

Deja Vu

By Anne Hjersman

Self-discovery more than following fads

I've always wanted a keen fashion sense.

Unfortunately, I was born in the '70s. When you begin your life wearing plaid bell-bottoms and butterfly collars, fashion sense is pretty much out of the question.

Nonetheless, I've spent my whole life trying.

Being cute when you're little is pretty easy — even if your mama dresses you funny. But right around fifth grade, puberty kicks in. You take charge of your appearance and... things get ugly. In my case, really ugly.

I tried everything.

First, it was friendship pins. I stuck them in my shoelaces. I wore them on my shirts. I had them everywhere.

Then, when I felt I was ready to move up in the accessory world, I started collecting trinkets — dozens of them. Big, ugly, plastic trinkets in a variety of obnoxious colors. I wore them around my neck on a big, ugly, plastic chain. And they jingled — clanked even — every time I walked.

By sixth grade, I had outgrown that kid stuff. (Besides, the weight of my necklace was starting to make me stoop). It was time to move on.

It was then that I discovered hairspray. Boy, did I discover it. Aqua Net was the elixir of gods — and the nightmare of anyone who tried to walk barefoot through my bathroom.

Make-up was soon to follow: blue eye shadow, purple eyeliner, green mascara.

Once I had my what-the-hell-exploded-on-your-face makeover perfected, I revamped my wardrobe.

Like every teen-age girl, I looked to Madonna, the mistress of style, for guidance. It was out with the leg warmers, suspenders and ties, and in with the big earrings, bangle bracelets and "Jellies."

Not to mention tight-rolled jeans. That was one trend my mother was glad to see go. She was sure I was going to have to have my feet amputated because I rolled my jeans so tight I cut off my circulation. That fad left an impression on me like no other — especially around the ankle area.

That was when I stepped back and asked myself, "Who the hell do you think you are, you idiot?"

And you know what?

I didn't have an answer.

I had spent so much time following fads, I had left myself behind.

Since then I have taken a realistic look at myself. I have come to terms with my beauties and my blemishes, and I have learned to appreciate — and accentuate — who I am.

And I've decided: there's nothing more fashionable than someone who has her own style.

That makes sense to me.

Hjersman is a senior news-editorial and English major and the Daily Nebraskan opinion editor.



MARNI SPECK/DN

PLASTIK TRUMPET, a Lincoln band, was selected to perform next week at the College Music Journal festival. The band members are Mike Elsener, Nate Walcott, Benjamin Armstrong, Jonathan Hischke, Garth Johnson, Carl Masters and Nathan Puetens.

Nebraska bands to showcase talent

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Look out New York — here comes some of the best new music Nebraska has to offer.

Four bands from Nebraska will be represented at the annual College Music Journal festival for up-and-coming bands.

The College Music Journal is a trade magazine for college radio stations and is sold at most book and record stores.

Every year, the magazine has a festival to showcase signed and unsigned bands from all over the country. Bands must apply to be accepted to play at clubs around New York for the four-

day event.

Representatives from record labels and other music critics attend the festival, and the best thing the bands can get is a record deal. No matter what, they will all get the exposure and experience.

Plastik Trumpet, Lullaby For The Working Class, Cursive and Commander Venus, all from Lincoln, were selected as four of the 300-plus bands to play.

"We're playing in the suavest lounge in Manhattan — the Luna Lounge," Plastik Trumpet lead singer Garth Johnson said. "We're loading up the '76 Ford Chateau now."

Plastik Trumpet formed in February 1990 in Germany of all places.

"I was an exchange student as a high school senior," Johnson said. It

was there he met native Robert Kraiss, and a trans-Atlantic song-writing partnership began as a German Plastik Trumpet and an American Plastik Trumpet were born.

"There's a separate band going on in Germany as we speak," he said. "He helped me start the band here."

Plastik Trumpet is composed of nine members, seven of whom are making the trek to New York. They are: Johnson, on lead vocals, Benjamin Armstrong on drums, Jonathan Hischke on bass, Mike Elsener on guitar, Nathan Puetens on synthesizer, Nate Walcott on trumpet and Carl Masters on xylophone.

