

The Bent Scepters

Band inspired by '60s garage sound

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

In the 1960s, an age in which nearly one in four teen-age males bought guitars and formed rock bands, a lot of music was made.

Several one-hit wonder groups materialized during this period, and there were even more bands that were never recognized. But one Iowa City band is still making that kind of music.

The Bent Scepters will bring its brand of garage rock to the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., Thursday at 9 p.m. There is a \$3 cover charge.

Garage rock is a term coined to describe the music produced in America right after The Beatles and the Rolling Stones hit it big.

This was an era in which a whole wave of teen-age males formed rock bands in their suburban garages in hopes of becoming the next big thing.

Doug Roberson, lead guitarist for the Bent Scepters, said it was the spirit of that era that fuels his band.

"That inspiration is what drives the band, that whacked-out, over-the-top, crazy high energy vibe has been an inspiration for a lot of bands," he said.

"In the garage-rock cult world, we sound overproduced. We're low-fi junkie — we get dissed from zines because we don't sound crappy enough."

DOUG ROBERSION
lead guitarist

"There were thousands of bands in the '60s. There's such a great slew to choose from — these garage-band punk guys who didn't know what they were doing, they didn't know how to play, they just knew they had to do it."

The Bent Scepters originally formed in 1986, when a "bunch of college buddies wanted to be just like the Fleshtones," Roberson said. After a year of gigging at clubs and campus parties, college came to an end, and so did the Bent Scepters.

Fast-forward to 1991, when a circa-1960s farfisa electric organ, the kind favored by the Doors' keyboardist Ray Manzarek, came into their lives. They picked up a few new members,

and now the band is comprised of Roberson, his brother Dan on lead vocals, tambourine and harmonica, Pat White on guitar and farfisa, drummer Bill Neff and bassist Scott Stecklein.

Last year, the band signed with Bizarre/Planet Records out of Los Angeles, the label that managed Frank Zappa and Jefferson Airplane.

"In the garage-rock cult world, we sound overproduced," Roberson said. "We're low-fi junkie — we get dissed from zines because we don't sound crappy enough."

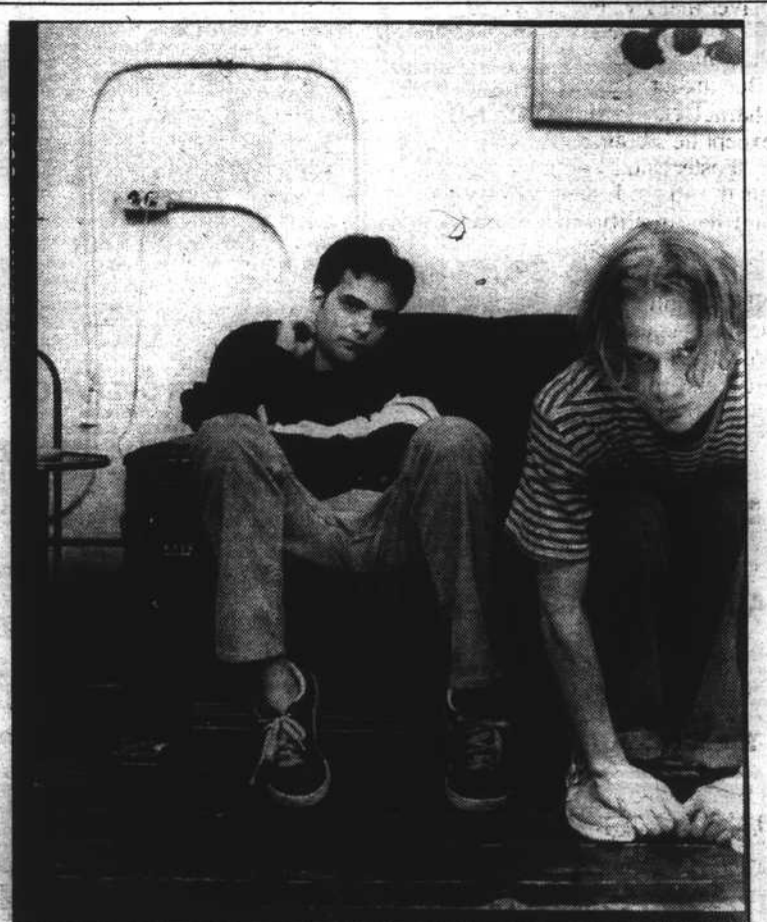


PHOTO COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS
ADAM SCHLESINGER (left) and Chris Collingwood, better known as Fountains of Wayne, will fulfill opening act duties for the Smashing Pumpkins in tonight's sold-out show at Omaha's Civic Auditorium.

Fountains of Wayne
(self-titled)
Atlantic Records
Grade: A

The two most recent prophets of pop, Adam Schlesinger and Chris Collingwood, have reunited after nearly 10 years of so-close side projects and musical wanderings.

Originally from Boston, pop renaissance duo Fountains of Wayne created a stir up and down New England, and their self-titled release is hailed as the harbinger of a new wave of clever, insightful and yet rather mundane tingly pop tunes.

Their first single is "Radiation Vibe," a tongue-in-cheek, self-mocking song that sheds rock clichés (shine on; baby, baby...) like Beck distributes dandruff has received extensive air time on the Edge. A bit odd considering The Fountains of Wayne are disgusted by the grunge bands and variety of rip-offs so feverishly propagated by such radio stations.

