

# 'Oldies'—everyone is listening

by Suzanne Roragen

"Ghost," "Pretty Woman," "Good Morning Vietnam," "Dirty Dancing," and "The Doors" are movies that featured an "oldies" tune as its theme song. We are hearing a resurgence of songs today that were first heard in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. These popular movies may be the reason.

According to Amy Daniels, program director for oldies 108 FM-KUDN, oldies traditionally meant '50s tunes sung by the likes of Fats Domino and Chubby Checker. Today oldies can mean music from the mid to late 1960s. Radio station 108 plays music primarily from the 1960's. Because World War II baby boomers are now in their '30s and '40s, they are the generation with the buying dollars in the largest consumer group. Oldies for them mean songs such as "Unchained Melody" and "I Heard It Through the Grapevine."

Using the non-traditional oldies definition, are the college-aged students from ages 18 to 28 listening to oldies? Amy Daniels says yes. "Ghost" came on strong as a top dollar grossing movie of 1990 using the original 1965 version of "Unchained Melody" by Bill Medley and The Righteous Brothers. Daniels emphasized that the music from this period



The Four Tops—just one of the groups who play Las Vegas and is featured on oldies stations.

is timeless. She said that "Unchained Melody" was heard by the younger population and, because of this timeless sound, became a really hot sound in 1990 as it soared to the Top 10 on the pop charts.

According to UNLV senior Sine Anderson, "The first time I recall hearing "Unchained Melody" was on the radio and I really liked it, although I hadn't seen the movie. Sixties music is great. It's more lyric intensive and more basic." Anderson cites as her favorite sixties band The Mommias and Poppas.

Daniels also believes television commercials are a reason for the popularity of oldies. Automobiles, soft drinks and beer are three of many products whose companies are using a familiar tune to sell their goods. After hearing the commercial the tune remains in our head and may affect a future buying decision.

"It's easier to have a hit with a proven song," said Daniels. So like a movie sequel, it seems a better risk to reproduce a tried and true favorite than to walk on uncertain ground with the yet unproven.

Whatever the reason, oldies are producing a source of common interest between the generations and giving the college-aged generation a taste of the past.



## MUSIC REVIEWS



### Move over Vanilla and Faith No More, here is true white rap

Treble Bass blends rap and heavy metal

by Bret Skiba

On the music scene these days there are a lot of people trying to be unique by mixing things that don't seem to go together, such as rap music and heavy metal. One band has finally accomplished this blend with great success, Las Vegas' own Treble Bass.

The band is composed of only two members, Daniel Anderson, a.k.a. "Danny Dee," on all guitars and Daniel DiGennaro, a.k.a. "MC 3d," on vocals. The band has been together for two years and started while both were attending Bonanza High School.

The band plays what Anderson calls "metallic hip-hop" and sounds nothing like groups such as Faith No More or Sugarhouse, who claim to play a rap-metal mix but don't. This band is heavily influenced by Run DMC for its rap qualities and Yngwie Malmsteen, Joe Satriani and other guitarists for the metal sounds, so they are definitely unique.

The music mixes many fast and slow beats, time changes and fun but meaningful lyrics. Songs like "Ironman," dedicated to the troops who served in Iraq and Kuwait, are very critical but still entirely danceable.

Another thing that separates these guys from the rock bands which rap, and rap bands with a rock influence, is that all their music is live while other groups use sampling and other gimmicks. This group does use machines to write but plans to incorporate a full rock outfit and full rap group when they get a chance. This is not to say that they haven't played out, but their music can be heard on Power-97 and KLUC 98.5 as well as at dance clubs like Sharks and even at Olympic Gardens.

Anderson doesn't feel playing out is as important as radio play in selling a band, so the only way you'll be able to experience this band's music is to request it at a club or on the radio.

They are an incredible band to hear because of the blend in musical styles and sounds created.