Their songs are all original and straightforward, Johnson said, and the British pop influence is prevalent in their music.

"The lyrics ride the line between sentimental and sarcastic."

Johnson described Plastik Trumpet's sound as "orchestral pop," or taking basic pop songs and augmenting them with strings, horns and xylophones.

The band is looking forward to the exposure they're going to receive in New York, although the idea is somewhat overwhelming.

"We're doing everything for just a 30-minute set," he said. "We're just trying to get everything streamlined and perfect."

Plastik Trumpet and Cursive both perform Friday, Sept. 6. Commander Venus and Lullaby For The Working Class play Saturday.

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

A dark cloud of angst seems to have settled over Lincoln these past few days, but one bright spot in the blur is that mornings seem to have a helluva lot more bite to them.

That's because "The Animal" has returned to the zoo of morning radio shows that seem to be glutting the morning market.

Yes, kids, you read it right. Jon Terry, better known as one half of the dynamic morning duo of "Tim and The Animal" at KIBZ-FM (106.3) The Blaze, has returned.

Terry left Lincoln exactly a year ago to take a position as program director at WQIZ-FM in Springfield, Ill.

"I moved with all the interests of forwarding my career," he said. "I needed to leave because I needed to show that I could do a good job somewhere else. And I did, I did a great job. But I wasn't as happy."

Tim Sheridan and Terry have a history of attracting a strong listening au-

dience to their morning show with their cutting repertoire. They are known for their no-holds-barred commentary on local and world news, sports and anything else they feel like talking about.

The camaraderie between the two is hard to come by, and Terry said he recognized this during his year in Illinois.

"We started talking a couple months ago about what a great time we'd had together," he said. "I'd done a great job there, but there was too much business and not too much fun."

He put in his resignation in July and had his first day back at The Blaze Monday morning. But there's a slight change in the morning show — it's now Sheridan, Terry and Johnny Royal. Royal was on the air with Tim and radio personality "Sparky" during Terry's absence.

Terry made a guest appearance on the morning show last January with the three other disc jockeys, and it whet his appetite for returning to Lincoln.

"I hadn't laughed so hard in a long time," he said. "It put the tang in my mouth for coming back."

Surprisingly, there were no hard feelings upon Terry's return. Sheridan,

who is also the program director at The Blaze, said the entire Blaze staff supported Terry's return to the station. "Sparky," who asked that his real name not be printed, moved to the 3 to 7 p.m. shift, which he said was perfect for him.

"I love it," he said. "I feel I work better by myself, and I hated getting up at five in the morning." He said that he was glad Terry is back and that his return will be a positive change for the station.

"He's a cool guy," "Sparky" said. "He's like my mentor. Jon got me into radio, gave me my first break. I respect him as a radio personality. I think 'The Animal's' return is a good thing. Things worked out for everyone all the way across the board."

Sheridan is also excited about his partner's return.

"After working together for three years, we knew what the other was thinking," he said. "He'd never tell me what he was launching into; I'd have no idea. We just went with it. The chemistry was there."

Terry agreed that the chemistry the two share makes for a great show.

"We're able to get along with each other. There's not a whole lot of ego crap," Terry said. "It makes it easy for us to work together. The best staff of real people is in this building. I missed that. That's why I'm back."

The morning show personalities may have been known for their big mouths in the past, but they're also known for their hearts. (But don't tell anyone.)

They've done an annual charity toy drive every winter, and are planning another one for this year. They usually spend 30 hours collecting donations for Toys for Tots on O Street.

Another example of backing their words with actions is their new weekly feature.

"We always bitch about crime," Terry said. "But now we're going to do something about it."

They are planning to bring in a police officer every week to do a Crimestoppers report. Terry said their idea of a name was, in typical Blaze fashion, "Put a Prick in the Pokev."

Needless to say, it's good to have him back.