

REBELPALOOZA,

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group, it's no wonder each contributed his own twang.

"Ska kinda got us going in one direction," noted Barrett. "I loved it the very first time I heard it."

Reel Big Fish, whose ages range from 19 to 23, formed in 1991. "We met at high school," explained Barrett. "We were all the slow kids who took the short bus together."

But even a small glimpse of the limelight hasn't changed the Orange County natives. "It's been a climb trying to get here, but that's the best part," commented Barrett. "Our goal has been trying to get radio stations to play us, trying to get people to listen to us and like us and trying to play good."

With the last hearty dish that Reel Big Fish served up, the tantalizing sounds of Goldfinger became the perfect dessert. The audience screamed and whistled as the band made their way on stage. They opened with the reflective, yet hard-core song "Question."

Like the previous band, Goldfinger definitely incorporated the funky, happy beats of ska, but had more punk flavor using a loud, electric guitar. They played other songs that got the crowd pumped up, including "Answers," "Here in your Bedroom," and "Mable," in which the audience gave a powerful feedback of "She's the bomb!"

"The audience ruled," commented lead singer, John Feldmann about UNLV students. "We love playing the West Coast."

Feldmann, gave a passionate portrayal of each song to the audience with his yearning facial expressions and spirited vocals.

Guitarist, Charlie Paulson, summed up their style of entertainment in a previous interview. "When you went to watch a show, it was called a 'show' for a reason. I think it definitely comes through in what we do," said Paulson. "We want to give people something to look at, or else they can just sit at home and listen to the CD."

Feldmann describes their music as "Generic power pop punk that was influenced by **Rage Against the Machine, Social Distortion and The Beatles.**"

Yes, The Beatles. "They were

the greatest band in history. Their songs rock," claimed Feldmann.

Well the same could be said about Goldfinger on Friday night.

Later in the show, Feldmann took off his shirt and began ram-paging around the stage to the punk beat. Others joined in the ceremonial rite of dancing. There was some light moshing in the front area closest to the stage. Dirt filled the air as the people ran around, bumping into each other and interweaving in and out of the main circle.

The night was a definite success and made the people who put it together, such as Mike Castillo Entertainment and Programming Director for the Student Government and his staff, proud of their joint efforts.

The Rebelpalooza committee was very thankful to all of their sponsors who pulled in at the last minute and made the event even more successful with donations from Snapple and Gatorade.

"I was really disappointed at first because hardly anybody was here," explained Sophomore Jordan Wiessen, chairperson of hospitality. "But, as the night progressed, people started coming in big numbers. I'm very happy with this turnout."

According to Wiessen, an estimated 3,000 people filtered in and out of the field throughout the day to listen to the various bands performing.

Even with this fairly large number of anxious entertainees, Rebelpalooza wasn't as popular as it is now. In fact, it sprouted from very humble beginnings in the South Complex four years ago. The idea came from a student and it's been taken to new heights every year.

Last year's highlights included **Fishbone, Mary Me Jane and Deep Blue Something.** "This is going to be a campus tradition forever," explained Wandel. "We want it to be something cool and unique just for UNLV."

"We want this to be a real tradition that the students will be proud of," added Wiessen.

Well there's no doubt that Rebelpalooza will be more than what was expected when it first began in the dorms. The coolness of the outside atmosphere mixed with the rambunctious students and energetic bands made for a great party under the stars.

'No Doubt' about it, great concert

By Jason Sheehan
Staff A&E Writer

It's not often that a concert lives up to expectations. Many bands fall into the trap of sounding great in the studio, only to struggle in front of a live crowd.

But when everything clicks, which doesn't happen nearly enough, a heavily billed concert can fire bolts of energy into the crowd and live up to expectations.

That is exactly what happened Friday night at The Thomas & Mack Center, as **Cake** and **No Doubt** used crisp vocals and dynamic instruments to enchant a sold-out crowd.

Cake, which consists of lead singer John McCrea, electric guitarist Greg Brown, bass guitarist Victor Damiani, Trumpet percussion Vince Di Fiore and drummer Todd Roper, closed its hour-long set with their mega-hit "The Distance."

The song exemplifies their album, which is heavy on irony and sheer groove, but nearly devoid of bombast or contrivance. The song tells the story of a race car driver who insists on circling the track long after the race is over and the crowds have gone home.

"A good song is like a teardrop in the eye of a prize-winning poodle at a world class dog show," says lead singer McCrea.

"That's the kind of song I like," he continued. "It doesn't matter what mood it is, as long as there's that tension, the pulling of opposites. Even the saddest moments of life contain some comical elements, although we usually choose to ignore them."

Cake then handed a slice of the spotlight to No Doubt.



No Doubt

No Doubt actually sounded better in concert than they do when listening to them at home. Vocalist Gwen Stefani's girly voice sounded sweet and innocent. Intense emotion was present in every word Stefani sang. And to put icing on the cake (no pun intended), guitarist Tom Dumont and bass guitarist Tony Kanal rang chords through the crowd that would make a lady bug stand up and applaud. Drummer Adrian Young, whose hands moved faster than lightning, also played extremely well.