The rest of the album follows in a similar fashion, consisting of double-edged, slightly amusing, and always thoughtful but simple lyrics. Never will you find political preachings, rabid drug habits or opaque Bono analogies, but rather touching and meaningful microcosmic stories of frustration and giddiness.

"Sink to the Bottom" expresses

the uncertainty of getting trapped in a failing relationship and wanting to salvage it and bail out simultaneously. Using common language with frightening precision, Fountains of Wayne bring new meaning to experiences shared by all — guys who treat their girls bad ("You Curse at Girls"), envying the fat redneck with the babe ("Leave the Biker") and tedious cubicle jobs ("Sick Day").

But perhaps the best song on an album of jewels is the quirky "Please Don't Rock Me Tonight" which pleads "I didn't mean to make the trendy guy mad" and goes on smirking dead-pan lyrics like "I'm not in the mood" (enter refrain here).

The Fountains of Wayne represent a new movement of pop intelligentsia following in the footsteps of Pavement and The Replacements. While their sound is slightly '60s retro-pop, they occasionally indulge in the light, hazy distortion attributed to Matthew Sweet.

Embodying the dilemmas of thinking young white guys everywhere, this release contains enough musical angst, twist and pop to appeal to just about anyone — even if they've never lusted for a biker babe.

— Bret Schulte

New Chan flick doesn't live up to the rest

By GERRY BELTZ
Film Critic

In what is actually the fourth installment of Jackie Chan's infamous "Police Story" series, "Jackie Chan's First Strike" falls a little short of his two most recent American releases, "Rumble In The Bronx" and "Super-cop" (also known as "Police Story 3").

Granted, these two flicks didn't exactly symbolize "plot development" and "great characters," but they did better than "First Strike."

Hong Kong police officer Jackie (Chan) heads off on an intended vacation but ends up working with both American and Russian intelligence agencies to recapture a stolen nuclear warhead. He is also framed for murder.

(Too many subplots spoil the fun? Nah, it would never fit on the bumper sticker.)

Chan-action fans need not worry; our hero finds himself hip-deep in

freestyle snowboarding, underwater-thumb-sucking martial arts, and defending himself with whatever is handy, including brooms, stepladders and life preservers.

The continuation of Chan's seemingly-suicidal stuntwork continues with "First Strike." He does a snowboard jump onto a helicopter skid, hits second-story back kicks while rambling around on stilts and goes nose-to-snout with a shark.

Fortunately for Chan fans, New Line Cinema has acquired distribution rights to many Chan films — both on video and on the big screen — so American audiences won't be having a shortage of Chan anytime soon.

For "First Strike," Chan once again teamed with director/stunt coordinator Stanley Tong ("Rumble In The Bronx"), but this Chan flick is missing a little of the action and comedy of the most recent Chan releases because of the time spent on plot development.

Also, there's never one "figure-

Movie Review

The Facts

Film: "Jackie Chan's First Strike"
Stars: Jackie Chan, Bill Tung
Director: Stanley Tong
Rating: PG (mild violence, a bare behind or two)
Grade: B-
Five Words: Jackie does the impossible ... again!

head" bad guy for Chan to take down during the movie, so Chan just fights a bunch of bumbling idiots instead of a big fight near the end. That's like the Stormtroopers without Darth Vader, the pirates without Captain Hook, or Congress without Newt.

(Hm... On second thought...) Still, "First Strike" does its part to satisfy the ravenous appetite of any martial arts or action movie fan.

Check it out.

Classifieds

\$3.25 per day for 15 words on individual student and student organization ads.
\$4.50 per day for 15 words on non-student ads.
\$.15 each additional word.
\$.75 billing charge.
Personal ads must be prepaid.
Found ads may be submitted free of charge.
DEADLINE: 2 p.m. weekday prior.

The Daily Nebraskan will not print any advertisement which discriminates against any person on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability, marital status or national origin.

The Daily Nebraskan reserves the right to edit or reject any advertisement at any time which does not comply with the policies and judgments of the newspaper.

The advertisers agree to assume liability for all contents of all ads printed, as well as any claim arising therefrom made against the Daily Nebraskan.

Greek Affairs continued from the back page

Advertising: 472-2588 or 472-2589

AXQ
Congratulations to Genelle Campbell and Brady Kerr on their recent engagement. Was anybody surprised?

KA
CONGRATULATIONS to Eli Erickson, Cheri Mlady, and Becky Sahl on your recent engagements. We wish you the best of luck!
Love, Your Sisters

Pool Contest At The N Zone
January 21, 22, 23. Entry forms due: Friday, Jan. 17th, \$5.00/team.

ΣAE
To the members of the SAE choir, Thank you for serenading us. What a harmonious way to start the semester!
The Women of Kappa Delta

230 Student Government
GET INVOLVED??
Student Government Position Open

Senate position to represent the College of Engineering and Technology. Application available at 115 Nebr. Union. Deadline Friday, Jan. 24

STUDENT GOVERNMENT SPRING ELECTION
Filing forms are now available at 115 Nebr. Union for the Student Government Election March 12

UNL Student Government
Wed., Jan. 15
6:30 p.m.
City Campus Union

Information And Agenda Available
115 Nebraska Union

245 Lost & Found
FOUND 12/20/96: scarf in NE Union. Claim \$100.

250 Wanted
BIRACIAL individuals for thesis study. Male or female with parents of African-American, White, Asian and Hispanic backgrounds needed. Call Michelle for more info. 472-1688.