

Calimity's concert house does it again

Flock of Seagulls lands in Las Vegas

By Matthew Dovel
Reporter

Calimity's continued dedication to bring top name performers to Las Vegas, has landed the famous, "A Flock of Seagulls."

Last Friday night I had the pleasure to hear, see and interview the leader of "A Flock of Seagulls," Mike Score. For those of you who can't remember "A Flock of Seagulls," they had two number one hits in the early eighties: "I Ran," and "Space Age."

Mike Score said, "At the time, we and about fifteen other bands were the only ones with videos on television. This helped to catapult us into an overnight success."

Mike Score told me, "The band, at its peak in 1985, reached the point where we had just outgrown our capacity to handle the overnight success."

He said, "It was like driving a car over a hundred miles an hour and the car's engine only had the ability to go eighty. The end result was a blown engine. So

that's what happened, we blew our engine. We reached the point where we didn't think our manager, or the record company, was

doing the right thing. Then, during the reorganizing of the band in 1986, everything just fell apart and we went our separate ways".

Score said he had written and composed all of the songs that "A Flock of Seagulls," had sung. He said that he believed, in essence, that a "A Flock of Seagulls" was him.

For those of you who were wondering what's next, so was I, and I asked the same question to Score. His reply was "I'm in the process of putting together a team, or band, that I believe will exceed the achievement of our past. I believe I have found the best lead guitarist around to date, being Ed Burner. I'm just waiting for the right record deal."

When I went to Calimity's concert house to hear "A Flock of Seagulls," and to see what kind of turnout they would receive, there was only standing room left by the time I arrived. I watched as a total of 350 people crammed Calimity's to capacity.

It was apparent to me by the end of the night that the memory of "A Flock of Seagulls" had not faded from the fans.



Yell Photo / Matt Dovel

The Birds? - No, a Flock of Seagulls were the attraction recently at Calimity Jaynes.

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'Pump Up the Volume' strikes a chord

By Mark Landwehr
Staff Reporter

Allan Moyle's, "Pump Up the Volume" is basically a teen age version of Oliver Stone's, "Talk Radio". Although focused on different age groups, the two films share the common thread of showing what happens when a person speaks his mind over the radio airwaves.

"Pump Up the Volume" stars Christian Slater as a high school student in Arizona, recently transplanted from New York. Slater is somewhat of a "geek"; asocial and unwilling to talk to anyone, except as his alter ego, "Happy Harry Hard." Harry may be heard by the students of Hubert H. Humphrey High School on their radios, if they park in a particular part of town where the reception is best. You see, Harry broadcasts courtesy of the short wave radio set his parents gave him to talk to his friends in New York, by pirating the airwaves.

Harry remains anonymous to his listeners, as he finds himself best able to talk when in the company of only a microphone. One girl at the school, however, sets out to determine the identity of the mysterious Harry, who's, "Thoughts go everywhere, invited or not." The girl is played very convincingly by Samantha Mathis, in her screen debut.

Harry's effect on the school is quite apparent to both students and teachers alike, as students begin painting Harry's sayings on walls around school. Sayings such as "Talk Hard" and "So Be It",

become the watchwords of the school; much to the chagrin of the school administration that is so often the butt of Harry's humor.

The movie is laced with rock and rap songs, including offerings by Concrete Blonde, Above the Law, Sonic Youth, Peter Murphy and Cowboy Junkies. The songs interweave with dialog by our hero, as he spreads his message "invited or not", into the Arizona night.

Inevitably, the blue noses like the FCC and the local police get involved to stop the so-called madness; but they fail to do so before Harry gets his message across.

"Pump Up the Volume" is not just a mindless teenage story, written strictly as an excuse to sell a soundtrack. Moyle has a genuine message here; that being to, "Steal the Air" and to "Open you mouth and speak". The movie desperately tries to plead a case on behalf of teenagers and their problems in communicating; including adults lack of attention to the same, resulting in so many teen age problems.

The film succeeds in getting its message across, despite some obvious cutting room mistakes, and therefore warrants viewing by both teenagers and adults alike. "Volume" has appeal to the college audience, as well, as it wasn't that long ago that we were in high school; living the life the characters on the screen were only playing as a role. "Pump Up the Volume" strikes a 'chord' in all of us, and is as entertaining as it is emotionally moving.