

**'FANTASTICKS'** from page 8

seemed a bit out of character, but as the play went on, his performance improved. He and McLang-Avalos had a comic chemistry that worked well.

David Darlington and Noel French managed to upstage the others with the most comic roles of the play. Playing Henry and Mortimer, they received more one-liners than the other characters. French, who looked to be in his teens, stuck out his neck when he took the part of the old man whose main claim to fame is "dying."

Actor and producer Myron Heaton was perfect as the dark villain El Gallo. He made the bad guy likeable for the audience.

The two mutes, Josh Elwell and Betsie Stevens, provided a nice touch to the play with classy choreography done by Stevens, a former Broadway performer.

There were some changes in the longest-running play in history. (The first performance was given May 3, 1960; the play ended April 30.) The original had only one mute and both parents were men.

*The Fantasticks* was put on by the Theatre of Las Vegas, an off-shoot of The Myron Heaton Chorale.

**Pere Ubu relies on the kindness of strangers**

by David Hare **COMMENTARY**

Pere Ubu, an Ohio-based band, proved to a small, yet enthusiastic Las Vegas audience Sunday that longevity and talent doesn't necessarily guarantee mainstream success even though it may be richly deserved.

Pere Ubu's record label, Mercury Records, has refused to promote the band's newest release *Worlds In Collision*. Now the band has had to take matters into their own hands. Ubu's entire tour, including their Sept. 11 appearance on "Late Night with David Letterman," is being funded and supported by fans as well as artists like R.E.M., Living Colour and Jane's Addiction.

Fortunately, Sunday night's show at Fuddy Duddys established that nothing has been lost in the controversy. Pere Ubu blends primal raw punk, Old World folk, psychedelic funk, and ragged, nervous blues that reaches well beyond the realm of mainstream pop, but still proved accessible to the college-oriented listeners.

Lead vocalist, David Thomas, who brings to mind a whimsical, yet demented Ralph Kramden, wailed out such songs as "Oh Catherine", "Busdriver's Honeymoon", and "Nevada", in a manner not unlike that of an eccentric bumbling court jester.

Backed by Tony Maimone, Jim Jones, Scott Krauss, and Eric Drew Feldman (of Captain Beefheart), Thomas guided the audience through an array of emotions ranging from the hysterical to the distraught, but managed to keep the mood upbeat and lively enough to encourage audience participation in his own private carnival attraction.

In contrast, the opening band, "Food For Feet", offered a dull unoriginal set. It's interesting that these gentlemen had corporate banners hanging everywhere, even going so far as to thank a beer company for their sponsorship. Meanwhile, Pere Ubu's future relies completely on the kindness of strangers.

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**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Women's Safety Awareness Seminar**

The City of Las Vegas Mirabelli Community Center, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau, will present a Women's Safety Awareness Seminar Sept. 24 at 10 a.m.

The seminar will take place at 6200 Elton Avenue at the Mirabelli Community Center.

The 90-minute seminar is free and designed for adults. For more information and to pre-register, please call 299-6359.

**Eileen McGarry to speak**

The Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity will sponsor Eileen McGarry of the Career Placement Center to speak, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m. in BEH 223. McGarry will speak about individuals presenting themselves in a competitive environment. Refreshments will be served.

**International Film Series**

The Film Studies Department will present the thirteenth season of the International Film Series. The next film will be a subtitled Italian film, *The Three Brothers*, to be shown Sept.

26 at 7 p.m. in WRI 103.

**Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series**

The Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series, in conjunction with Dextra Frankel, will present "University Gallery Operations During the Late Modern Period" at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 26, in the Hendrix Education Auditorium.

Professor Frankel is the director of the University Gallery at California State University, Fullerton.

The Southwest Gas Distinguished Artists Series is sponsored by the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The series is the public portion of an artist-in-residence program, presenting public performances, lectures and

exhibitions. In addition to these events, the artists work with the students and faculty during on-campus residencies ranging from a few days to a semester.

**Cholesterol Screening**

A cholesterol screening will take place at the Student Health Center until the end of the month. The cost for the cholesterol screening is \$4 and \$10 for lipid panels. A 12-hour fast is preferred prior to the these screenings.

The Health Center hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. by appointment or from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for walk-in consultations.

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