Reggae, rock band's future looks bright

REGGAE from page 5

so it's radio friendly," Gopie said.

Both Gopie and Erikkson believe that deep down, everybody likes reggae music, which is at the heart of Dred I Dread's sound. However, Gopie said, "most people just don't understand reggae music" and so they can appreciate the American influences and look of the band.

"With Dred I Dread, at least they see people they can relate to," Gopie said.

"We're a diverse band - white,

black, young, old, male and female," Erikkson added.

Breaking through the image of a "local band," Dred I Dread will be touring New York in October and hitting the west coast in January.

"We're venturing out of our comfort zone to test the waters to spread the music," Gopie said.

In the meantime, the winner of the Minnesota Music Academy's "Best Reggae Band for 2000" award can be seen tonight in their second appearance at The Zoo Bar at 9 p.m.

Smoke-filled air completes aura

HARPER from page 5

sometimes rare in our era of corporate boy bands.

It was refreshing to see performers emotionally involved in superb and challenging music and having as good of a time as their fans.

The City Market fostered an atmosphere that encouraged fans and performers to interact and entertain each other.

In northern Kansas City, the market is lined with small shops that sold T-shirts, bananas, beer and much more.

Fans mingled happily with

one another in the communal environment, which was sprinkled with hippies, yuppies and everything in-between.

The entire audience followed Harper on his musical journey from covers of Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love," Marvin Gay's "Sexual Healing" and Jimi Hendrix's "Manic Depression."

Bass player Oliver Charles provided rich bass lines throughout and helped out with vocals in the soulful version of 'Sexual Healing."

Amid the musical experiments, Harper played a brief solo acoustic set that included a

Harsh words speak honest message

moving rendition of "Another Lonely Day."

Harper was at home alone on the stage, eyes closed, singing from the depths of his heart.

At times, it felt as though Harper would rather have the audience sitting next to him, singing along, rather than standing in front.

Watching Ben Harper and the Innocent Criminals boldly explore their music was amazing.

What was even better, though, was that they invited their audience to follow along on the trip.



Face To Face has never received the love from the suits that decide what music should grace their radio airwaves.

So the southern California punk rock group knew they had to resort to other means to gain a following.

They toured rigorously, gained an audience and now have become the Green Bay Packers of the music industry, with their fans making major decisions about the group's musical releases.

Face To Face let their fans choose all the songs that went latest CD, on their "Reactionary," in a vote conducted on mp3.com.

"First and foremost, we want to know what our fans think.," vocalist and guitarist Trever Keith said in a press release. "We want them to decide on the album what they want to hear."

Tonight, the four man group will be making a tour stop in Omaha at the Ranch Bowl.

Playing with Face to Face is Alkaline Trio, Newfound Glory and Save the Day.

Tickets for the 8:30 p.m. show are \$13.50 at the door.

Life on the road isn't new to Keith, who is the only one of the four current members to be with the band when it was formed in 1991.

Face To Face has been headlining tours for the past five or six years.

'Reactionary," came out in surprising quickness after their 1999 production "Ignorance Is Bliss.

Amazingly, it took the group only a month to crank out 'Reactionary.'

"We wanted to keep it moving and keep it fresh and exciting," Keith said. "So, it's a very live-feeling album, and it's also a more developed sound for the band.'

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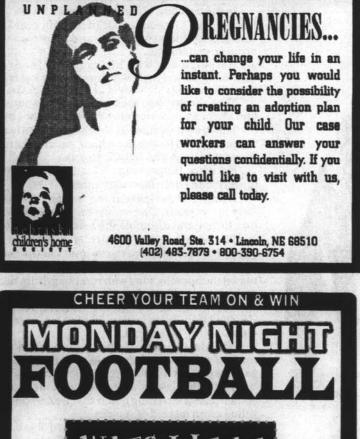
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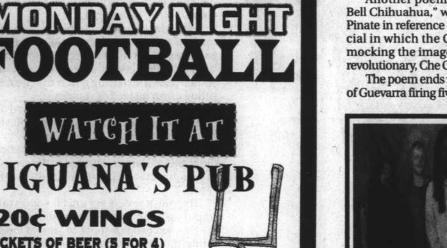
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POETRY from page 5

He recites slang words the young boy hears in reference to his ethnic background.

He talks about how the boy works until 2 a.m., then is forced to go to school the next day and learn about historic figures like the Pilgrims, who have no relevance to his historic background.

The poem ends with Rivera working a janitorial job on the 4th of July while people celebrate a fireworks display outside.

The poem closes with the words, "While the band plays "God Bless America," Humberto Rivera scrubs the shit from corporate toilets and ponders if he is thankful for being in America."

Another poem, titled "Taco Bell Chihuahua," was written by Pinate in reference to a commercial in which the Chihuahua is mocking the image of the Latin revolutionary, Che Guevarra.

The poem ends with the ghost of Guevarra firing five rounds into "I have art as an outlet. A lot of young cats don't have that."

Marc Pinate slam poet

his message to be misinterpreted. "I'm not an angry militant; I just want to make life better for

everyone," he said. 'I'm offering things for you to

peruse and make your own judgments about."

As for his experience in Lincoln, Pinate said it was positive, although he was performing for a different audience than what he is used to.

He said often times, there won't be one white person in the audience.

"It's been a very positive experience," he said. "I don't perform for white audiences often.

"It's been refreshing to come somewhere that is so different from where I come from.

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experience of being pulled over for DWB (driving while brown) and having to lie face down on the ground.

His work is how he controls his rage from such experiences.

'I have art as an outlet," he said. "A lot of young cats don't have that.' His messages are strong and

sound angry, but he doesn't want

Tonight! Dred I Dread Voted Best Reggae Band From Minneapolis

the Chihuahua. The dead dog is then thrown on the BBQ. His final words are Guevarra

saying, "Yo, fuck that shit, homes ... I didn't die to be a marketing gimmick."

Pinate explained his message to the class before and after each poem.



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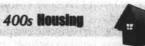
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