

Up With People brings cultural production to Texas A&M

By Tracy McCarren
The Battalion

Rudder Auditorium will sway to the "Rhythm of the World" as Up with People brings their international musical extravaganza to College Station on March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Up with People, an international educational organization, was formed at a summer youth conference in 1965 by J. Blanton Belk to provide focus on the energy and idealism of youth movements around the globe.

The organization aims to encourage understanding among nations and equip participants with leadership qualities. For 11 months the cast travels to different countries, entertaining audiences with their show, providing community service and participating in career development activities. The cast members stay with host families at each city in which they perform.

"It is an excellent experience. The year on tour is worth four years of college," said Jeff Johnson, 1990 cast member and student at Texas A&M.

Johnson first became interested in Up with People when he was in high school. Through his involvement with Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he hosted a cast member at his home.

The cast of 140, representing countries such as Sweden,

Czechoslovakia and Bermuda, takes the audience on a journey around the world with their energetic performance of current international music.

"The show is two hours of incredible music and dancing from many different countries," said Aimee Greenspan, member of the advance team for Up with People. She says a popular part of the show is the '70s medley that includes music from Star Wars, Rocky and the Beatles. The audience finds themselves getting involved in the show.

Trude Antonsen, member of the advance team, adds, "Even men in suits are standing up and dancing!"

Following the show, the cast members will hold interviews for those interested in joining Up with People. "Cast members must be between the ages of 17 and 25, high school graduates, in good health and single," said Antonsen. No performance skills are necessary. Before going on tour, cast members go through intense stage and musical training.

Sponsored by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils and KORA, proceeds from "Rhythm of the World" will benefit the Arrowmoor District of the Boy Scouts in Brazos county.

Hosts are needed for the 140 cast members from March 27-29. For information about interviewing for a spot on the cast or host-



Aimee Greenspan of Connecticut (top), Trude Antonsen of Norway (left), and Glynis Bergsma of Canada promote the Up with People production "Rhythm of the World" in Post Oak Mall on Sunday.

ing a cast member, call 845-0112. Tickets for the show are available at Rudder lobby, all Ticketron

outlets and Foley's. Prices are \$5 for students and \$10 for non-students.

Darkside's latest draws from '60s

By Chris Eklof
The Battalion

The Darkside
"Melomania"
Beggars Banquet / RCA

The title of the Darkside's second album might mislead the listener. "Melomania" is not mellow, but it is highly psychedelic, returning to the '60s for its musical stylings. The Darkside blends together keyboards and guitars in a style that fit in years ago.

The Darkside's debut album, "All That Noise" was released in 1991 and made it to the top 10 of American alternative charts. The success of this album gave the Darkside a foot in the door of the American music scene.

The music on "All That Noise" was labeled as coming straight out of the '60s. The band feels that they have moved further into modern music with "Melomania," but it still displays a heavy dose of psychedelic influence.

The best example of these influences is the album's last song, "Rise." This 10-minute monster of a song is dominated

by Doors-like organ music. The first three minutes of the song consists of some quick lyrics and simple music. The song continues with the musical interweaving of organ and guitars for a six-minute instrumental jam. The lack of vocals on "Rise" is what makes it the strongest song on the album.

Singer Pete Bassman vocal talent is non-existent. He can hit one musical note with his voice and he continues to hit that note over and over, never changing the tone of his voice. His picture belongs next to the word "monotone" in the dictionary. He could not sing to save his life.

On "Tornado", Bassman repeatedly chants "tornado, tornado, tornado" without putting any life or spirit into the song. Throughout the album, the vocals continue to let down the spirit of the music.

Some people might feel that Bassman's vocal style fits in with the '60s style of music that "Melomania" tries to recreate. However there are enough examples of psychedelic groups with quality lead singers to prove those people wrong. The Darkside could be a lot better if they were to invest in a singer.



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Movie Review

'Crime' should be convicted

By Timm Doolen
The Battalion

"Once Upon A Crime"
Starring John Candy, George Hamilton, Sean Young
Directed by Eugene Levy
Rated PG
Showing at Post Oak 3

Once upon a time, "Once Upon a Crime" might have been funny. But in modern days, comedies must not only be silly and have a few gags, they also have to have a reasonable plot and some sense of coherence.

And while "Once Upon a Crime" comes close, it doesn't quite make it.

"Crime" is a humorous whodunit set in Monte Carlo, involving four Americans, two Frenchmen, some police investigators and a Dachshund named Napoleon.

Two American travelers, Phoebe (Sean Young) and Julian Peters (Richard Lewis), find a dog and try to return it to its rich owner. When they get to the mansion they find a dead body in the garage, and decide to run rather than explain their situation.

Meanwhile, an American tourist (Jim Belushi) tries to break the bank at Monte Carlo and ends up broke, while his wife (Cybill Shepherd) gets lucky and wins half a million dollars.

In desperation, Belushi walks around Monte Carlo and steals a suitcase outside the mansion - which now contains the dead body. The couple is found with the dead body while the other Americans are arrested at the scene of the crime.

The dead body is identified as that of the rich lady who owned the dog. John Candy is thought to be the mastermind of the murder, while George Hamilton is found out to be the rich lady's secret lover, and another suspect.

The police ask all the participants questions, and all of them lie unabashedly. At the end, they are all brought to the scene of the crime to reveal the true murderer.

This is a spoof on the Agatha Christie whodunits, similar to the highly funny "Murder By Death" (1976), but not with as tight a plot or as many laughs.

There are some fairly good performances, especially by Candy, who's at his best in pure eccentric comedy, and also Hamilton, who plays a small part that's perfectly matched for him. Shepherd and Young are not as suited to their roles.

Novice director Eugene Levy, who is a Second City Television veteran, does a capable job of handling the scenes (he can be caught as the cashier in the Monte Carlo casino). But the weak script and some uneven performances distract from the good parts of the film.

This movie doesn't purport to be of the caliber of "Murder on the Orient Express," and it definitely doesn't achieve it. The unstructured silliness of the plot makes "Once Upon a Crime" not worth your time.