

Local

Varied crowd hears Metheny group

By LAURA HATCH
Battalion Reporter

The Pat Metheny Group revived a jazz-starved audience Saturday night at Rudder Theater with 2½ hours of nonstop music. All ages gathered to hear the

Review

group's rendition of the music of Donna Summer, the Beatles and Asleep at the Wheel.

People came dressed in everything from T-shirts to ties, jeans to dresses, bare feet to high heels.

This conglomeration of people and music set the tone for the evening.

The group can't really be classified as a jazz group, Metheny said in an interview after the concert. "Nobody knows what we are—we don't know what we are," he said laughing.

"We're impressionistic," he said. "We're like reporters in an abstract way." They show what the world is like in these times through their music, he said.

The group, booked by MSC Arts and MSC Basement, came on stage in darkness and the music began immediately as the lights rose in purple and red.

The first number lasted about 10 or 15 minutes, and the rest that followed lasted just as long.

Finally after 30 minutes, Metheny stepped up to the mic-

rophone to welcome the audience and to introduce the five-piece band.

Brazilian percussionist Nana Vasconcelos was featured as he played both melody and rhythm on a South American instrument called a berimbau. The audience sat entranced as a single green light silhouetted the percussionist bouncing to the rhythm that he created.

Strange noises whispered into the mike by Metheny completed a quickly forming jungle mood.

As the music evolved into a strong Caribbean beat, keyboard player Lyle Mays joined in on synthesizer with a bright, brisk melody.

By the final phase of the piece the entire band had joined in. The crowd, having caught a bit of jungle fever themselves, responded with whistles, screams and shouts.

Metheny, dressed in faded jeans and tennis shoes, humbly said, "Thank you," and cranked up the next number.

Bringing the audience back to civilization, the group played a swing blues tune that sounded like intermission music. But with bass player Steve Rodby's solo, the number didn't stay that way for long.

Keyboard solos by Mays were entertainment in themselves. With his back to the audience the entire show, all that could be seen was his electrified mop of hair

jerking back and forth to the accented beats he played. The higher his fingers moved up the keyboard, the further toward them his head would lean.

Numbers ranged from really tight jazz to loose experimental music with no set pattern at all.

One unnamed tune consisted of Metheny's jamming on the guitar. The rest of the band played notes and rhythms which sounded like a traffic jam. With red lights flashing across the stage, the bass player took over on solo. Then Vasconcelos startled the audience with a sudden shout and a bang on the cymbal. Squealing notes from the synthesizer and Metheny's guitar brought the song to a close.

Ex-editor backs aggressive journalists

By COLETTE HUTCHINGS
Battalion Reporter

Journalists must take it upon themselves to cause trouble, the outgoing editor of the Texas Observer told about 65 people at the Friends of the Texas A&M University Library meeting Friday at Texas A&M.

Rod Davis, 33, the former editor of the bi-weekly journal of politics and society who resigned from the publication Feb. 28, said unless a journalist is abrasive, aggressive and challenges authority, he's not doing his job.

Deliberately "baiting" officials at news conferences and trying to get information out of people whose business is to conceal information, Davis said, should be part of a journalist's job.

Davis said the lack of criticism and analysis of the news is a serious problem in the media today.

Using the conflict in El Salvador as an example, Davis said the reports are following the state departments' view without criticizing it. "I have not seen one good report sympathizing with the leftist point of view," he said.

To report only what happened and not thinking out what happened is not good journalism, he said. At that point a lot of journalists can be replaced by computers, he added.

"Many journalists are sympathetic with the status quo and think the way to move up is to play the game," Davis said.

This moving up is not being a journalist, but a manager, he said.

Journalists live on an edge of jeopardy if they're doing their jobs, he said.

Davis said he thought undercover reporting was a good way to get information that ordinarily would not be disclosed in an interview.

He said, for example, in covering an industrial health story, getting information from the manager of the company about the physical condition of the workers is difficult. By going undercover, Davis said, the workers may tell you something the managers won't.

"What is the deceit in this," he asked, "is it fooling the ill-health workers?"

Journalists should be irritating to management, Davis said. He said when a reporter is given a

potential story he should ask the editor "why do I have to do this?"

A journalists' self-interest in society is not identical with the

interest of the management, Davis said. "Thinking of yourself as on the team won't get you anywhere," he added.

Hubert receives appointment to UT centennial commission

Dr. Frank W.R. Hubert, chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, has been appointed to the University of Texas at Austin Centennial Commission, which will make an assessment of the institution during the 1981-83 period marking its first 100 years.

Appointments to the 176-member commission were made by the University of Texas System Board of Regents. Board Chairman James L. Powell called the commission "a group of outstanding individuals

representing a cross-section of citizens of Texas and the university's alumni who have distinguished themselves in their business and professional lives and who have demonstrated a continuing interest in the university."

The commission will hold its first meeting March 29-30 on the UT campus. In its final report, the commission will recommend priorities and directions for the institution's future.

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