ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

12 The Yellin' Rebel

Blues in the park celebrates American music

by Roy Theiss

filled the air at Sunset Park tunes by Carlos Santana. Tom He flew his band in from Aus-April 14 during the Las Vegas Sherman, lead guitarist, did a tin just for the occasion. At 3 Blues Society Fourth Annual tasty cover of "Earth's Cry, Spring Picnic. Several thou- Heavens Smile" and a soulful enjoyseven local blues bands Woman" on his Gibson SG. and one from Austin, Tex.-The Scott Rhiner Band (for- stuck to their guns and played loyal blues fans at the Saddle merly of Blues King fame). some kickin' blues. The Rough & Spurs until 4 a.m. the night

around noon and lasted for that deviated from the tradisix hours. Having its roots so tional blues sound. Their rous- able," Rhiner said. "I've been entrenched in the American ing '50s style of music was a away for two years (working fabric, blues fans come from reminder that without blues, in Austin) and I heard how virtually every corner of so- there would be no rock 'n' roll. great these picnics have been ciety. Hippies from the '60s motif of being ostracized.

rhythm and blues tunes. ego were in the audience.

Then they showed everyone how extensive the blues influ- rocated by founding member A celebration of music ence is by doing a couple of of the Blues Kings, Rhiner. sand people were on hand to rendition of "Black Magic being here. My hangover is

The festival started Necksweretheonlyotherband before.)

wearing their tie-dyed shirts is surpassed only by its com- seeing it. It's incredible." blended in with a younger mitment and dedication by its crowd of fashion emulators. musicians and listeners. For Freaks came out in strong many, blues is a way of life. Las bottleneck guitar player, numbers, as did bikers. Both Vegas Blues Society members showed his appreciation with can relate to one of the blues' who have since moved away his lightning-quick guitar still come back for the jam fes- playing. During the last song Lions Share kicked tival. Blues fans from as far before the two encores, things off with a couple of away as Phoenix and San Di- Rhiner picked up a few style

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Their loyalty was recipp.m. Rhiner said "I'm really starting to get excited about starting to leave." (Rhiner Most of the other bands played to a packed house of

"This crowd is unbeliev-As pervasive as blues is, it in the past. Now I'm actually

> Rhiner, the expert points with fans by flipping

his Fender Stratocaster behind his head for some guitar licks.

Bill Cherry, president of the Las Vegas Blues Society, said the first picnic in the fall of 1987 was held to form the Blues Society. At that picnic, approximately 200 people attended. The semiannual tradition has been growing ever since and this picnic was bigger than anyone ever anticipated, Cherry said.

The size of the crowd caught everyone off guard, including the sound people. The sound was faint at the edges of the expansive crowd.

One good thing about Las Vegas' recent improved appreciation of blues is that more groups have been formed, which will be featured in upcoming issues.



April 23, 1991

Top names in the entertainment and political scenes for gay men and lesbians will be appearing at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino from June 6 through 9. The conference theme will be Unity in Diversity-the Color of Change.

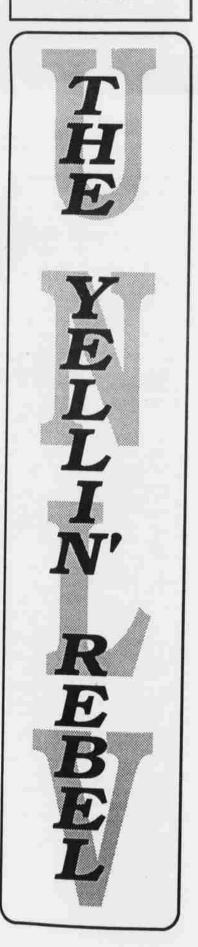
The theme will reflect members' lives from the six-state region which makes up the Desert and Mountain States-Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

Anyone interested in facilitating workshops, volunteering, scholarships or simply more information, should call the DMSLGC hotline at (702) 366-8085 or, for additional information, write to:

> DMSLGC P.O. Box 19360 Las Vegas, Nevada 89132-0360

CORRECTION:

The article appearing in the April 16, 1991 issue of The Yellin' Rebel entitled "Mary Wilson is standing on her own" should have been credited to Terry Stolz. We apologize for any inconvenience to the author and our readers.



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