

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Echo and the Bunnymen revive Las Vegas

by chris cox

entertainment editor

The weather was beautiful, spirits were up, and Echo and the Bunnymen were in town. After Love and Rockets and Gene Loves Jezebel, portions of the Vegas community had given up hope on the likes of an alternative music concert being any good. Tonight, though, those skeptics would be proven wrong.

Artemus Ham Concert Hall was about half capacity when The Screaming Blue Messiahs hit the stage. The only good thing about this band was the fact that they would eventually be leaving the stage. This trio had absolutely no stage presence, which seemed to blend in perfectly with their lack of musicality. Every song had approx-

imately a thirty second gap in between, therefore absolutely no effort was made by any member of

Carter, the often charismatic lead singer/guitarist for the Screaming Blue's, seem-

ingly continued to issue a blank stare into the stage lights and the audience could do nothing but share

permission between bands, The Artemus Ham Hall starting pulsing with new life. By the time the

goers were ready to be entertained and enlightened. Echo and the Bunnymen took to an incredibly well set stage. With gallons of fog rolling off into the audience and various vines and branches suspended from a fishing net; Ham Hall was mysteriously transformed into a desolate swamplike area.

Lead singer/guitarist Ian McNaughton managed to capture the undivided attention of every member of the audience in a thoroughly riveting performance that will not be matched for awhile on that stage. He was very subtle in his movements, and his patter between songs was limited to a polite "Thank you" to the audience.

The bands program consisted of new and old songs that kept a major-



Echo singer/guitarist Ian McNaughton captivated the crowd last Tuesday at the Artemus Ham Hall  
Photo by mike keller

the band to communicate with the audience. Bill ed extremely bored with the entire affair. He simp-

in his boredom.

During the hour long in-

real show was about to

start, over 1,200 concert

See Bunnymen, pg 11

## Big Wow, big future

by heather brandes

staff writer

UNLV Spring Fest has always made it a point to bring forth Vegas' finest local bands, sending Rebel students off in party style. Past acts include Samson's Army, The Generics, and Little Sister. Kicking things off Weds. March 30 at 10:30am, is a definite must see; Big Wow. And although Big Wow has never played a campus function, I'm sure a couple of faces will look more than a little familiar.

Big Wow was formed one year ago with ex-Rainy Days guitarist John Carlyle, and drummer Gina Mainwal (Gina the Jet), and ex-Smart Bomb singer Mark Huff. Grown bored with stagnant copy bands and stale trendy bands, they set out to write and play their own music. Not an altogether impossible feat if you're into doing Sunday Showcases at the Moby Grape for little of no

money. But aside from doing a March 20 showcase, they've managed to play a few underage clubs, and an acoustic set a couple of weeks ago on KUNV's Rock Ave. Where, incidentally, they have the song *I Don't Know (what I'm waiting for)* in regular rotation.

Upon seeing Big Wow live, you can expect driving guitars, a strong backbeat, that's sure to make you sit up and take notice, and Mark Huff's biting lyrics and sexy strut. What you see isn't necessarily what you get with this group. No spandex, spikes, or half-witted pyrotechnics, just gritty down-to-earth rock and roll. Those who witnessed Sunday's performance, however small the audience was, were very responsive. One response came in the form of a very drunk female who yelled *Play something we know!* To which the band obliged with a rather funny (but serious) version

of *Love Will Keep Us Together*.

In a live interview, I spoke with the members of Big Wow sans bassist Brian Sturusta—who suffered the death of his grandfather only hours after the Sunday show.

H.B.—Any influences, musical or otherwise?

B.W.—“We don't want to sound too obvious but Buddy Holly, Captain & Tennille, Neil Diamond, Earth, Wind & Fire, Commodores, Ohio Players, Chic, Sly & the Family Stone...

Gina—And Andy Gibb, I mourn for Andy.

H.B.—So that's why you're wearing black.

Mark—Actually all the Bee Gees—you know, Saturday Night Fever. Also Elvis Presley, Marvin Gaye, Van Morrison, and country, like Merle Haggard or Marty Robbins—John grew up with Marty Robbins.

H.B.—So is this like your personal brush with fame? John—Well, my dad was  
See Big Wow, pg 10

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