

# Reviews

## Locals miss out on high-energy 3-band thrash show

By Keith Spera

REVIEWER

Shame on you, College Station. The hippest, hottest, baddest, brashest show to come to town in ages tears through the Parthenon Tuesday night, and only about 100 or so folks show up. Maybe the advertising was weak. Maybe nobody likes to go out on Tuesday nights. Maybe everyone is studying for finals. Or maybe this town is just plain lame. Whatever the reason, a trio of promising bands — one local, one regional and one national in scope — put on a high-energy show that deserved a full house. Thelonious Monster, the headliner, was intense, funny, casual and a lot more. But first, a word about what preceded them. Kicking off the show were local thrash favorites Street Pizza. Vocalist

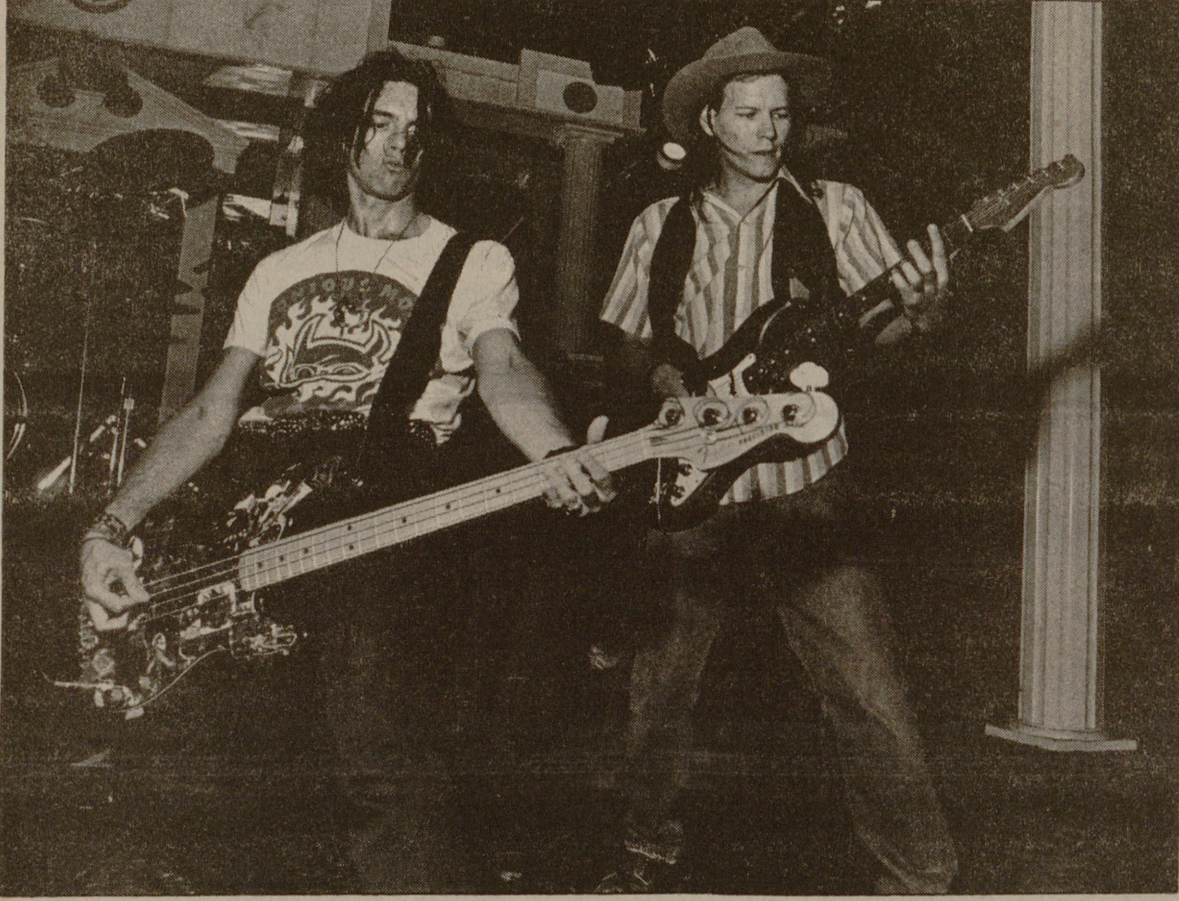
Pot Roast, guitarist Rev. P.D., drummer Scott Rot, and bassist Bill Igerent careened through a sweaty set of originals and cover tunes, accompanied by a pack of high school-aged slam dancers out on the dance floor. A manic version of premier punk band The Circle Jerks' "Beat Me Senseless" ended the set, during which bassist Igerent, sporting shorts, long bleached-blond hair and a pierced nose, beat his bass against one of the Parthenon's pretty white Greek columns. Next up was Dallas's Hash Palace, whose vocalist, Skippy, gets the award for most heroic performance of the evening. Early in Hash Palace's set, Skippy attempted to make a flying leap off the drum riser. Unfortunately, he slammed his head into a lighting fixture that was hanging low from the Parthenon's ceiling. Skippy hit the ground hard, but managed to sing the next line of the song without missing a beat. A verti-