### Obsidian is Las Vegas' volcanic rock band

by Bret Skiba

As the name suggests, the band Obsidian has exploded on to the Las Vegas rock scene over the last couple of months. This is another of Vegas' heavier rock bands which plays loud, very rhythmic songs and has an incredibly good time playing live.

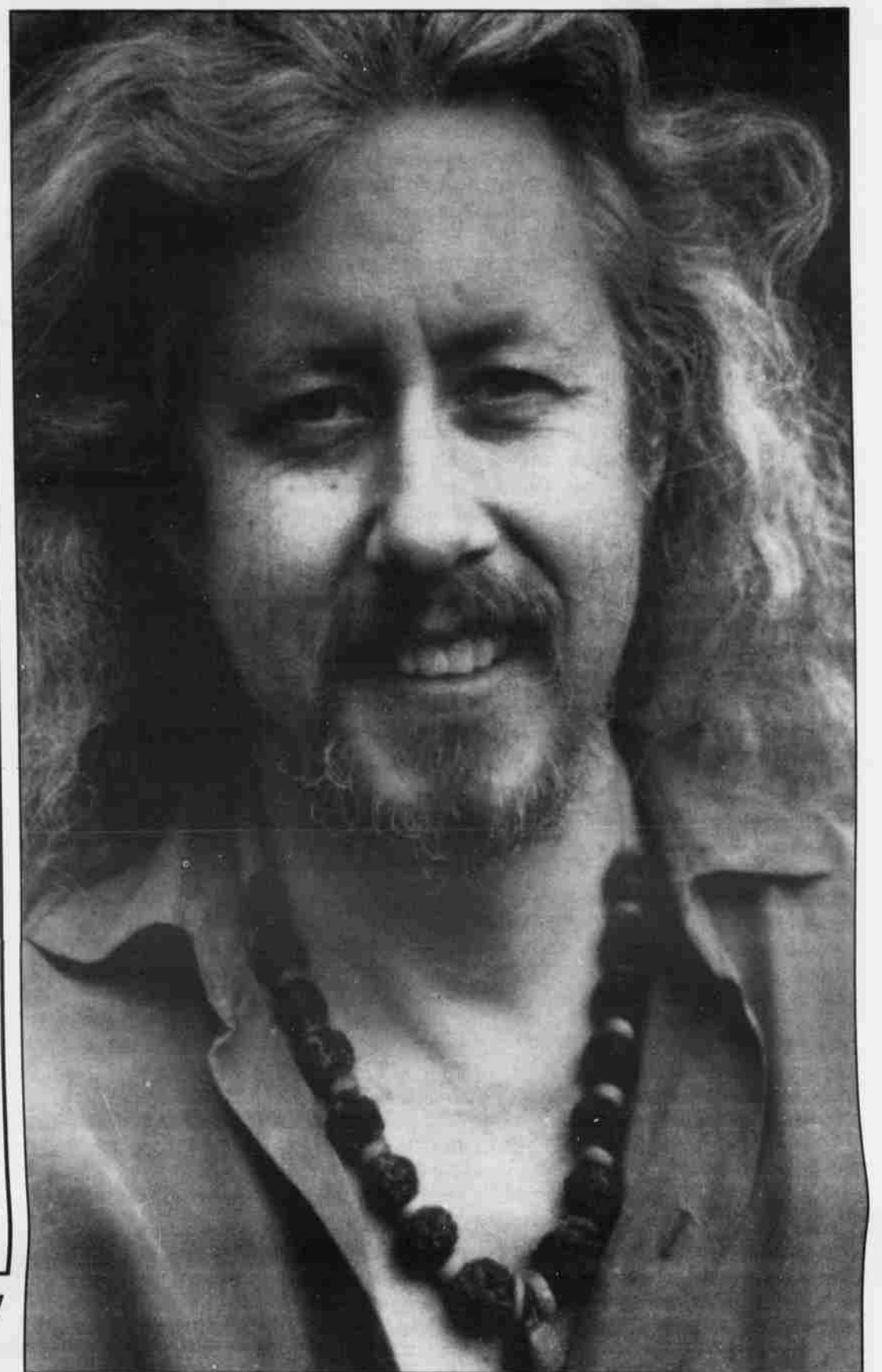
The band was formed two years ago by drummer Peter Kizzire and guitarist Dan McGinness. The group also consists of bassist Mark Jose (formerly of Without Warning), vocalist Slade Lohman who, like David Lee Roth, has his own picture airbrushed to the back of his jacket, and newest member Lee Young on guitars. This present formation has been going solid for about three months.

