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Pandemonium with Panjandrum



Despite classification, slow-arriving audience band rips through show from beginning to end

Panjandrum members electrify the early sparse crowd at the Front Porch Cafe Thursday night.

By ROB NEWBERRY

lot of bands can get off to a weak start A when the audience is slow showing up. Not so with Panjandrum, a hot funk band from Houston, that played at the Front Porch Cafe

At least they are classified as a funk band, a term that singer Johnny Goudie disputes. Goudie knows a lot of bands who get classified as funk, but play different styles than Panjandrum. "I really don't understand the whole music-

classification thing," he says.

Guitarist Richard Weiss adds, "We don't think about playing funk. Sure, the bass and drums have a definite funk feel. But when we write a song, someone comes up with an idea and the

rest of us make up our own parts. "We don't worry if it sounds funky or not." The band is planning to take about half their set into the studio next month and try to get a recording out. After that, the band would like to perform more often in the Texas and Louisiana

Urban-Contemporary Band in the reader's poll of Public News, an alternative-music magazine in

"We weren't really expecting anything from them since they are mostly alternative," says Gou-"Still, we were happy about getting the

"The scene in Houston is fun," he adds. "There are a lot of bands, but most of them play

different styles of music. Most of the other bands don't seem to have as much 'pop' in their music."
"We like playing College Station a lot," Weiss "The crowd here is looser. This is our

fourth time to play here, and the people get bet-

ter every time When the band started their set about 9:30, it looked as if the crowd would not be as strong this time. The band was unaffected, though, and immediately ripped into their energetic, full sound.

The second song of the night was "Free," a song about a relationship. Listening to the words, however, recalls what Goudie said about not worrying about music classification: "Follow what I hear/ What I hear in me/ No, I won't be chained.'

The band later kicked into "Open Your Eyes" and "All Your Dreams." With Justin Shahan keeping the background solid on the keyboard, Weiss moved through some fantastic riffs.

His short fills have all the feeling of some of Eric Clapton's moving riffs, but he packs a little

more punch with his upbeat rhythm.

The band closed their first set with "Did You Get What You Wanted?" Bassist Chris King opened the tune with an incredible bass solo. Through the rest of Panjandrum's songs, King's style reminded me of Who bassist John Entwistle; he uses the bass as a lead instrument instead of a rhythm tool.

By the time the second set began, the crowd had started to turn out. The band's immediate jump into energetic music brought a quick response from the crowd. Panjandrum's T-shirts say "Get Up Off Yo' Butt" on the back, and that is exactly what the audience did.

"Hey, Hey, Hey" kept the dance floor moving with an extremely funky feel. But like a lot of the

songs in the second set, it seemed to end at

wrong time.
With the audience obviously enjoying tunes, the songs themselves could have dese a little more punch at the ending. Instead, stopped abruptly, leaving the audience fe

slightly awkward.

The third set was the best. Goudie open set by telling a few jokes, then imm moved into the upbeat "Spend the Nigh Another great number in the third se

"Run Away," a song with a feel that make think. You may move around and dance, your eyes are closed and you're in another The band also played their newest and number, "Where Love Is." The song com

David Lentz's hot drumming with King's bass an incredible solo. Shahan's keyboards added just a touch as to intensity built, then Weiss tore into a solo at the right moment. Goudie's vocals wereenha

when Weiss and King added backup to thed But Panjandrum's optimal goal is to enjoyth music and the crowd. To top off the jokes,

band added their wacky number, "My Fall and the Pope. groups suffer when they have a slow turnout

Panjandrum packed as much energy into opening numbers for five or six people as did during their closing set for fifty-plus. They definitely have some funky numbers,

a lot of their music has a direct rock feel. The band plans to play a couple times at Front Porch Cafe this summer, and the shows

well worth seeing.

Save Wild Orchid's eroticism for \$1 video

Rourke's latest flick features more skin, less plot

By CAROL GLENN Of The Battalion Staff

"Wild Orchid" is a disappointing, extremely-erotic film with a shallow, predictable plot and unbelievable

This film is like a part two to the seductive movie "91/2 Weeks" (which isn't surprising since both movies have the same creators) and demonstrates to the audience how too much of a good thing can be exhausting and mundane.

In fact, some intimate parts of this film were so contrived and forced that I could hear chuckles from some of the people sitting around

The most notable actor in this film is Mickey Rourke who plays his traditional role of using mind manipulation to seduce his lovers, which is identical to his role in "91/2 Weeks." Rourke's character, James

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WILD ORCHID

Wheeler, is a rich, successful real-es- though, that she was hired for her tate mogul who lives in Brazil and is acquainted, through business, with Jacqueline Bisset's character, Claudia. Claudia acts as a salesperson between her corporate real-estate office in the United States and realestate officials in Rio de Janeiro. Carre Otis's character, Emily

Reed, comes in to the plot as a corporate lawyer who is sent to Rio de Janeiro with Claudia to finalize negotiations on a destitute hotel located on a valuable piece of real es-Otis makes her debut in this film

playing the object of Rourke's sexual It becomes increasingly apparent,

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good looks and her ability to make love in front of the camera and not for her acting abilities. In many scenes it appears she is reading her about the plot, and some visit lines straight from cue cards, which may consider this boldness an issue of the plot, and some visit lines straight from cue cards, which makes her character hilariously unbelievable

As the plot unfolds, Claudia more or less forces Emily on James to see glimpses of the picturesque, tree if Emily could sexually arouse James, and you guessed it, Emily

Some of the scenes in this film were so erotic and sexually explicit fitting setting for this lascivious fi that it made the audience uncomfortable and figidity. This movie templating seeing "Wild Orchit would make a good home video save your money and wait until where lovers could enjoy the pas- can rent it cheap on video.

their own home and not with mixed crowd of strangers

freec

ized

and

gover

Viewers who would like to be set ually aroused would enjoy this fin but anyone interested in any kindo plot or story pattern would grossly disappointed.

The director, Zelma King, cre such obvious sexual scenes that there was nothing surprising or intrigu to their intelligence.

The only high points in the were the occasional breath-tal and mountainous scenes of A tina and Rio de Janeiro. The ducers, Mark Damon and Tony thony, couldn't have chosen a m

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