

Big Mack attack at the all new Main Gate

By Bret Skiba

With the emergence of two new rock clubs in town and the closing of another, one long standing member of this genre has been overlooked, but not any more. The all new Main Gate on Craig Road is finally starting to get some notoriety, thanks to the new man in charge. Robert Mack, "Big Mack" as he is better known, began working at the most prominent rock club in Las Vegas back in 1981 while earning his degree in business at UNLV. Mack moved over to the Main Gate following the unfortunate demise of the Moby Grape in 1990 and would like to carry on the legacy of the Grape at his new club. He wants to continue bringing the old style and format

of the Grape by giving his patrons what they want; more live rock, more nights of the week.

Using his 16 years of experience in the business of working in clubs, he has found a formula which tries to cater to everyone. The Main Gate features live music five nights of the week including a three-band local showcase every Tuesday and house bands every Thursday through Saturday. Although dark on Sunday and Monday, the Gate is open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

Mack enjoys having local bands play. They are so few in number that they need a place to play so they can be recognized, unlike Los Angeles club bands. Some of the more prolific local bands that Mack has showcased in the past include Roxanne and

Love Hunter. However, he would like to get major acts to play at his new club. Since he has only been at the Main Gate for three months, reorganization and status reestablishment are his top priorities.

Even though the location isn't prime, it does get good business from the air force base and the followings which some of the bands attract. Mack has lost some business due to the situation in the gulf, but he would just like to see everybody come back safely. Although it might seem out of the way to some, the showcase and the other activities like the Naughty Nighties contest on Thursday are well worth the trip if you want to have a good time one night.

Oleta Adams—a talent here to stay

Just two short years ago, the mention of her name drew blank stares. Now, Oleta Adams, the talented vocal stylist whose *Circle of One* debut album has received favorable reviews, has been heard on virtually all possible radio formats and has performed around the world.

However, Adams is not completely at ease with her success.

"I want to go home to Kansas City and become Oleta Adams again. You know, without the make-up and the limos and all that stuff. Just sit at my piano, write some songs and try to stay in touch with the person I was before all of this," said Adams.

"All of this" is Adams' mercurial rise from a Kansas City lounge singer to a key member of the British pop band Tears For Fears, and later to her solo career that promises to be one of the true bright spots of the nineties.

Adams is not complaining about the sudden rush of activity. Perhaps her desire to return to the heartland is testimony to her reputation for being one of the more "down to earth" individuals in an industry that thrives on overblown egos.

"I try to stay humble," said

Adams, "because I know what the other side is all about. The years before Tears For Fears were spent singing in clubs across America from Alaska to the East Coast; many times for people who didn't know who I was and didn't care. I was just a voice in the distance while they talked and ordered drinks."

Adams is the daughter of a Baptist preacher from Yakima, Washington. She sang in the church choir at age 5, played piano by age 9 and conducted the choir by age 11. She eventually played night-clubs in Seattle and moved to Kansas City, where she presently resides.

Adams' recent success has presented problems of its own.

"Now everything is on such a large scale that it's easy to lose touch because you're never quite sure what reality really is. It doesn't mean you don't enjoy it. Nor does it mean you don't appreciate it. All I'm saying is it's no longer just artist to audience. It's just not as pure anymore," said Adams. She said her biggest worry is to not let this newfound perspective effect the innocence of her writing for the next album.

'And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson' Opens at UNLV

The powerful and haunting memory play of Jim Leonard Jr., "And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson," offers a vivid and deeply affecting account of the agonies inflicted on a young crippled girl growing up in a small Indiana town. The production, which opens Feb. 13, 8 p.m., in the Black Box Theatre, is directed by Maggie Winn-Jones.

The play is set in Jackson, a small town in rural Indiana, where Elizabeth Ann Willow lives with her mother and father. Crippled at birth with polio, Elizabeth Ann is confined to a wheelchair and must wear leg braces. This handicap cuts her off from the other children and prevents her regular attendance in school. Although she tries to reach out and make friends, Elizabeth Ann is increasingly isolated and taunted by the others.

The play is a brilliantly conceived mosaic of interlocking

scenes with four performers portraying a varied assortment of children and townspeople. The play captures not only the moving story of Elizabeth Ann and her



Deborah Anna and Eric Kaiser star in UNLV's next play.

descent into madness, but also the unfeeling callousness of her fellow townspeople whose fear of the un-

known or abnormal makes them the unintentional agents of destruction. The play is a poetically evocative plea for understanding and compassion in a world where prejudice and casual cruelty are too often the norm.

Leonard has an exceptional ear for dialogue, both prosaic and poetic. He is one of American theatre's most promising young writers. This play, which won the American College Festival Award, has enjoyed widespread acceptance among leading regional theaters for its taut and startling stagecraft.

"And They Dance Real Slow in Jackson" is part of University Theatre's "Beyond Expectations Season." Performances are at 8 p.m., Feb. 13 to 16, with a matinee at 2 p.m., Feb. 17. \$3 General admission tickets are on sale in the Performing Arts Center Box Office, on the UNLV campus. For ticket information call 739-3801.

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Oleta Adams

Oboist from UNLV wins first place

by Gary Puckett

The Reno Chamber Orchestra recently held its third annual college concerto competition on Friday, Jan. 18. The competition featured solo performances of pieces required by judges, along with one concerto chosen by the contestants. Nine students from the University of Nevada System competed for prizes. Winning first place was Vicki Strong-Racz of UNLV who was awarded \$500 for her effort.

Strong-Racz is a graduate student and a teaching assistant at UNLV where she is presently teaching music appreciation and music fundamentals. She is from Kalamazoo, Mich. and received her bachelor's degree in music from Western Michigan University. She will receive her master's in music from UNLV after this semester.

In addition to other obligations, Strong-Racz was recently a member of the pit band that per-

formed for the musical "Romance, Romance." She will perform the R. Baughn Williams oboe concerto with the Reno Chamber Orchestra on April 6 and, on April 24, she will perform the Gordon Jacob oboe concerto with the UNLV orchestra. Four other UNLV students will also perform solos with the orchestra on that date.



photo by Rich Mealy

Vicki Strong-Racz