According to Jose, the music ranges anywhere from Whitesnake to Iron Maiden in sound, but they remind me of early Savatage. Either way these guys are awesome and mean business when they play. They also run around the audi-

ence causing minor havoc and having a lot of fun.

The bands songs hit you and leave an impact with their veracity. Songs like "Lonely Schoolboy" and the band's theme "Rock of Obsidian" will get your attention, but the real show stopper is the Led Zepelin medley which was inspired by the whole band's love of Zeppelin's music. The band has an EP out but will soon release seven track album in local release by the end of this month titled *Blood and Steel*.

The main goal of this band, as with many others is to get a record deal, rock out and make some money playing music. Obsidian plays a lot of shows around town and can be seen tomorrow night at Calamity Jayne's. The band can be contacted for tape and ticket information at 8600 Starboard Apt. #2192, Las Vegas, Nevada 89117. This is one of Las Vegas' better and more solid rock bands and will definitely be going places in the future.



### Arlo Guthrie comes to Las Vegas

Legendary folk singer appears at The Sands Hotel/Casino

by Jason Bermingham

A few weeks ago, while thumbing through some various newspaper articles on the Gulf War, I came across a concert announcement for singer/songwriter Arlo Guthrie. It was strange to see a folk singer performing in the midst of an international crisis, and in a way it reminded me of the 1960s. Many musicians, at that time, used their musical talent to express their feelings of the world they lived in. Arlo Guthrie had been one of those people then, and perhaps now he had come to Las Vegas for similar reasons. Could one man's music really make a difference in today's society? I decided to attend the concert and see for myself.

The show was set to begin at 8 p.m. on March 9 at the Sands Hotel/Casino. I arrived at 6 p.m., hoping that a two hour wait would ensure me a decent seat, but unfortunately nearly half the auditorium had previously been reserved for outside parties. I ended up jammed between two strangers, in a generic, metal folding chair, far from the stage. The audience was lined along tables (which had no apparent purpose since no meals were served) and the room where the show was held seemed more appropriate for a large convention than a concert.

For \$20 a ticket, one might think the Sands could find a better place to hold a concert, especially for the audience of nearly 1,000 who had come to see Arlo Guthrie.

When eight o'clock finally rolled around, Arlo took the stage. His son's band was scheduled to play with him, but unfortunately they were delayed in Arizona, leaving Guthrie, along with his 6 and 12 string acoustic guitars, electric piano, and various harmonicas, on his own.

"For those of you who know me, you realize that I don't have a plan when I come up here on the stage," Arlo remarked with a laugh, as the concert began. "I had a plan once, but I forgot it. So now I just play whatever I feel like."

The show was a perfect blend of good music and humor. The songs included classics from Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, James Taylor, Willie Nelson and even the king of rock 'n' roll himself, Elvis Presley. There was also a large quantity of Arlo originals which were highlighted, of course, by "Alice's Restaurant Massacre." The songs were played fabulously and they were, to say the least, inspiring. The audience sang along with many of the more familiar tunes and standing ovations occurred regularly.

After nearly two and a half hours of terrific music, the evening concluded with a rendition of "Amazing Grace." Instead of simply singing it, though, Guthrie shared the symbolic story of the man who wrote it. Apparently, the song was written by the captain of a slave ship that hauled blacks between Africa and England. During one particular voyage, however, this captain decided to turn the ship around and return the captives to their native land. He then spent the rest of his life writing songs, and "Amazing Grace" was one of the results. Like this man, Guthrie said, each of us must remember that regardless of the events of our past, it's never too late to turn around and stand up for what we believe is right.

