



ERIK THE RED (from left, Chris Palmquist, Rich Higgins and Shane Aspegren) makes its inaugural public appearance 9:30 tonight at Duffy's Tavern. The freshly banded musicians, all veterans of Lincoln's music scene, open for For Against and The Sheridans. LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

Ranch Bowl funks it up tonight

BY PATRICK MINER
Music Critic

Concert Preview

The music is right, so get your dancin' shoes on, as the Ranch Bowl will be booty shakin' tonight.

Phunk Junkeez will bring their style of "Liquid Aggression" to the Omaha venue with Shootyz Groove and Incubus for a 9 p.m. show.

The band is making its second appearance in Omaha since July and should give fans a gaze at material from an album due out in November.

"Adrenaline," "Bones" and "Dead Beat" were some of the tracks played at the July show that could show up on the new record.

Phunk Junkeez have gone through some changes since their last album, having lost one Junkee, K-Tel, because of professional differences, member Soulman said. DJ Roachclip takes on the addition-

al duty of rapping the lines formerly held by K-Tel.

"The difference can be heard in the new songs," Soulman said. "The new record will be much more positive."

Soulman said K-Tel was responsible for many of the negative lyrics in tracks such as "Snapped." The departure has given the band a more positive attitude about what it is doing, he said.

Tonight, the Junkeez will play the usual hits and also might throw in a more lyrically "phunked" up "Song 2," which Soulman said Blur "ripped off" from the Junkeez.

Shootyz Groove will play before the Phunk Junkeez, and will give the latter something to live up to. The band's blend of funk and hip-hop will get the crowd bounc-

ing and will be worth the \$12.50 admission on its own.

Incubus will open the show with a style similar to Korn and Limp Bizkit. The quintet has the standard vocalist, guitarist, bassist and drummer line-up, but Incubus also adds a spinster, DJ Lyfe.

The lyrics on its latest record, "S.C.I.E.N.C.E.," carry a positive theme in the end, but are too abstract. Vocalist Brandon Boyd uses a pointless simile of being like a vitamin and the extended metaphor kicking off the album is about a human magic marker.

When listeners aren't dropping "S.C.I.E.N.C.E." into used CD recycle bins, the band will tour the East Coast with the Phunk Junkeez.

However, Shootyz Groove and the Phunk Junkeez should be the highlight tonight, as they send funk and hip-hop into a crowd that surely will be sore the next day.

Local rockers join forces in Erik the Red

BY BRET SCHULTE
Senior Reporter

Lincoln's frequently incestuous rock scene has spawned once again — and this offspring already has a history.

Local rock veterans Rich Higgins, Chris Palmquist and Shane Aspegren have combined their varied and eclectic musical backgrounds to forge Lincoln's newest rock team, Erik the Red.

Most Lincoln residents will get their first taste of the band at its show tonight at Duffy's, 1412 O St., where Erik the Red will open for fellow local rockers For Against and The Sheridans, from Austin, Texas.

Band members say the collection and combination of their past experiences has helped create a sound unique to Lincoln's local rock scene.

"We don't really sound like anybody else in Lincoln," Aspegren, the drummer, said. "Our band is more atmosphere. We utilize a lot of rhythmic things, a lot of melody and trance rock."

All agreed that atmosphere was a crucial ambition of the band.

"It's like a poetry reading," Palmquist, the bassist, said. "We're trying to create a mood."

Although the name may suggest Viking house music and Swedish porn, Erik the Red sprung from more poetic origins. The name occurred to Higgins, Erik the Red's guitarist, while he was employed at a local greenhouse and nursery.

"It's inspired by a particular flower," Higgins said. "I was planting these Siberian irises, and I looked at the name tag. It said 'Erik the Red.'"

The other band members embraced the idea.

"After three months (of being together without a name), anything sounded good," Aspegren said.

The band was conceived when Palmquist, a former member of Eamon, hooked up with Aspegren, a former member of Lullaby for the Working Class. Aspegren, whose past also includes a stint with the complex but extinct We'd Rather Be Flying, used his connections and contacted Sideshow guitarist Higgins about the project.

Bringing together their distinct visions and separate influences, the local rockers created a communal cacophony that is heavy on mood and repetition. Together, members of the band decided to create a sound reflective of their backgrounds, but with an overall sound embracing more abstract ideas.

"We're a little more instrumentally based," Aspegren said. "Lyrically, we go off ideas that are pretty ambiguous. (Higgins) seems to be coming more from thematic fragments and a rhythmic base."

While all members of the band have taken a departure from their previous styles, Higgins probably has taken the largest leap. As a member of local rock legend and emotional noise wall Sideshow, he has been allowed to explore different facets of his musical meanders.

"This is my first time singing, and I'm trying to convince people I have something to say," he said, laughing. "I think now I am putting more of my pop sensibility into it."

Aside from a few house parties, tonight's show will be only the second public appearance for Erik the Red. But, members said, their brief summer tour of the Midwest allowed them the opportunity to tighten the band's sound and create a greater cohesiveness.

"We're trying to find a happy medium between pretentious alt-rock and stupid pop rock," Aspegren said.

Tonight's show begins at 9:30 and costs \$4.

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