

# 'Surreal' band grounded in reality

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## Concert Preview

Despite the dreamy name, St. Surreal has no illusions about life as a van-based rock group.

Their seemingly never-ending tour includes a scheduled stop in Lincoln for a second appearance in three months Friday at Knickerbockers, 901 O St.

Backing up its 1997 debut album, "A Fun Night Out Of Fasting," the modern rock band that hails from Los Angeles is on an "indefinite" tour of the eastern two-thirds of the country in hopes of gaining more national recognition.

"Lincoln's going to be the gateway to the Midwest for us," St. Surreal bassist Preston Clarke said Wednesday from Albuquerque, N.M., in a phone

interview. The band plays today in Boulder, Colo., before making the drive down I-80 to Lincoln.

Vocalist/guitarist Bert Hill and drummer Scott Stanton make up the rest of St. Surreal, a band that's been grinding out catchy pop for seven years.

But it wasn't until 1997 that the group hooked up with Coventry Records out of Los Angeles and recorded their first album. Clarke said one of the objectives of the second tour is to work on new material for a second album, which he said should be recorded sometime next year.

"We're always working on new stuff, so we'll see what happens when

the tour's done," Clarke said.

St. Surreal can probably expect to expand its fan base when their first music video debuts on MTV's alternative video show "120 Minutes." Hill said the video "Alma Mater," should be aired near the end of September.

After stopping in Lincoln, St. Surreal will continue touring throughout the Midwest before making its way to the northeastern United States.

Listeners who appreciate low-key and sometimes poppy alternative music will enjoy the sounds of St. Surreal.

Hill said the band's goal is to make their mark on the "modern music" scene.

"But we'll leave it to somebody else to coin a specific term for our music," he said.

The \$3 show starts at 9:30 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO  
ST. SURREAL hopes to make Lincoln its gateway to the Midwest. The group plays its second show here in three months Friday night.

