

# Hyper Cheap Trick heats Rollie crowd on cold night

by Gary Barker

Battalion Staff  
Guess what? Cheap Trick was hyper. Guess what? Cheap Trick was really hyper. And it was contagious.

It may have been cold outside Thursday night, but inside G. Rollie White Coliseum there wasn't a dry underarm. Cheap Trick — that zany, pubescent-looking, power pop group from the Midwest — took a packed house, partially excited from an adequate warm-up band, and kept them on their feet for a solid hour and a half.

The warm-up band for the show was Novo Combo, an average high-tech band mainly composed of ex-session players. Novo Combo was no big deal but they had enough to get the show started. The group had efficient harmonies and no wasted notes, but little stage presence.

However, Cheap Trick — especially Rick Nielsen, the band's lead guitarist and songwriter — more than compensated for Novo Combo's lack of personality.

With his almost non-existent hair and customary baseball cap, Nielsen hardly looks the part of a rock 'n' roller. But as he careened around the stage, dashing off guitar licks as if they were shorthand, it became obvious that he's an excitable, rambunctious and talented entertainer.

Cheap Trick opened with "Hello There," their traditional call to order and then went straight into "California Man," a rousing song that invited the audience to a party.

And the party was loud, but the group justified the volume. When lead singer Robin Zander's neck muscles strained as he screamed "yeah, yeah, yeah" at the end of the Beatles' "Day Tripper," it was clear that volume and rock 'n' roll are unalterably synonymous.

Zander's voice was well-tuned all evening. He rarely missed a note and his powerful voice filled



Cheap Trick's Robin Zander staff photo by John Ryan

the coliseum even when he was unaccompanied.

Complementing Zander and Nielsen were Jon Brant, the group's new bass player, and Bun E. Carlos, drummer. Carlos and Brant provided a solid rhythm backing and kept the songs on course even when Nielsen got carried away with his Ted Nugent-like antics. Magic Christian, keyboard player and back-up vocalist, also provided back-up, but he was kept hidden behind a row of speakers.

The group changed up their tunes enough to make them in-

teresting, but kept them close enough to their albums to keep the audience satisfied — and entertained. They were animated and theatrical — Nielsen punctuating his guitar riffs by throwing guitar picks into the audience, Zander grimacing and whispering at appropriate times.

Zander was the ultimate tease, taking advantage of his Tiger Beat idol good looks to captivate the females in the audience. Once, carrying a 12-string acoustic guitar, he came out on stage and played the opening chords to the Kinks' "Lola," only to stop in mid-song and play the group's

latest hit, "If You Want My Love."

After a standing ovation, the group came back for two encores and sent the crowd away chanting "we're all alright, we're all alright." And it was alright. Really alright.

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<b>31</b>  OCTOBER 31	<b>1</b>  Australian Recreation Day in Northern Tasmania	<b>2</b> General Election Day! Go Vote!  Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Every Tuesday is Taco Bell T-Shirt Day - ask us about it! Interview with Tiger Coach Ferguson, 12:30 p.m. at C.S.	<b>3</b> Panama's Independence Day, 1903  Every Wednesday is Late Night T-shirt Special, Bryan	<b>4</b> No Bull Peace Prize awarded at Peters University in California  Every Thursday is High School Day	<b>5</b> Bryan vs. Ellison, 7:30 p.m., Bryan  A&M Consol vs. Katy Taylor (away game) OPEN 'TIL 3:30 A.M.	<b>6</b> Richard Nixon's last press conference  OPEN 'TIL 3:30 A.M.
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<b>14</b> Birthday of Inventor of the Steamboat, Robert Fulton, 1765 	<b>15</b> T-shirt Club cards expire Preregistration for TAMU spring semester starts	<b>16</b> "Father of the Blues" W.C. Handy — born, 1873 	<b>17</b> Suez Canal Anniversary, 1869 	<b>18</b>  Great American Smokeout OPEN 'TIL 5 A.M.	<b>19</b> Preregistration for TAMU spring semester ends OPEN 'TIL 5 A.M.	<b>20</b> Texas A&M vs. TCU, 2 p.m., Kyle Field 
WITH THIS COUPON BUY ONE <b>BURRITO SUPREME.</b> AND GET ONE AT HALF PRICE! NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. LIMIT: ONE COUPON PER PERSON PER VISIT. OFFER GOOD NOV. 21-27 11 A.M. - 11 P.M. <b>TACO BELL</b> GOOD ONLY AT ARCHIE'S TACO BELLS		<b>23</b> Aggie Bonfire — Whoop! 	<b>24</b> International Convention on Psychoanalysis in Austria 	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Archie's Birthday Texas A&M vs. t.u. (away game)	<b>26</b> George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26, 1789 to be Thanksgiving Day! (What was yesterday?) OPEN 'TIL 3:30 A.M.	<b>27</b> ISMA National Championship Road Races at Daytona Beach OPEN 'TIL 3:30 A.M.
<b>28</b> 28 days until Christmas! Give tacos! 	<b>29</b> Yugoslavia's National Holiday, 1945 	<b>30</b> Winston Churchill born (prematurely), 1874 	If you have a public service announcement you would like to have listed on Archie's Calendar of Events, please call two weeks in advance of the month you want your message to appear. Contact Ellen at 846-7753.			