

Love

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Berry's voice is gentle and full of melancholy — much more so than Mould's could ever be.

"Silver Buttons" takes fullest advantage of accompaniment by adding a Latin percussion section to the deep cello tones. Berry's voice is lilting, floating gently over the strains of the strings.

Berry's vocals are passionately deep and stirring, fitting the 4AD label reputation for beauty. The entirety of "Love" is beautiful and haunting — a secular spirituality capable of granting a much-needed escape from the tripe recently released.

—Michael Stock

Baldrige

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condition, we may attempt to approach Her through the saints. God's chosen. The guiding spirits of the age. Elvis, Princess Grace, Jimmy Hoffa; the Holy Ones of Pop. They're all dead, or something like, but death is only a matter of perspective.

Death makes you objective, or nothing will. These semi-divine beings may visit us in dreams, or in the checkout line at Wal-Mart. Their ways are inscrutable. Often they have a message or a gift for us.

"I was in the shoe section of Penny's when Elvis appeared to me and gave me the keys to his

Caddy."

That kind of thing.

Sometimes miracles may be performed and demons cast out in their name. I remember reading once that a child, dumb from birth, began to sing along with New Kids On The Block on television. We can hardly wait till they are dead and can be canonized.

The real point of these phenomena is the question of control. Who runs things? "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain!" shouts the Wizard of Oz, but it is just this we came here to see. Who is behind the weird we call the world?

Everyone has a theory. My girlfriend says it's a coalition of billion-year-old spirits from Alpha Centauri. They talk to her sometimes, tell her to buy things. If

she disobeys, they electrocute her.

My favorite transient is of the opinion is that President Kennedy is alive, bobbing about in some tank somewhere, running the planet. Doubtless he communicates by shortwave radio with his minions.

They are all mistaken. I know.

I have been aware of the secret government for several months now, and I see it's my duty to prepare the way for it. To be a kind of Voice in the wilderness. So ready yourself — the time of revelation is at hand. The rulers of the world are about to be made manifest. Only don't laugh. It's us.

Baldrige is a senior English major and Daily Nebraskan A&E columnist.

Meat

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One thing that has not changed for the Meat Puppets over the past decade is the band's following, which, says Cris Kirkwood flatly, "has only gotten 11 years older."

"A lot of them have been into us for years, and I've seen them for years and years," he says. "They refuse to die."

Along with the Meathad congregation, something else continues to follow these guys — comparisons. At first it seems like straw-grasping, but after listening to tunes like "Melt-down," you can't help thinking of a certain bearded blues trio that also happens to hail from the southwest.

"We get the ZZ Top comparison a lot," Kirkwood concedes.

"I guess there's a similarity there. We are a guitar-playing trio, and there's some of that blues guitar swagger or whatever the hell you want to call it. And they're about the same thing we're about, to a degree, which is being a great band and at the same time having a sense of humor," he says.

Though the Meat Puppets' sound is distinctly Texas punk, the Kirkwoods roots are Midwestern. Their parents were long-time Omaha residents who met at UNL.

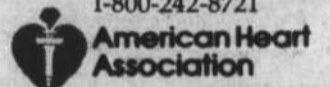
"We've had a lot of great shows in Lincoln," Cris recalls. "The Drumstick was one of the first places that I noticed where we got people to dance."

With the new label comes a greater obligation to, as Kirkwood puts it, "hawk records," but he says the band doesn't mind.

"Before it wouldn't matter (to SST) if we sold two albums," Kirkwood says. "It just comes with the territory." The Meat Puppets' American tour will wind down on the East Coast before taking the band to Europe and Australia.

Tickets for tonight's all-ages show are \$10.75. Doors open at 7:30.

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8:30 PM Mexican American Student Association - Nebraska Union 228
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