

# Punkinhead exposes Lincoln to Arkansas funk

Punkinhead is a six-man combo from Fayetteville, Ark., that has been touring heavily for the last two years. It's a blue-eyed funk band whose sound is reminiscent of the '70s sounds of James Brown.

The band stopped in for a Lincoln show at The Hurricane Saturday night. Frontman and guitarist Paul Boatright was backed perfectly by the heavy, yet intricate, bass lines of Chad Tolten. Rhythm and percussions were handled expertly by drummer Chuck Platt, and Luis Barrios, who played bongos, maracas, bells and various other instruments.

A dynamic horn section, represented by Steve Senser, boosted the vocals with blasts of sound that served as a vibrant contrast to the bass, adding new dimensions to their musical spectrum.

Eric Mills is the band's keyboardist and also contributes an occasional vocal stint. A distinct vocal difference from Boatright, Mills sounds like an incarnation of James Brown and has an

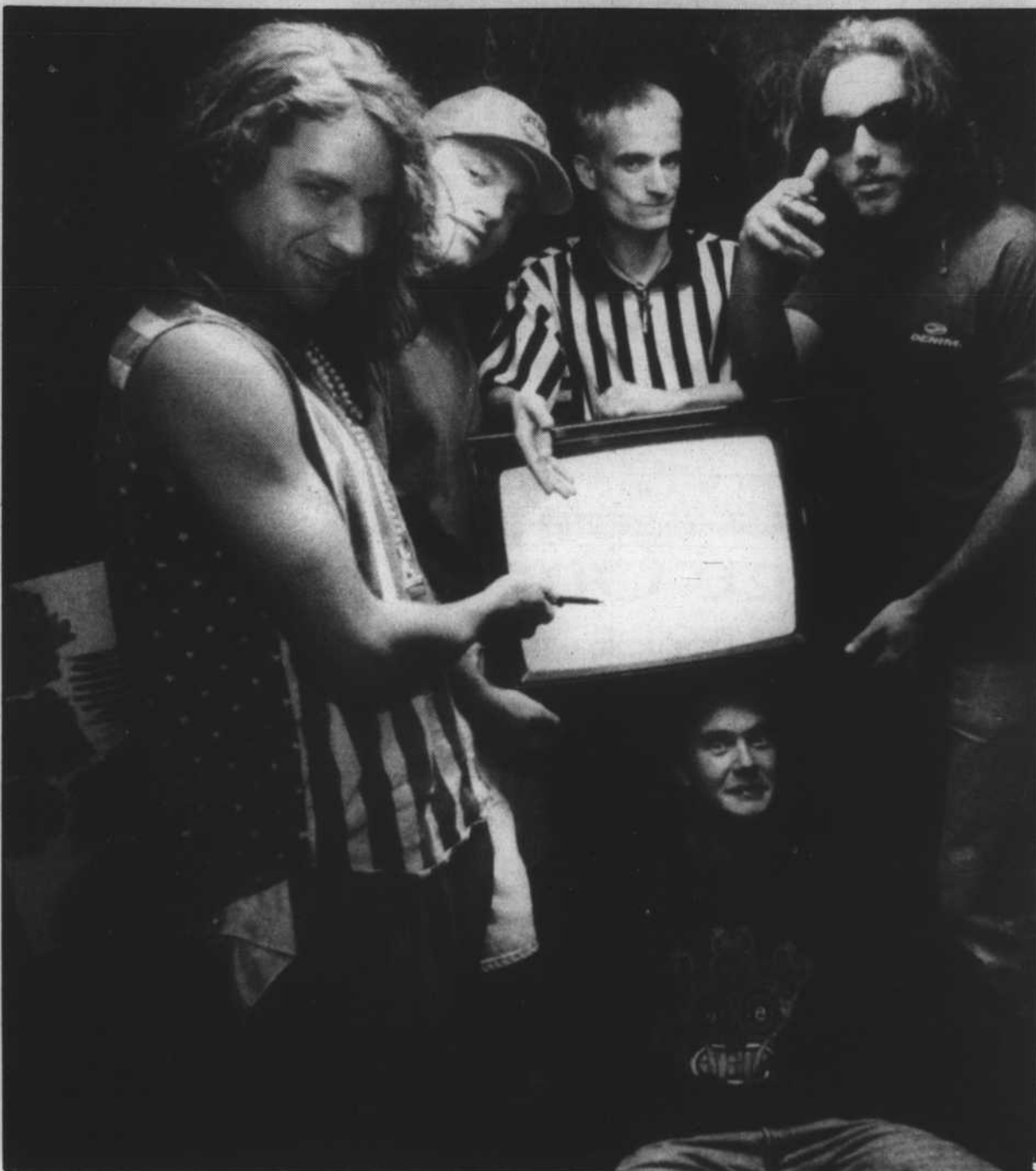
unusual scat ability that adds yet more to the band's versatility.

But Paul Boatright is definitely the frontman. However, he does not fall into the same trap that many lead singers do in dominating or overwhelming other members of the band. Instead, he orchestrates and compliments the team.

Observing the crowd response at The Hurricane, funk and soul appear to be popular in Lincoln as well. The band interacted well with the normally sedate audience members and got them onto their feet, dancing, jivin', clapping to the beat and even inciting some whoops and screams. The crowd just got into the groove with the band.

Punkinhead is an enjoyable band to watch and hear. Its brand of crowd-pleasing, down-home, danceable funk can be the highlight of a fun night out and was for many Saturday night.

— Chad Johnson



Photos by Gerik Parmelo/DN

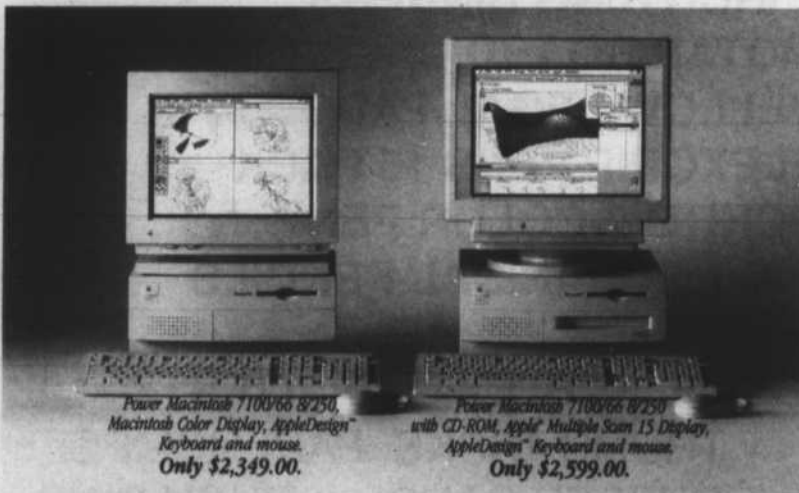
Right: Five members of the group Punkinhead, which played a Saturday night show at The Hurricane. They are, clockwise from left: Paul Boatright, Chuck Platt, Xavier Mills, Luis Barrios and Steve Setser. Left: The other member of Punkinhead, bass player Chad Tolten jams during the show.

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