cal lump as large as a child's thumb soon developed on Skippy's forehead, requiring periodic applications of an ice pack throughout the remainder of the show. Other than the ice bag, you'd have never guessed he was hurting. Now that's professional. Smooth vocals, almost reminiscent of the Pet Shop Boys, combined with "artfully abrasive" music that would be full of feedback-laden guitar one moment and then descend into psychedelic swirls at another, characterized their set. Highlights included "White Trash" and Hash Palace's version of the Kinks' "I'm Not Like Everybody Else." Their only flaw was that the drum sound was coming over the speakers so loud that it drowned out the guitar at times. Hash Palace could very well be the next band out of Dallas to make it big on the national scene. The man who serves as Guadacanal Diary's manager and Robyn Hitchcock's

lawyer also handles Hash Palace's legal affairs, Skippy said. He mentioned that several record companies, including heavyweights Geffen and A&M, have expressed interest in the band. Keep an eye on them. The only thing more fun than watching Los Angeles' Thelonious



Bob Forrest, lead singer of Thelonious Monster, tells a story in song at the Parthenon on April 25.



L.A. band Thelonious Monster played to a crowd of about 100 at a triple-bill College Station concert at the Parthenon.

**"That's what happens when you're a critics' band. You get a critic and a photographer and 12 other people in the audience."**

— Bob Forrest, lead singer, Thelonious Monster

Monster onstage was chatting with their vocalist and frontman, Bob Forrest, after the show. If everyone is allotted a certain amount of excitement and unusual experiences in his or her lifetime, then Forrest has made up for at least 50 boring accountants' lives. Interesting experiences? How about the time Forrest's ex-girlfriend Sabrina (who is not his wife and not his ex-wife and not the mother of his child, but who is the lady whose name is tattooed on his arm) was attacked by Guns 'N Roses vocalist Axl Rose? She had attempted to spit on Axl while the Gunners were playing in an L.A. club a couple of years back. Or what about when Forrest, on the verge of a nervous breakdown, pulled his car over on Sunset Boulevard in front of the Geffen Records building and crashed on the grass? He was awakened by Guns 'N Roses bassist Duff McKagan (whom Forrest has known for a few years and remained buds with despite the Axl incident) and McKagan's dog, both of whom were out for a stroll. Don't forget about the riot a few days ago in Phoenix that erupted during a Monster show. It seems that a drunk positioned himself in front of Bob and started flipping him off and yelling obscenities while the band performed an acoustic song. Bob came offstage and offered the guy his money back if he'd leave. The guy started to swing at Bob, Bob pushed him, and then several friends of the band attacked the guy. General mayhem followed, during which everyone in the band slugged someone, except Bob — who was the only one to go to jail. The hottest rumors out of L.A.?

Ask Bob. These days the rumors are: • Sammy Hagar (whose people may be suing Thelonious Monster for their song "Sammy Hagar Weekend") soon will be out and Diamond Dave Lee Roth will be back in Van Halen; • Living Colour will be the opening act for the fall Rolling Stones tour; longtime Stones bassist Bill Wyman won't tour with them (supposedly guitarist Ron Wood will play bass and ex-Stones guitarist Mick Taylor will come back on board on guitar). Forrest knows that rock 'n' roll is not all fun and games. Along with the tales of outrageous living come the stories of bands overwhelmed by either success or failure, and then searching for solace in heroin. Bob expressed frustrations about knowing that even though his band is good, they still have to go out on the

road and not get paid at all for two of their first three shows, and then drive 700 miles from El Paso to College Station to play for a handful of people. But frustrations were put aside for the show. Thelonious Monster opened their set with the introductory song that Cheap Trick used on their *Cheap Trick at Budokan* album and then ran through a set that was partially the result of audience requests. Live, Thelonious Monster is like a well-organized hurricane, with Bob being an eye of sincerity and clarity in the middle of the swirling storm of music around him. They take the rawness of thrash and combine it with skillful musicianship and discernible vocals that make sure the music's message is understood. In torn T-shirts and boots, their guitars slung low, the musicians of Thelonious Monster made a three-dimensional visual show, moving around the entire stage while Forrest clung to the microphone and spun his tales. Forrest filled the spaces between songs with bits of his wide repertoire of stories. After relating the tale of the disastrous tour thus far, Forrest told the audience "If you think you're bummin', you got another thing coming," and then led the band through a short version of "There's No Business Like Show Business."

