

## Hip Pocket delivers again

by Karen Strawn  
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This is not normal.

After listening to the newest compact disc release titled "Twice in a Blue Moon," by Bloomington/Normal's R&B band Hip Pocket, you will feel proud and will want to share this music with as many of your friends and relatives as possible who live in Nashville, Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles or any other major music city in the world.

Having based the foundation of their part-time music careers on the longevity, loyalty and locale, the nine talented Hip Pocket performers have, once again, created a solid, tight, big sound, which makes the residents of Central Illinois proud - twice in a blue moon.

Pinch yourself and claim ownership of this combination platter of soulful blues, funk, rock 'n' roll and Motown that delivers the flavor of Twin City's very own 1997 Inaugural Gala Ball guest entertainers.

This CD follows Hip Pocket's debut "This Ain't Normal," released in February 1995. To own both is necessary just because of the local essence. However, "Twice in a Blue Moon" will sound better because it was recorded with the advantages of studio technology. "This Ain't Normal" was recorded live at Scotties when Scotties was Scotties.

Two originals, "Should Have Seen," written by lead singer Marc Boon and "Ocum's Razor," written by lead guitarist Jeff Paxton prove lyricist excellence in the future as the pockets on the hips expand.

The single "Early In the Morning," is your best bet for a taste of Hip Pocket featured horn-section, Boon's lead with harmonizing and R&B snap.

Other highlights are Pocket-sized versions of "I Believe I'm In Love With You," "Chain of Fool," "Use Me Up" and Delbert McClinton's "I'm With You."

Most of the 10 songs are rhythm and blues-based, upbeat dance tunes, two exceptions are slow ballads, "God Bless The Child" and "Hard Times." These help shape the CD into a complete Hip Pocket sampler.

The band's CD Release party last month at the Lafayette Club in Bloomington turned out to be a Marc Boon Blue Moon "Cardiac Party." More than 550 people between the ages of 21 and 70 brought the \$30 tickets, which included dinner, CD and a Hip Pocket live performance which featured the single "Cardiac Party."

"Twice In a Blue Moon" is now available at both Musicland locations, ProSound Center and Deadpan Alley in downtown Normal.