

# For the benefit of Mr. Fouts

by Kimberley McGee

Local bands are gathering Friday at the Aruba to arouse your musical senses in support of a friend in need that has given 10 years of music to the Vegas Valley.

Mike Fouts, 27, drummer for such bands as Cries and Whispers, FSP, Flesh and Bones, the Aggravators and other anomalies of local bands, has watched the local music scene evolve.

But he is rapidly losing his sight.

"It's complicated," Fouts attempted to explain. "The epiretinal membrane has fallen of the top of the right eye and hangs over the fovea. It simulates a burn, like I stared into the sun too

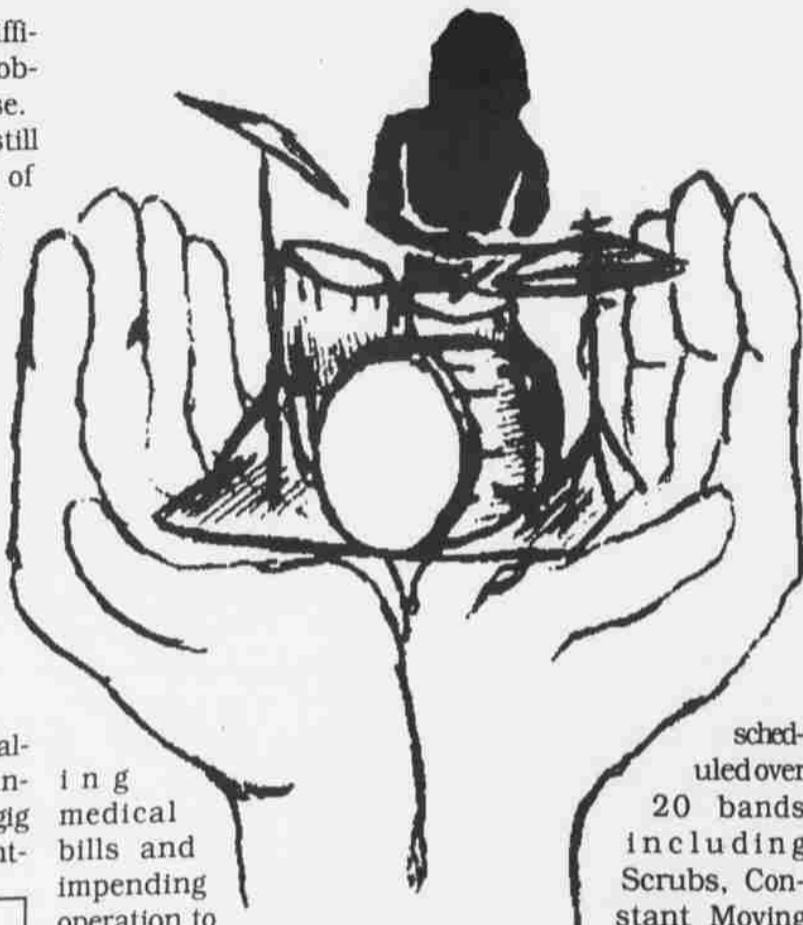
long." This makes it difficult for him to focus on objects far away or up close.

Although Fouts can still play, it is only a matter of time before he loses the sight in his right eye completely.

Romney Smith, a local promoter, who has known Fouts for 11 years, was shocked when he learned of his friend's malady.

"Mike and I work together all the time," Romney said. "He loves playin' and the very least I could do was make this happen."

Local bands have rallied 'round their amps, tuning up for this beneficial gig to subsidize Fouts' mount-



ing medical bills and impending operation to correct his eye.

"Everybody was very gracious," said Romney. "The few bands that did decline had their own reasons, and most have come back and said they want to play."

But there are only so many musical hours in one glorious Friday. Romney has

scheduled over 20 bands including Scrubs, Constant Moving Party, Mark Huff and Mad Planet.

"He is just one of the most energetic, enthusiastic guy's I've ever met," said Scott Beare, guitarist for Hostage Symphony also playing the benefit, "He lives and breathes the music, he inspires you."

"Mike is beautiful, al-

ways smiling," said Gigli, singer for Constant Moving Party. "When he plays, he plays really hard and I think he does it for Las Vegas. He means it man."

Although there is a 50/50 chance the operation will not work, Fouts is confident. Dr. Marc O. Yoshizumi of the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA, Center for the Health Science, will assess Fouts' eye Nov 17 to determine the damage and schedule a date for the surgery.

This benefit is co-sponsored by Scope magazine, KUNV, Vesely Music, the Underground, and Desert Music along with local bands Rosey and Suicide Kings contributing equipment. With local businesses Sports Pub and the Cave also supporting this cause with donations, Fouts should attain his \$2,000 goal.

Festivities begin at 6 and culminate when the charitable participants have left the building. For more information call Leona Fouts at 649-6747.

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