A Hollywood setting engulfed the T&M before No Doubt even set foot on the stage. As buzzing sounds, resembling a fly, boomed from the speakers, three oranges floated downward from the roof. Suddenly, a giant fly appeared on the orange located in the middle. Then out of nowhere, the fly was killed.

"Main Street Electrical Parade" began playing softly in the background, and the band emerged from behind the curtain to greet the faithful crowd. No Doubt then cranked the song "Tragic Kingdom" into the air for all to enjoy. The crowd screamed in approval.

After playing the latest hit "Excuse Me Mr." and filler material such as "Happy Now?" and "Trapped in a Box," band members decided it was time to lift the crowd to an entirely different level. No Doubt accomplished this by striking the opening chords to the song that brought them musical stardom, "Just a Girl." It was the highlight of the evening.

Stefani magically extended the song's length to approximately 10 minutes. She accomplished this feat by relying on crowd partici-

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DINNER CROWD,

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crowd he couldn't dance all by himself, only four people took his words to heart and danced.

"I love playing to the college crowd," Jahmark said. "I wish there was more of a turnout though. But I enjoyed it overall. Hopefully, they could pick up some of the messages in the songs."

"Our kind of music is like a tree. You plant the seed, you start from the root, and each year you can see the growth; just like a tree."

Before Urban Dread hit the stage, The Gert entertained students with a sound that could be labeled "blues rock." Unfortunately, most of their songs sounded the same. After 45 minutes of repetitiveness, The Gert's act became old and uninteresting.

The lead singer, who calls herself The Gert and refused to disclose her birth name, sounded out of place with the music she tried to deliver. Her voice is too melodic for the type of genre The Gert tries to portray.

"It really is just a nickname," The Gert said, talking about how the name was invented. "It was a nickname that started 10 or 11 years ago. It just stuck. And everyone calls me, not Gert, but The Gert. It means nothing. It's just me. I can't be more interesting than that. That's it."

The Gert, a local band, was just happy to play to a live crowd.

"It was great," The Gert said. "It was really fun. It was good exposure, to see what people like and what they didn't like. Hopefully, they liked everything, but you could see what was cool. Any crowd is a

great crowd for us. It's good to play. I love playing.

"(All you have to do) is just keep playing and believe in yourself. No matter what, if you believe in yourself, people will like you."

Keyboard player Ken Gold, meanwhile, thinks a new wave of music will step to the forefront this Summer.

"I think there's going to be a big outbreak of a ska type of thing happening this Summer," Gold said. "I see a lot of that starting to take off. I don't know how long it'll last, but I think it's going to be really popular this Summer."

"Our kind of thing is like a rock/funk thing with a little bit of blues," he continued. "So if that's what's happening, that's cool."

Neither Trumpets nor Drums gave students a taste of how a single band can play a quantity of different musical genres at the same time. Most of their songs were soft (no speed metal here), but lead singer and guitarist John McGinis' soothing lyrics put many students into a happy stupor. Their music, which takes time to get used to, is sophisticated.

"I'd say it's a cross between lots of different genres," McGinis said. "It's kind of a mixed thing."

The band strangely does use both trumpets and drums. But when they formed four years ago, the title Neither Trumpets nor Drums was true. Now, that's just a distant memory.

"In the past, we were an all-acoustic band without drums and just bass," McGinis said. "Every member of the band had different interests like jazz or rock. (Now) we're trying to push the envelope."

"You don't need to be general," he continued. "It's just a (obscen-

ity) name. What's in a name?"

Between acts, lesser known bands such as **Everude** from Los Angeles performed on a stage located off to the side. This helped keep everyone occupied as instruments were shuttled to and from the main stage.

Most bands that performed at Rebelpalooza seemed thrilled to showcase their music, but were disappointed about the turnout. With **Cake** and **No Doubt** set to perform later that night at The Thomas & Mack Center, many students stayed home.

"I was looking forward to playing a college," Gold said. "It was great. (Entertainment & Programming Director) Mike (Castillo) did a great job setting the whole thing up for us. I think what it is, is we're an unknown band and the album comes out in May. Hopefully, once we get some buzz going in this town, we'll get a better turnout."

Urban Dread, on the other hand, felt bad for those who were unable to attend.

"I just feel sorry for the people that weren't here," Bourne said. "The show's a great show. The people that weren't here are the ones that missed out. We're all having fun."

Although the attendance was low, Rebelpalooza was an overwhelming success. Students were given the great gift of being able to listen to different kinds of music without paying a dime, unless they wanted something to eat or drink. And unlike most festivals, such as Woodstock, prices at concession stands were affordable.

UNLV proved it can rock from dusk to dawn. Friday's show was as good as it gets.

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