As I was leaving that small, smoky room after the concert, I looked at the smiling faces that surrounded me and I knew that each of us felt a little better about the world we lived in. Arlo's message had been clear and simple: the dream that once motivated an entire generation is still alive. You could feel it in the air that night, it was a sensation of hope and togetherness. I realized then that although the '60s have long since past, it's never too late to believe in what they stood for.

### Women directors and managers in Las Vegas radio

By Chris Donovan

"There are very few in the country, but two are right here in Las Vegas," said Deanna Sheenan, General Manager of KMMK 103.5 FM. She was talking about the women hired as radio station general managers in a very competitive field.

Sheenan's career started in Detroit after obtaining a master's degree in communications from Wayne State College. She worked in Tucson, Ariz. at 96 Rock as a sales manager for five years, finally coming to Las Vegas and a job at KOMP 92.3 FM. While working at KOMP, Sheenan was offered the general manager's position at Oldies 107.5 FM, when the station

was purchased by the Corporation of Easy Communications.

After being Oldies' general manager for two and a half years, Sheenan moved to KMMK. Formerly K-LITE, the radio station became KMMK December 26, 1990, changing its format to Adult Contemporary soft rock and roll.

Sheenan's job as KMMK's general manager entails hiring all the staff members and following FCC regulations. The station's engineering, sales, office, and programming departments are also under Sheenan's jurisdiction.

This station also employs Las Vegas' second woman program director. Colleen Jackson has worked as the station's program director for about a month

"I knew that with being on the air, and understanding what was happening, that I could help develop the concept that the new format is trying to bring about," Jackson said.

Jackson came to Las Vegas from Petoskey, Mich., where she has been in the radio profession for seven years.

"It's still hard for women in radio to get equality, but as with any other career, the opportunities are there, and if one works hard proving their skill, the position is obtainable. People are becoming more and more open minded," Jackson said.

The new station, "uses a completely different technique than anyone has ever used or is currently broadcasting," according to Jackson. The radio

station is taking the 1970s approach to radio and music.

"KMMK has no loud morning shows, no morning team, no contests, and no talking over songs. The station is working hard to listen to exactly what its listening audience wants said."

Jackson said one of the best parts of being program director "is growing with it, and learning as you do the job."

Like KMMK, both Sheenan and Jackson know how to please the radio audience.

"We're working hard to get done what we promise our listeners," Jackson said.

### Candide—A play about love and hate opens at UNLV

Candide is a "preposterous play about love and hate and war and pestilence and virginity and debauchery," according to Professor Fred Olson of the UNLV. This play will open April 4, in the Judy Bayley Theatre on campus.

"For the audience, this play based on Voltaire's novel is a carnival trip through a carnival," Olson said.

In the story, Candide experiences changing fortunes as he travels around Europe and South America in search of his lost love. He suffers an earthquake and the Spanish Inquisition only to be sold into slavery. He is also shipwrecked and ravaged by war.

"Candide is mostly entertainment," Olson said. "The wars

are quick. There is not a heavy moment in the play."

In the stage production, 25 actors play the 85 roles. Andy Rogow and Morry Campbell alternate in the role of Candide. Ed Barker is Candide, with Donna Klopfenstein as his love Cunegonde. Bobby Glenn Brown plays Maximilian, with Melissa Supera as Paquette and Victoria Louise Upton as the old lady.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. on April 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13, with 2 p.m. matinees on April 7 and 14.

For reservations or further information, please phone 739-3801 or stop by the box office at the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, on the UNLV campus.

"(This play) is a carnival through a carnival."



Victoria Upton, Andy Rogow, Ed Barker, Melissa Supera and Bobby Glenn Brown.



Mary Wilson



Claudio Scimone is the conductor for the next concert in the Charles Vanda Master Series April 5.