

arts/entertainment



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka



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Cornstock XI draws crowd, cranes

Ideal summer-like temperatures and a large, responsive crowd combined to make Cornstock XI one of the most successful in recent years.

Frisbees, shorts and coolers were brought out of winter storage as thousands converged on East Campus to hear Pride of the Plains, Footloose and Cricket in an outdoor setting.

The only times the bands were upstaged were when a flock of migrating sandhill cranes hovered over the proceedings and when a masked stalker drew considerable applause. Campus police officers described the crowd as generally well-behaved. Cornstock was organized by the University Program Council.

Group to take music nationwide

By Pat Higgins

"Charlie Burton and the Cutouts," one of this area's most critically acclaimed rock and roll bands, are planning on a move to take their act nationwide in the near future.

According to leader Burton, the band will be playing Club 57 on a weekend in July and are trying to line up an appearance at the Mudd Club and a few other places in New York.

Club 57 and the Mudd Club are considered to be tres chic by the 21st century mutants of the Big Apple.

actually do it. But as far as the music goes, you can see it infiltrating places like American Bandstand now," he said.

Burton fervently believes in the cause. "Rock and roll will never die. It's like those insects that evolve against DDT—rock and rollers have to keep coming up with devious ways to fight the conspiracy against it. After all, rock and roll is the folk myth of our culture."

Burton does not feel self-conscious about his long haul. "I just want to keep plugging on. If the Rolling Stones can keep going on, it gives everybody else license to keep doing it," he said. "I'll never give up on the hope. I'm kind of like a Cuban refugee dreaming of returning to Havana and oppressing the peasants. Hope springs eternal in a rock and roll heart."

ABC's thrilled by its own victories during self-tribute

By Pat Clark

ABC television network treated a prime-time Saturday night audience to 90 minutes of self-promotion this past weekend with its salute to the first 20 years of *ABC Wide World of Sports*.

It was all very pleasant, with athletes in tuxedos and floor-length gowns taking turns applauding each other as host Jim McKay talked about their glory days. The whole evening reminded me of the Academy Awards show, except that ABC made sure that ABC got all of the awards.

profile

"I have nodelusions that New York is going to crumble to my feet but it appears to be the move one should make right now. I'm beyond naive fantasies but ultimately I do believe in myself," he said.

Burton and company have attracted considerable national attention for a band operating out of Lincoln. Most recently *Oui* magazine proclaimed them to be among the finest rockabilly bands in the country—although that is a label of which Burton is not necessarily fond.

As long as three years ago, Burton was highly rated in the prestigious *Village Voice* critics poll, not inappropriately ahead of Neil Young and behind Elvis Costello. But the desired major record contract remains elusive.

"Sure I'd like to sign with somebody. After all, I'm going the traditional showbiz kid route," said Burton. "The closest we came was the time that a company called and said that a contract would come within the week but then we never heard from them again. In the past I probably could have hustled more and been more overtly aggressive which is rather uncharacteristic."

In addition to being the headquarters for the record industry, New York is well known as the media center of the country.

"I just would like to get a toehold there basically. It's just like Frank Sinatra says, 'If you can make it there you can make it anywhere.' On the other hand, if nothing comes of it I'll come back and tell my grandchildren that I went there once."

Burton harbors no bitterness about remaining tantalizingly close to fame and fortune.

"At times you have to wonder if there is any artistic justice. Look at someone as great as Iggy Pop who can't even find a label to put out his new record *Here's Iggy*," said Burton.

He also mentioned another Motor City favorite in passing. "I have an Irish setter just like Ted Nugent does, and I would be interested in corresponding with any other rockers who own setters," said Burton.

The obituary for New Wave may have been written prematurely.

"As a 'movement' the sooner it croaks, the better, because then the media will let the people being creative



Photo by Jon S. Natvig

Charlie Burton

review

The salute contained all of the strengths and weaknesses of the *Wide World* format itself. The main strength of the show is the athletic smorgasbord it can present, and that variety was evident during the salute. Black-and-white film footage of Arnold Palmer almost getting mauled by his fans at the British Open, Jim Ryan running the first sub-four-minute indoor mile, Peggy Fleming winning her first national championship in figure skating (was there figure skating before Peggy Fleming?) and the career of Muhammad Ali from way back when it was the career of Cassius Clay could only be combined in the *Wide World* format. The producers of the show even went so far as to hunt down the world famous Vinko Bogataj, for those few of you who don't know about Bogotaj, he is the ski jumper who is shown nearly killing himself in the opening credit footage of *Wide World* each week. It was a nice gesture to bring him to the show, and probably the highlight of the evening.

But the glaring weakness of the salute to *Wide World* was also the glaring weakness of *Wide World* itself; a lack of defined purpose. *Wide World* has at various times acted the part of a sports entertainment show and a sports journalism show, but in its 20 years has never seemed to decide which facet of its operation deserves priority.

And so it was with the salute special. In the portion of the show devoted to Muhammad Ali, for example, we saw footage of Ali's rise to the position of undisputed champion of the world, then the interruption of his career when he refused induction into the military, then his subsequent comeback efforts when he was allowed to box again.

This is all very good sports journalism, but what was noticeably absent from the sequence was Ali's ultimate decline. Why? Because Ali was in attendance at the salute to deliver a little personal advertisement for *Wide World*, so it would have been bad form for ABC to show Ali's last couple of fights.

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