



THE WONSERS, also known as (from left to right) Matt, Pete and John Van Dyke, will bring their brotherly love and Minneapolis rock sound to Knickerbockers, 901 O St., Saturday night.

LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

Wonsers perform without clutter

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Don't let their long hair, ripped jeans and worn flannels fool you — these guys really are the proverbial boys next door.

Minneapolis-based The Wonsers, made up of brothers Peter, Matt and John Van Dyke, will perform at Knickerbockers, 901 O St., Saturday night. The band recently made a stop at UNL with the popular Omaha group Blue Moon Ghetto.

The Wonsers — who derive their moniker from their mom's maiden name (aaaww) — are a wonderfully refreshing pop/modern rock band that's tough to categorize and even tougher to draw comparisons to.

Hailing originally from Appleton, Wis.,

the brothers straggled one by one to Minneapolis and conceived The Wonsers five years ago. Peter, 29, is the drummer, Matt, 28, plays bass and John, 23, sings and plays guitar.

"It's one of the most natural things," Peter Van Dyke said of the family business. "We have fun together. We see each other every day."

And the stereotypical image of dueling brothers is nowhere to be found in this band, according to Matt Van Dyke.

"Pete and I have been best friends our whole lives; we're less than a year apart," he said. "We didn't really know what was going to happen when we started this band — we had some crazy ideas."

Some of those crazy ideas have paid off, however, like their approach to songwriting

and arranging music. As testament to that, The Wonsers have an unvarnished, amazingly clutterless sound that allows for plenty of personal space.

Throughout the band's two CDs, 1994's self-titled full-length recording and 1996's EP titled "You Never Knew Me When I Was Young," there's not a tune that's overproduced or overdone. Peter Van Dyke admits that's by design.

"We have problems in the studio — we hate adding stuff just for the sake of adding. It's not necessary," he said. "We barely have any guitar leads at all, which is not very common. Matt's bass lines are more melodic. To me, bass lines are as important as far as melody and singing."

Please see **WONSERS** on 10

Chalk Farm plays fresh, diverse rock

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Chalk Farm may have an odd name, but it's a band that's on the right track when it comes to making music.

Chalk Farm, whose moniker refers to a road in the Camden Town section of London, originally started in 1994 as an acoustic three-piece band with singer Michael Duff, drummer Toby Scarborough and bassist Orlando Sims. Guitarist Trace Ritter provided the hard edge the band was searching for.

"I don't actually listen to rock music," he said. "I listen to R&B, some country — it makes it better for me, to bring some of that into our music."

Shortly after Ritter joined, a Chalk Farm demo landed in the lap of producer Matt Hyde. A Columbia record deal followed — all this for a band that's only been together as a four-piece for two years.

"I think it's kept us fresh because we moved so quick," Ritter said. "We didn't get distracted trying to get a record deal."

Each member of the band contributes his share to the songwriting process, Ritter said. No one instrument is more important than another — the chords of Duff's acoustic guitar are the perfect complement to Ritter's lead, with the rhythm section of Sims and Scarborough providing a solid backdrop.

"A lot of bands feel they need to play all the time," Ritter said. "This is a band that breathes a lot. It's important to me not to overplay."

Duff wrote the lyrics for Chalk Farm's first album, "Notwithstanding." The album is colored with contemporary themes of broken trust, lost love and disillusionment.

They'll be performing an all-ages show at the Ranch Bowl Entertainment Center, 1600 S. 72nd St., in Omaha Sunday. The show starts at 9 p.m., and tickets are \$6 in advance.

Mariachi musician plays at Westbrook

From Staff Reports

Juan Tejeda, a San Antonio native with a button accordion and a penchant for mariachi, will perform in Room 119 of Westbrook Music Hall tonight at 8.

Tejeda will be joined on stage by Armando Tejeda.

Tickets are \$3 and are available at the door.

Famed jazz musicians to enliven Lied Center

From Staff Reports

The Lied Center will get jazzed Saturday night when two jazz quartets are led by two of the genre's top musicians.

Bass star Christian McBride and two-time Grammy-nominated saxophonist Joe Lovano will lead two jazz quartets, bringing a taste of culture to Lincoln and UNL.

Often compared to the great Dizzy Gillespie by The New York Times, McBride has been a crowd pleaser since he was discovered at the age of 13.

Following the Christian McBride Quartet, Joe Lovano will lead his quartet, consisting of pianist Kenny Werner, bassist Dennis Irwin, drummer Yoron Israel and himself.

McBride's dynamic personality is a result of a lifetime emerged in the jazz culture. His father, tenor saxophonist Tony "Big T" McBride exposed him to other jazz legends such as Dizzy Gillespie, Lester Young and Rashaun Roland Kirk as a child.

The performance starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$24, \$20 and \$16, half price for students.

'Bound' resurrects film noir as modern fantasy

By BRET SCHULTE
Film Critic

Although film noir peaked decades ago, this dark and disturbing genre has been forcing a comeback in recent years. The latest contribution, "Bound," stretches the genre to its deepest and darkest limits.

The Wachowski brothers, who penned the international disappointment "Assassins," have returned, but this time share directorial duties for their screenplay.

The brothers explore a genre that typically places a troubled, shadowy man in a position where he must fight for his life against all hope. But "Bound" takes the wrenching emotion and grating suspense of those classic films and twists it into a modern tale of sexual experimentation and greed.

Corky, convincingly played by Gina Gershon ("Showgirls"), is an ex-con who moves next door to Caesar, a mobster (Joe Pantoliano) and his mysterious girlfriend, Violet (Jennifer Tilly). Perhaps the only stumbling block to the



GINA GERSHON (left) and Jennifer Tilly star in "Bound," a new film noir from the Wachowski brothers.

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Please see **BOUND** on 10