the audience got all worked up by the band's inspirational messages. Powerful stuff. Like Clarence Fountain said, you don't have to be in church, you can express your faith in song anywhere.

Tonight and Saturday, Maurice John Vaughn will play at Bourbon Street, 200 N. 70th St.

For a long time, Maurice John Vaughn, one of Chicago's most sought

after blues session players, was in demand for his guitar and saxophone playing, as well as his vocal abilities. He has played with A.C. Reed, Son Seals, Luther Allison and many others. Now he is stepping out on stage with his own album's-worth of new material and his own band behind him.

Tonight and Saturday, the C Street Gypsies will play '60s-style electric blues at The Mountains, 311 S. 11th St.

Saturday, Mojo Blues, the Blues Notions minus Oliver Riley, will play Kansas City blues at 9th Street Blues, 421 S. 9th St.

Saturday, The Tablerockers and Night Heat will play at the Zoo Bar.

Night Heat is a fairly new Lincoln band that specializes in playing '60s soul and Motown sounds.

Monday, Mothers Big Band will play big band swing and jazz at Bourbon Street.

Monday, The Tablerockers, featuring Annette Murrell, arguably one of Lincoln's best jazz, blues, and soul singers, will play at the Zoo Bar.

Tuesday, The Johnny Reno Band will play at the Zoo Bar.

Wednesday, the C Street Gypsies will play at Bourbon Street.

Wednesday and Thursday, Little Charlie and the Nightcats will play at the Zoo Bar.

Little Charlie and the Nightcats play a contemporary form of "jump" blues -- a combination of swingtime and blues elements that was popular in dance halls across the country for a few years after World War II. This band gets audiences up on their feet by combining gutsy, mad guitar playing, howling, brave horns and emphatic vocals and by picking up the tempo a bit to accommodate the tastes of modern listeners and dancers.

Thursday, Urban Jazz will play at Julio's, 132 S. 13th St.

### Rock:

Tonight, Bobby Curious will play at the Brass Rail, 1436 O St.

Tonight, the Shivers will play at Oscars, 800 O St.

Tonight and Saturday, On the Fritz will play at the Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Hwy.

Tonight and Saturday, Split Image will play at Sweep Left, 815 O St.

Saturday, High Heel and the Sneakers will play at Oscars.

## Radical reptiles hit the big screen fighting 'The Foot' in New York City

By John Payne  
Senior Reporter

Television's most radical reptiles have taken to the big screen with "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," and it's pretty much cowabunga, dude. Cowabunga, bitchin', and gnarly. As one of the young warriors says early in the movie "Major-League, butt-kicking is back!"

Did it ever leave?

But unlike the cartoon show, these samurai snappers kick butt in "real life," fighting crime in the streets of New York. For you mega-dweebs out there who are unfamiliar with the Turtle legend, a quick history: It seems these four ordinary baby turtles are crawling along through the sewers of the Big Apple when they run into that old comic book staple -- radioactive waste.

The toxic goop turns them into man-sized, talking mutant turtles with a constant craving for Domino's pizza. They are discovered by Splinter, a big, hairy sewer rat, and mutant in his own right. Splinter was once the pet rat of Japanese Ninja, and so he be-

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comes somewhat of a mentor to the young turtles, teaching them the ways of the Ninja.

Renowned Muppeteer Jim Henson was called on to design the Turtles as well as Splinter, who looks more like a big groundhog. The low-grade special effects are so laughably bad that one can only assume (or hope) that it is all intentional. The best scene in this kiddie-flick are flashbacks of Splinter's life in his master's cage

and mimicking his Karate steps. Luckily, the makers of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" had enough sense not to take this production too seriously. The result is a surprising number of humorous moments directed at, gasp, ADULTS.

At one point in the movie, when one teen turtle gives chase to a bad guy, a New Yorker asks his cabbie "What the hell was that?" to which the cab driver replies, "It kind of looked like a big turtle in a trench coat. You're going to Laguardia, right?"

Of course, much of the tongue-in-cheek humor centers on the probability that if mutant turtles did in fact exist, they might not cause much of a stir in New York City.

What plot there is concerns an

See TURTLES on 10

## entertainment SHORTS

### The Cows ride the range at Duffy's

The Cows, a must-see rough and tumble outfit from Minneapolis, will perform at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St. Sunday night.

The band is being herded in through a collaborative effort by Duffy's and Project Import. Cover is \$3. Show time is 10 p.m.

The Cows focus on spattering guitars and irresistible vocal catharsis, creating a stampede that rolls over any Midwestern crowd with ease.

Branding these Cows isn't easy, though the word "grunge" does come to mind in a complimentary fashion. But forget Sub Pop, these guys are Amphetamine Reptile boys.

Opening will be Lincoln's own nightmarish Sawhorse.

### Area bands to give benefit concert

Five Lincoln bands will play a benefit concert Saturday night for the UNL Art League at Commonplace, 14th and R streets.

Sideshow is a robust, loud, wound-up blend of speed metal and reggae music beans. Sawhorse is a chaotic, completely unfastened band of unmedicated madmen. 13 Nightmares is an explosive guitars, throat and drum corps. Leafy Green Things are that bunch of killer musicians and Nintendo kings who live down the street. Flesh Petal is a flower of effort in a Lincoln world gone mad. Catch them.