

Wise Monkey Orchestra jams at Ampitheatre

BY JAN WILLIAMS
A&E EDITOR

Despite high winds and it being Friday, quite a few students turned out to dance and listen to the original sounds of the **Wise Monkey Orchestra** at the Alumni Amphitheatre.

Hailing from San Diego, this group was by far, one of the best bands to hit the amphitheatre to date. They were also able to get students out of their seats and onto the grass "dance" floor.

"She's totally awesome," freshman Carolyn Chavez said of the group's lead singer, Alley. "The music was so good, I thought it was the radio playing."

Chavez, who tore up the dance floor with several friends, was also pleased about the quality of the WMO performance. "It's a nice change from the screaming, wanna-be, depressing alternative bands they usually have out here."

"Our music is all original," Alley said of the band's diverse vocal and instrumental sounds. "Lots of different styles are represented: classical, rock, techno, punk and jazz." Although they don't have a label for their style as yet,



PHOTOS BY VASNA WILSON

Chad Stewart (left) cranked out a funky groove on his made-to-order electric upright bass; The Wise Monkey Orchestra (above) performed to a very enthusiastic crowd last Friday at the amphitheatre

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—Freshman Carolyn Chavez

Alley described it as "jazz-funk."

This talented group is comprised of seven members. Alley headlines the group on lead vocals; Jason Witmore handles both alto and tenor sax; Andy Geib strokes out a mean bone; David Carano plays a slick electric guitar, while Sean Hart and Ed Fletcher

cover the drums, congas, bongos and the "freak station," their keyboard and synthesizer set-up.

Chad Stewart, the group's bass player, had the most awesome electric up-right bass I've ever seen. Made in Pennsylvania, Stewart paid \$1,700 to get it taylor-made to his needs.

Alley, along with Hart, writes all the lyrics, while the musical composition is a group effort. Originally formed by Hart, Alley and Stewart in Phoenix in 1990, the group relocated to San

Diego about three and one-half years ago, where they picked up the rest of the members. The group has released two albums, the latest entitled *Robot Reality*. Hart said they plan to release their third CD later this year.

"Very liberating," was how freshman theatre major Kim Morrow described their music. "They filled the campus with beautiful music." Morrow was also impressed with Alley's vocal abilities, which totally master this funk-jazz style.

Alumnus Anthony Aversano came back to campus just to

listen and dance to WMO. "I've been following them for a few years now," the former communications graduate assistant said. "They are one of the funkier bands to ever come to Vegas—they play the best dance music." WMO passed out demo-CD's with three of their fabulous original songs. My favorite from the disc was their final tune of the afternoon, "Waitress Song."

The group is always on tour, Hart indicated. "We've toured all over the western states, B.C (Vancouver) and Alberta, and a little bit in Mexico." When asked about their favorite stop on tour, Hart didn't hesitate. "We love Vegas," he said, adding WMO plans to be on tour this summer, possibly stopping in at Fremont Street Reggae & Blues Club, where they finished playing last week.

If you would like to be on WMO's mailing list, or want additional information on the band, call Sean Hart at 619-523-WISE.

Rebelpalooza ready to rock

Fishbone, Mudsharks, Deep Blue Something and more slated to appear at Friday's eight-hour jam

BY JENNIFER EVANS
STAFF A&E WRITER

The Spring Fling excitement pumps up tomorrow as the Rebelpalooza features the Rolling Stone New Music Tour, showcasing bands **Deep Blue Something** and **Marry Me Jane**.

Fishbone, Mudsharks, Soul Festival and **Catwampus** will also perform in the concert-filled day. The free entertainment will begin at 2 p.m., and rock the campus until 10 p.m. The concert will take place in the grassy area surrounding the women's softball field. A student ID card must be shown for admission.

Before the concert begins, the Rolling Stone Music Tour will have activity booths set up in Pida Plaza between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., in front of the Moyer Student Union. The sponsors, including Rolling Stone Magazine, Sony, Air-

walk, Davidoff, Ray-Ban and Volkswagon, will give away promotional items to all students. LIFEbeat, the music industry's response to the AIDS crisis, is also a sponsor.

During Rebelpalooza, ARAMARK will sell food near the concert area, while Evian and Snapple will provide free drinks. There will also be T-shirt vendors selling the individual band's paraphernalia.

The Rolling Stone Music Tour is providing the bands **Deep Blue Something** and **Marry Me Jane**, at no cost to student government.

Hailing from Texas, **Deep Blue Something** has been working its way up in the music business since the release of their hit song, "Breakfast At Tiffany's." The band is also known for their modern rock pop style of music.

Marry Me Jane, originally from New York City, is known for their blazing multi-guitar attack, supple rhythmic grooves, and the haunting soulful voice of lead singer and rhythm guitarist Amanda Kravat.

Fishbone, South Central L.A. natives, are known for being part of the Hollywood punk rock scene, with their manic energy, wild humor and everywhere-at-once fusion of hard rocking styles. They play

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Comedy sizzles at Black Box Theatre

Matt Boethin shines as dual characters in latest production

BY MICHELLE WALL
STAFF A&E WRITER

UNLV's University Theatre presented yet another smash performance in Jean Anouilh's comedy, *Ring Round The Moon*.

The play, which opened last Thursday, is full of constant action and witty repartee between the characters. Anouilh considered this a *pieces brillantes*, or vibrant play.

The action centers around the love interest of twin brothers Hugo and Frederic, both played by the talented Matt Boethin. Hugo, the cleverest brother, attempts to end his brother's unhappy engagement by hiring Isabelle (Christy Zollar), a beautiful dancer, to entertain Frederic at the evening's party.

Hugo even invents a background for Isabelle so the lower-class girl will be



PHOTO BY VASNA WILSON

Matt Boethin and Christy Zollar star in Ring Round The Moon.

accepted in the brother's high-society circle. However, Hugo's scheme doesn't go as planned, and all of the characters come away from the party with a new outlook on life.

Most notable were the performances of Boethin and Zollar. Boethin played both brothers brilliantly, slipping easily into the distinct roles of each character. One minute he is the crafty and heartless Hugo, the next minute, he transforms into the reserved and benevolent Frederic.

Zollar portrayed Isabelle effectively as the charming and gracious character she was meant to be.

Guest set designer Celine Perron and costume designer Katrina Hertfelder are also to be commended for their contributions. Hertfelder seems to have her finger on the pulse of what fashions truly represent the time frame in which the plays are set.

Ring Round the Moon continues through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday, the final performance, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center box office.

For more information, please call 895-3801.