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-HAVE FUN!!!



# Local music benefit concert aids Amnesty International campaigns

By **BRET SCHULTE**  
Senior Reporter

To raise support for humanitarian efforts, the UNL chapter of Amnesty International is rocking in the free world — or, at least, Lincoln.

Showcasing local bands and promoting international involvement, the campus chapter is playing host to a benefit concert Saturday at the Culture Center, 333 N. 14th St. The show's \$5 admission fee will help fund the group's letter-writing campaigns and local promotions.

Usually held once or twice a year, the benefit concerts are a source of entertainment for local rock fans and information for people interested in getting involved, chapter co-coordinator Ken Paulman said.

"The concert itself is mostly about the music," Paulman said. "We'll just have a booth there, and before the headlining act someone will speak about Amnesty International and what we do."

Saturday's show highlights an eclectic mix of liberating music to benefit Amnesty International. Leading the local lineup is Lincoln's humblest near-legend rock band, Mercy Rule, which follows opening act and rising star China Digs, Jive, rock novices Hootnanny, local all-star ensemble Erik the Red and hip-hopsters Beyond.

Although very interested in the exposure, Erik the Red guitarist and vocalist Rich Higgins says helping the international advocacy group is another perk to doing Saturday's show.

"It's an opportunity to play in front of people, which we haven't done much of lately," Higgins said. "(But) even being asked to play these kinds of shows for Amnesty kind of wakes me up about what's going on."

Founded in 1961, Amnesty International has received global recognition, including a Nobel Prize, for its worldwide efforts to cease persecution based on religion, color, sex and political beliefs.

Advocating nonviolence and tolerance, Amnesty International's more than 1 million worldwide members work to ensure fair and equal treatment for persecuted people through letter-writing campaigns and popular pressure.

Locally, the UNL chapter has 10 core members and more than 30 names on its list of contacts, Paulman said. The campus chapter actively participates in correspondence and recently engaged in addressing issues in Bosnia. Although ostensibly passive, Paulman said, such tactics are "surprisingly effective" in creating social and/or political change.

"Basically it's a human rights group," he said. "If there is a human rights violation in some part of the

world which is based on international standards, we will write to leaders of the country in which said violation takes place and inform them that we know what is going on."

When someone, particularly from the United States, is aware of what is happening, it is a way of holding leaders accountable for their actions, Paulman said.

While Amnesty International is frequently involved outside the borders of the United States, Paulman said, oppression occurs everywhere and, consequently, requires constant attention — even from students seemingly isolated from world events.

"In reality, it affects everyone directly or indirectly when free ideas are oppressed in one part of the world," he said. "It means that it can happen anywhere."

Because postage is expensive, Paulman said the benefit concerts were essential to the group's letter-writing campaigns.

Although the show is sponsored by the campus chapter of Amnesty International, it is not going to be a recruiting session, Paulman said.

"It's not necessarily a question of getting people to come to meetings," he said. "I feel that we do a service informing people and inspiring them to think about things and be aware of what's happening."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FABTONES  
**THE FABTONES (from left, Reynold Petersen, Jim Pipher, Pam Burger, Steve Hanson and Jon Hischke) bring their love of rhythm and blues to the Zoo Bar Friday and Saturday, playing host at Soul Spectacular III.**

# Fabtones forge Soul Spectacular III

By **BRET SCHULTE**  
Senior Reporter

Although the blues is a way of life, for these guys it's not only a part-time job, but an all-out celebration.

A popular band for private parties and receptions, local eclectic rockers The Fabtones are sponsoring their third rhythm and blues festival, Soul Spectacular III, Friday and Saturday at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.

The show will focus on soul music from the late '50s and '60s and canvass hits from such artists as Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Ray Charles and Van Morrison, said Jon Hischke, saxophonist for The Fabtones.

"It's just a chance to recreate some of the soul music sounds of the '60s," Hischke said. "I was a kid in the '60s, and I was surrounded by it."

Being the quintet's only horn player, Hischke added three more for this weekend's show to make the group's blues a little brassy as well. In fact, the size of the group is doubling for the Soul Spectacular, including a second drummer and keyboardist to round out the bulging roster.

"(Adding horns) helps to reproduce that larger horn sound that was indicative of soul music in the '60s," Hischke said. "Every soul singer had a big horn section, so we just want to reproduce that."

Hischke explained that in the late '50s and early '60s, soul music was divided between mostly white and mostly black bands. With the advent of rock 'n' roll with Elvis Presley leading the charge, many white musicians fol-

lowed suit by abandoning the horn for a guitar.

But soul music persisted through the dedication of many black musicians who continued to rely heavily on a large horn section to offer harmony and resonance to their already-orchestral sound.

To be true to these classic artists, Hischke says, a strong horn section is necessary.

"Everyone in the band has a lot of respect for all those players and musicians of days past," he said.

Although The Fabtones have officially been a band for only about five years, group members have played roles in local and/or blues scenes for large parts of their lives.

Guitarist Steve Hanson has played in a variety of touring groups since the early '70s, as has bassist Jim Pipher. With many members in their mid-40s, vocalist and drummer Reynold Petersen said band members are content with where the group is now.

"None of us are aspiring to do a lot of road work, Petersen said. "We've done it in the past and have come full circle and enjoy just playing here."

Regular guests at the Zoo Bar's Friday Afternoon Club, The Fabtones say playing the blues is never just routine.

"You can't copy somebody else's soul," Petersen said. "You can take their music, but you have to put your own soul into it."

Both shows begin at 9 p.m. and cost \$5. Call (402) 435-8754 for more information.