Friday, March 8, 1991

## Myers

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harmonicas only cost 25 cents, but they were plastic and it was hard to find one with the appropriate pitch. But Myers had a solution.

"I just went out and bought a bunch of them to have to play along with the records," Myers said. "And then I'd play till I found the right one that the key the record was in. And I just started from there."

Although it's obvious that Myers loves music, it's just as obvious that he's unhappy about its progression

and the way younger musicians are playing it today.

The younger generation today, they are just more or less looking for sound," Myers said. "Sound is not the most important thing. Overproduced sound, that is,

Myers said. Musicians shouldn't worry about duplicating their studio sound on stage, he said. Instead, today's musicians should shoot for simplicity, the fresh and raw sound that's played in the studio.

"When it's overplayed, then you add all these different 'will you help me gadgets' to it," Myers said.

"Well, you just took away from the song that you were doing. It just sounds so washed up and watered down.

But that's not the kind of music Myers does with the Rockets. They have a sound that goes all the way back to the early '50s.

The type of music that we're playing, well I hope it be a change, I did this for about 35 years," Myers

said. "But the type of music that Anson and the Rockets are doing now, I did that back in the early 50s."

The music they do is an old

style. They take their creativity and apply it to music from Myers' glory days, music that clearly defines blues' purpose in music

"That's something that musically nobody else has done," he said.

Lighting another cigarette, Myers reminisced about the start of an era of music that he has devoted his life to. His voice slowed to an even rhythm as he spoke.

"Now I'm going to take you back a few years," Myers said. "Slavery. That was blues then, and then after that came gospel. And then from that we moved to another blues area, what is called Mississippi Delta Blues."

Blues, for Myers, is a way of life. For others, he said, it had the same effect. Music like the delta blues got its sound from real life.

'People working on the railroad, people working in the cotton fields," Myers said. "Guys getting up, heading out to the main line of the track. Guy hitting his hammer against the steel, you hear the steel ringing, the ties dropping and then they put the gravel down for the train. Then they put the track down.

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refrain, I think back to the old days when I lived totally without structure or order, when my life was not consumed by deadlines and tests and papers and all the rest of the things that now fill my life.

I figure the best solution is to simply do it to relive, for a brief time, some of the glory of youth, back when I took on the world and felt that I could change it, that people would listen to a ranting, angry, young man. I want to launch another band. I want to

shout and scream again, to live without concern for responsibilities, to roam through the streets after dark and make gloomy comments on the demise of humanity.

I will, of course, be the singer again, partly to live out the role of the lonely and pensive writer, but mostly since I cannot play any instruments

Well, I did start violin lessons this semester and, after five weeks, I can play a mean "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" and two other little ditties.

But somehow a violin just would not be right for this band.

We will be called the Dread Kennedys and will do a few reggae-influenced covers of old Dead Kennedys classics like "Kill the Poor," "Moral Majority," "Stealing Peoples' Mail" and "Holiday in Cambodia."

Yes, there is a band around called Dread Zeppelin that does a similar thing with old Led Zeppelin tunes. But face it, which would you rather hear in

a reggae/ thrash mix, "Stairway to Heaven" or

"Nazi Punks Fuck Off"??

In fact, we will probably only do a few reggae-type songs, since you probably have to sound fairly good to carry them off. We'll mostly cover standard punk anthems

and hide our lack of musical acumen behind a wall of distortion and speed. All the punk kids will talk about how powerful we sound.

than bouncing little reggae numbers. So I suppose we will end up as more of a cover band than anything else, but a cover band unlike any other, confining ourselves to thirty-second, threechord blasts of romantic anger and hope.

So, anyone else out there who wants to establish the premier punk cover band and leech off the still potent name of the Dead Kennedys, leave a message for me down here at the Daily Nebraskan.

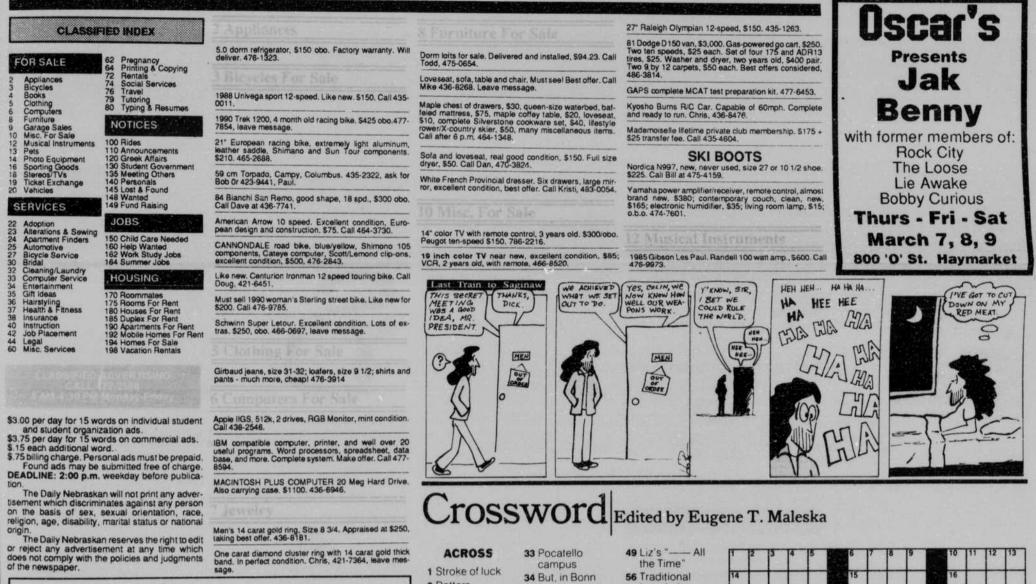
For that matter, we might even be able to practice down here in the basement of the union after the afternoon deadlines for the paper

Better still, after everyone has left the building, we could hold concerts here in the Daily Nebraskan office. They would be free and all UNL students would be welcome. We could invite the local punk kids in and

all do stage dives off the computer terminals while playing a Greatest Punk Hits medley.

And once or twice I might look up and see the face of one of my professors walking by outside, and drift momentarily back to my old days as a student.

Peterson is a senior English, psychology and philosophy major and a Daily Nebraskan staff arts and entertainment reporter and columnist.



One carat diamond cluster ring with 14 carat gold thick band. In perfect condition. Chris, 421-7364, leave mes-sage.

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Besides, it is more fun to play thrash songs



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