

Lynyrd Skynyrd is timeless Southern rock

by Angela Ramsey

In the midst of a musical realm that increasingly favors synthesizers and drum machines, veteran rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd continue to prove that a dose of Southern rock still speaks with timeless energy. Their tour is called "Tribute," and judging from the Las Vegas crowd's reaction, it is a hit.

The original Skynyrd band began its career in the 1970's but parted later that decade after a plane crash that killed two of its

members, including lead singer Ronnie Van Zant. The popularity of their early hits eventually diminished but never completely faded. The recent revival of classic rock has welcomed back Skynyrd's classic array of rock 'n' roll tunes.

The awakening of this seemingly forgotten genre of music has encouraged new artists to emerge. Opening band Steve Earle and The Dukes established the prevailing tone of the concert by performing with a folk, country rock flavor. Earle's six-piece acousti-

cal ensemble held its ground in front of an audience that knew what it wanted to hear. The Dukes' confidence and unique sound shows definite promise for the future of Southern rock but reflects their musical influences.

As far as influences go in the rock world, members of Lynyrd Skynyrd still are predominant figures. The band has never lost its integrity or honest appeal. In the shadow of time and misfortune, new singer and Ronnie Van Zant's brother, Johnny Van Zant,

still rocks with the Skynyrd tradition.

The eight-piece band resurrected such hits as "Saturday Night Special," "I Know A Little," "That Smell" and "Sweet Home Alabama." Van Zant had the crowd on its feet as dueling drummers pounded with inspiring synchronicity.

After leaving the stage, the rockers gave in to the pleadings of the fans and returned for a 20-minute encore of "Freebird," a

song that has become an American anthem for rock connoisseurs. The instrumental version of the song, from dramatic beginning to closing jam, exemplified the essence of the "Tribute" tour—a tribute to the past as well as the future.

Hopefully, Lynyrd Skynyrd can transcend the boundaries of tradition and bring fresh ideas to the studio. Although the concert did not include a preview of new material, the band anticipates a new album for next year.

MTV refuses to air another video Controversial clip features devil in white-face

Elektra Entertainment Although the devil has been recording artists Brand Nubian, outspoken musicians of the 5% Nation (a group based on Islamic beliefs), have run into some trouble with their rap video "Wake Up." Although the clip contains no sex or violence, MTV has declined to air "Wake Up" alleging the piece contains racist elements.

The offending element, apparently, is Brand Nubian's repeated use of an image of Satan. The devil is portrayed in white-face, an ironic inversion of Al Jolson minstrel show stereotyping.

Although the devil has been played by whites from Goethe's "Faust" through Robert DeNiro's Louis Cypher in "Angel Heart," Brand Nubian took things one step further, using a black actor in white drag as a personification of the evil of white supremacy.

While MTV refused the clip on ideological grounds, other outlets—including Black Entertainment Television, Video Music Box, local and club reels—have jumped on it. A re-edited version of the video is being prepared for submission to MTV.

The public profits from PBS Channel 10

by Joseph J. Wheeler

"Any kind of donation helps in every kind of way," according to Lee Winston, News Director for the Public Television Station, Channel 10. Only a small portion of funding, however, comes from the community through donations and fundraisers.

Channel 10 is institutionally licensed to the Clark County School District, where much of the station's funding is found. The station is designed to be used for educational purposes, broadcasting shows such as "NOVA" (a science program), "Electric Company," "Three, Two, One Contact," "Sesame Street" and "National Geographic" programs. The station also purchases science, art and music shows from the dis-

trict.

Used by many teachers to enhance learning, every show aired on Channel 10 provides for the Instructional Television Fixed Services requirements, as well as

"The Public Broadcasting System is an excellent tool for young learners as well as teachers."

for the Clark County School Board of Trustees.

"The Public Broadcasting System is an excellent tool for young learners as well as teachers," Winston said. "If kids are learning to count and spell from

these programs even before they start school, then the educational system must become more advanced and teach at a higher level."

In addition to donations and the Clark County School District's funding, money for Channel 10 also comes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Being one of nearly 320 Public Broadcasting System channels across the country, Channel 10 receives a portion of distributed funds from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting every year, and the C.P.B. also matches any donations that Channel 10 receives.

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