

Welcome to NEBRASKA

Mini ska festival to get Lincoln funky this weekend

By **BRET SCHULTE**
Staff Reporter

A caravan of Midwestern ska bands are corraling at Lincoln's Wagon Train Project this weekend to support the local music scene and offer minors the opportunity to attend a mini ska festival.

The festival will feature Omaha's self-described first-wave ska band, the Bishops — who

cite heavy influence from the Jamaican ska forefathers, the Skatellites. Also appearing are three more aggressive ska-funk bands: O'Phil, out of Wichita, Kan., Dr. Castrato and the Measles, who hail from Des Moines and dubiously claim to be Iowa's only indigenous ska band, and, finally, the infant Omaha band, the Beatnets.

Intended to rally support for the Midwest's growing ska scene, this concert is the first of several designed to create a community of touring bands.

"There are about a half-dozen bands in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri," said Dylan Mitchell, bassist and manager for the Bishops. "(These bands) will start pulling together and be on a rotation to put some traditional feel back in ska."

Currently, top 40 bands such as No Doubt are laying claim to ska roots, leading Dylan to be concerned about the future of "traditional" ska.

"That may be ska, but it's not traditional," Mitchell said. "We want to bring the roots of music back to people who don't even know it's there."

The three bands play three dates: Saturday in Springfield, Mo., Sunday's show at the Wagon Train Project in Lincoln and Feb. 21 at the Cog Factory in Omaha.

Although the tour has broader ambitions, promoter Lilly Ristagno said it stemmed from a local need.

"Lincoln hasn't had a ska show in a super long time," Ristagno said. "It worked out that we got it all together, and I think it's really

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DYLAN MITCHELL
The Bishops

important to have an all-ages venue."

"There are a lot of people talking about coming to this show just because it's something to do," Ristagno said.

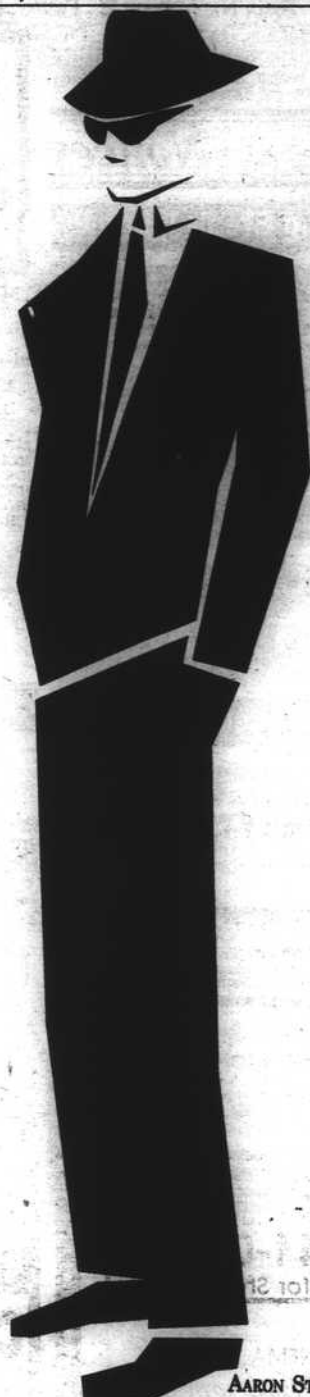
But the ska show this Sunday promises to have something for everyone interested in the sound. Patrick Stura of Dr. Castrato and the Measles promised an incredibly loud and very accepting atmosphere.

"We're definitely an aggressive third-wave ska without being punk — not that we're trying to be un-punk," Stura said. "There seems to be a divisiveness between rude boys, punks — whatever. It doesn't make a difference to us at all."

"Dancing is encouraged," Mitchell said. The show begins at 5 p.m. at the Wagon Train Project, 512 S. Seventh St. Admission is \$5 and all ages are welcome.



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