As an intro to a powerful version of the Rolling Stones' "You Can't Always Get What You Want," Forrest joked, "That's the thing about us — we can play other bands' stuff. Not very good, necessarily, but we can play them." They also performed cover songs by Led Zeppelin and Black Flag, which, despite Forrest's disclaimer, they did a good job on. During the requests portion of the show, Forrest seemed surprised when an audience member knew the name of one of Thelonious Monster's songs. I requested "Sammy Hagar Weekend," a moving tribute/indictment of the rock 'n' roll scene that appears on their latest Relativity Records album, *Stormy Weather*. Forrest asked how I knew about that song. When I told him I write for the entertainment section of *The Battalion*, he laughed and said, "That's what happens when you're a critics' band. You get a critic and a photographer and 12 other people in the audience." Speaking of photographers, a *Battalion* photographer became part of the show when Forrest grabbed his camera and started taking pictures of the band in the middle of a song. He was still attached to the camera by a cable connecting it to a battery pack on his belt, so he followed Forrest around the stage as he snapped pictures of his bandmates. A rocked-up rendition of Tracy Chapman's "For My Lover" and a howling version of the 60-year-old Blind Lemon Jefferson classic "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean," (Thelonious Monster does both songs on *Stormy Weather*), and an encore presentation of Robin Trower's "Day of the Eagle" highlighted a set that had few bad moments. Here is a band that is talented, has an attitude, puts on an incredible live show, and has something to say with their music. Next time they come around, maybe the crowd they deserve will show up.

### MEN'S ACTIVE WEEK

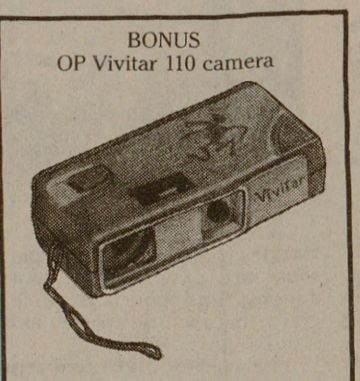
Your chance to be the winner with action-oriented summer sportswear, special bonuses and exciting prizes!

#### Be weekend-ready in Ocean Pacific® casuals

Cotton sheeting shorts with contrast elastic drawstring waist and pocket interfacings. Rear patch pocket has Velcro™ closing. Sizes s-sl, **20.00**. Pieced cotton knit tee shirt with screen print logo, sizes s-xl, **28.00**. From the collection, including shorts, shirts and swimwear, **20.00-32.00**

**YOUR BONUS:** With any OP purchase of 20.00 or more, receive a sporty Vivatar 110 camera.

**REGISTER TO WIN** a Sony radio cassette player.



#### The alternative to whites, Newport Blue separates

Look great in a screen print cotton T-shirt in vibrant colors, sizes s-xl, **14.00**, and cotton sheeting shorts with elastic waist and pieced leg detail, sizes s-xl, **25.00**

**YOUR BONUS:** With any Newport Blue purchase of 25.00 or more, receive a full size duffel bag of heavy duty polyester/cotton duck, while supplies last.



# Dillard's

### Rock like th

By Had Binlon CORRESPONDENT

Have you heard The Rolling tour will kick off That is great man Keith Richards he's actually going He's been to than 20 years, a looks like a pair Converse high cranking out the how many times to Switzerland t changed. It look to put the drain time. Richards is a t Even after the he managed to someone who ga much trouble as hero Chuck Ber up with Berry's the "Hail! Hai flop/movie about both lived to tell of times I thoug was going to end tal to get a Strat from his forehea After reading ards' opinions o recent interview I started thinkin like anything bu INXS). But then I : What, Keith? Yo like Miami So George Miche: You're my kind c It's time mor war on the garb produced for t market. If we eliminat from the meg: concert-tour sce in the Ramada I: we would all fi ourselves. Here's a list t the top 10 acts H 10. Europe This group o whining and cr They look like