

Entertainment sings ...

# Crowds boogie to the music

By JOHN VANORE  
Battalion Staff Writer

It has been said that there are no PR men in heaven. If, however, Friday's Town Hall Series performance was any indicator, that old saying is on its way out.

The press release handouts made Mandrill & the Hues Corporation sound too perfect — as they always do. But, for anyone looking for entertainment, G. Rollie White was the place to find it.

A crowd of some 4,500 people saw the headliners, the Hues Corporation, go through their highly polished paces as they danced and sang their way through an hour-long show, which included a few selections from their upcoming release, "The Love Corporation."

Right at 8 p.m., a tape recording of jungle sounds set the stage for Mandrill, the warm-up act. According to their press release, they play a bit of rock, folk, latin, gospel, jazz, soul, calypso, and classical.

Close, but no cigar. For their musical style was really none of these. Rather, all these types of music were blended into a unique style that defied strict categorization.

Mandrill's set opened with an intense drumbeat that drew the audience in like ants to honey. The drumming led into "Everybody's Got to Be Somebody," which was oriented towards Santana's guitar/percussion combination.

The second of their five songs was from their upcoming album, and featured Tommy Trujillo playing some fine guitar which sounded like it was fashioned after Jimi Hendrix.

A strut followed and was a vehicle for some extended solos. Ric Wilson, M.D., a graduate of Harvard Medical School, led off with a jazz-flavored sax solo. Trujillo cooked again on guitar, and Brian Allsop wrapped things up on bass.

The calypso beat distin-

guished an instrumental jam and rolled into some blues rock. It was conspicuously played without the latin-style percussion which had marked their previous selections. In the instrumental break of this Alvin Lee-ish number, Claude "Coffee" Cave came out from behind his keyboards barricades. His "Say Yeah's" got the audience up and dancing pretty quickly.

"The vibes were beautiful. The response of the A&M audience meshed in with the communications onstage to result in a high energy level," said "Coffee", who studied at the Brooklyn conservatory of Music.

Coffee and Wilson also described their varied musical influences. "I began to pick up styles when I first started listening to music," Coffee said. Wilson added that their influences range from Hendrix and the Beatles to the Moody Blues, Herbie Hancock, John Coltrane and even Stravinsky.

The almost total instrumental sound of Mandrill sharply contrasted the ever-present vocals of the Hues Corporation. For in that band, the four musicians serve only to back up the three vocalists, H. Ann Kelly, St. Clair Lee, and Tommy Brown.

The first thing one notices about Hues Corporation is their choreography. Although it's slick and well-rehearsed, it sets them apart from other similar vocal acts such as the Temptations. The motions of all three singers vary slightly to the degree that they establish their own individual identities onstage, rather than blending into a mechanical oneness.

Their act is extremely audience-oriented. "We want to make the audience a part of the whole scene," said Lee. "We want them to come here and be happy. Everybody who comes is a member of the Love Corporation." Lee said this in reference to their forthcoming album.

"Get Down to your Rock and Soul" kicked off the set. It also laid down the framework for the rest of the concert in terms of singing, dancing and the band.

Early in the set, trouble with the sound system gave the members of the group a chance to establish a tight, personal rapport with the audience, which probably explained much of their success.

In stark contrast to Doug Kershaw's inflexible and temperamental reaction under similar circumstances last fall, vocalists Lee and Brown ad-libbed and joked their way through the technical problem. A couple in the front row set off the "He's grabbin' her leg!" issue, when St. Clair Lee spotted a couple getting cozy during the break which helped the band keep up their momentum.

Two tunes from the new LP, "He's my Home" and "The Love Corporation," the title tune, led into some examples of the Hues's interpretative talents. An up-tempo version of the Temptations' hit, "Papa was a Rolling Stone" rolled right into "Touch Me in the Morning," a Diana Ross number

beautifully sung by H. Ann Kelly.

From "One Good Night Together," a soft soul ballad, the band rocked into the O.J.'s "Love Train," which got a good part of the audience up and dancing. "Freedom for the Stallion," their first hit single, met with a roar of applause and after a brief instrumental to introduce the band, the whole audience was on its feet for "Rock the Boat."

After their set, Lee commented that "Rock the Boat" is a part of the past, despite the fact that many fans come to a concert expecting to hear "forty minutes of Rock the Boat."

"It was basically a teenybopper song that can't be repeated. In order to survive in the music business, you have to grow with it," Lee said.

Lee also noted that, as a part of this growth, the Hues Corporation is still about four or five years from becoming the ideal band they hope to be.

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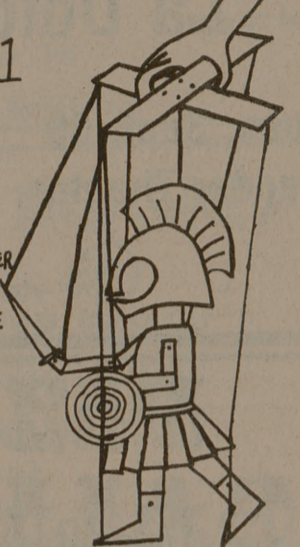
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# Prison reformer calls walkout 'over-reaction'

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The top officer of a prison reform group said Monday he thinks prison director W. J. Estelle Jr. "over-reacted" Sunday in walking out of the group's convention after Estelle's speech was interrupted twice.

Charles Sullivan, executive director of Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE), showed reporters a video tape of the "so-called Estelle incident" at a news conference.

Although the question from the audience was barely audible, the tape showed a member of the audience asking Estelle about "foul play" in the 1974 shootout at the state prison in Huntsville.

Two inmates, including South Texas drug king Fred Gomez Carrasco, and two prison employees being held hostage were killed as the convicts tried to escape.

Sullivan said, "I was stunned, myself" when Estelle suddenly turned and left the room at the Walker County Courthouse (Huntsville).

Carrasco was "only one of many matters we wanted to talk about," said Sullivan. He mentioned medical treatment and alleged abuses suffered by the inmates.

Sullivan said he had known Estelle for four or five years, and "I have never seen him more nervous" than just prior to his aborted speech to CURE's first convention.

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Conceived by Christopher Cerf



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# ATTENTION FRESHMEN

The Town Hall Committee is in desperate need of eight freshmen to serve as committee members this year. Membership will be decided from an application and a short interview. Applications and interview times are available in the student programs office in the MSC until Friday, October 3, 1975 at 5:00 p.m.

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