

# Primus to headline 'mini-festival'

BY JASON HARDY  
Assignment Reporter

Most rock shows these days have all the characteristics of a microwave dinner. Greasy, way too chewy and never enough good stuff.

But tonight Nebraska gets a smorgasbord of rock 'n' roll. Complete with "pork soda" to wash it down.

Primus, veterans in the world of weird and moody music, sails into Sokol Hall tonight with the Swatch Sno-Core tour.

The band will share the stage with San Diego's fast and often offending Blink 182. The opening act is the costumed Aquabats in what is being called a mini-festival, complete with industry booths by DC Shoes, Droors, Raygun magazine and Dub foul weather gear.

In other, more environmentally privileged parts of the country, the tour has included skateboard and snowboard demonstrations along with the live performances. But thanks to Nebraska's flat terrain and the laws banning skateboarding everywhere, it's all rock 'n' roll tonight, baby.

The show's diverse lineup is sure to create an interesting and energetic night of music. Kicking things off will be the Aquabats, a superhero ska band, followed by the Billabong-clad Blink 182, a melodic three-piece punk band whose songs usually pay homage to the simpler things in life such as girls, drinking and, of course, naked butts.

Wrapping things up like a big bass burrito will be Les Claypool and Primus. The band is on tour in support of its latest collection of little ditties entitled "The Brown Album."

Primus guitarist, Larry La Londe, said this tour is especially fun because it is the band's first one with new drummer Bryan "Brain" Mantia.

"It definitely has a new exciting feel," La Londe said. "Brain's always been one of my favorite drummers as well as one of my favorite people to hang out with."

"The Brown Album" is the first Primus release to feature Mantia on drums. La Londe said the new member helped to create an album reminiscent of Primus' earlier recordings like "Suck on This" and "Frizzle Fry," though it wasn't an intentional choice.

"We just wanted to make sure it wasn't overproduced," La Londe said. "We wanted it to sound like you were standing next to a drum set."

He said part of the reason for the new album's deep and echoing sound was that it was recorded at Rancho Relaxo, which is more than your average recording studio.

"It's basically just Les' house, and we just set up a bunch of our gear," La Londe said.

He said that type of setting made for a more relaxed recording experience.

"It's definitely more homey, and you don't have to walk past other people's gold records getting to the room," La Londe said.

## Concert Preview

He said Rancho Relaxo also made for cheap recording time which in turn helped the band keep its integrity.

"We haven't spent much of (the record company's) money so they're ready to let us have our freedom," La Londe said. "We don't want to be under the pressure of 'oh you better put on the spandex and get some big hairdo now.'"

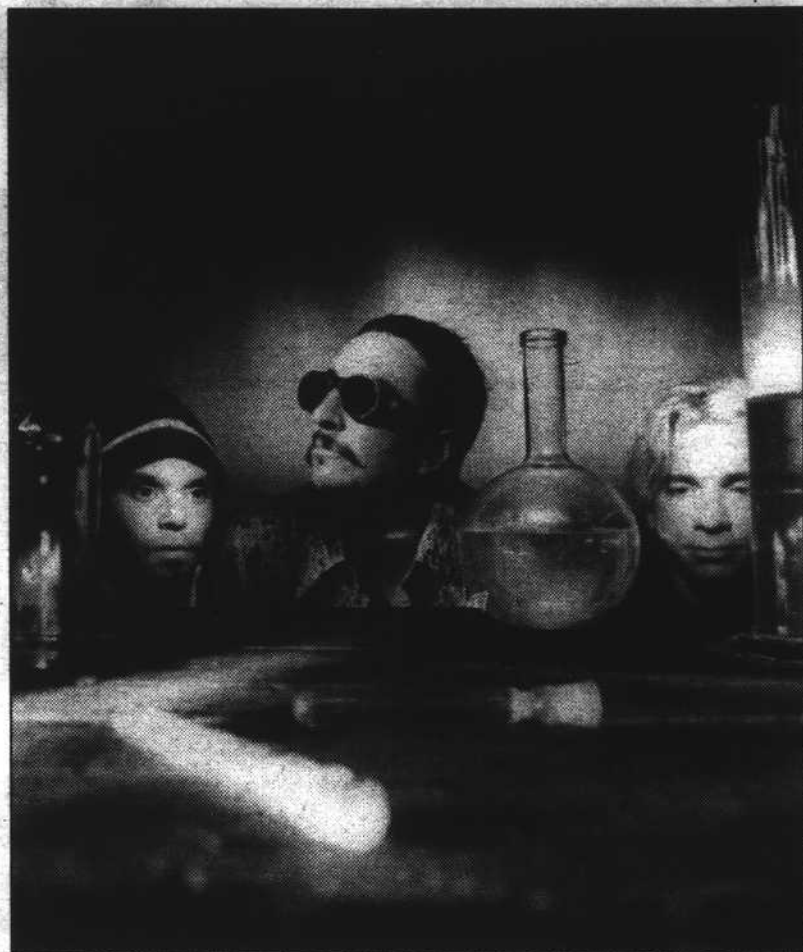
Primus has never been a band to worry too much about what other people thought, La Londe said.

"We just started out trying to do our own thing, and whoever likes it, likes it," La Londe said. "We figured out early on that you can try to go mainstream and make it or not make it, but if you're doing what you want to do and you don't make it big, at least you're still doing what you want to."

La Londe said Primus was releasing an EP this spring and it may feature a claymation cover. Other than that, he said his goals were pretty grounded.

"Hopefully we'll tour in the bus with all of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit models," La Londe said. "Really we just want to keep doing what we do and hopefully not be overtaken by the Puff Daddy and the Family tour."

Doors open for the sold-out show at 6 p.m. Sokol Hall is located at 2234 S. 13th St. in Omaha.



COURTESY PHOTO  
PRIMUS WILL PERFORM at Omaha's Sokol Hall tonight. The band's lineup is (from left) Brain, Les Claypool and Larry La Londe.

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