



Shaun Sartir/DN

Hoodoo Gurus' lead vocalist/guitarist David Faulkner pounds out the sounds Tuesday night at the Ranch Bowl in Omaha.

Happy, hopping Gurus?

Band missing long hair, simplicity

concert REVIEW

By Michael Stock
Senior Reporter

There was a lot of hair on stage at the Ranch Bowl Wednesday night. Between the opening act, Food For Feet, and the Hoodoo Gurus, there must have been about fifty yards of the stuff.

And a lot of big guitars. Playing for nearly an hour, Food For Feet sparked the audience into the proper fervor for the Gurus. Many were drunk, more were sweating. My date didn't smell too bad until she spilled her beer when the Gurus claimed the stage.

Opening with "Too Much Fun," the Gurus attempted their best heavy metal imitation, sounding like nearly every other no-name dirt band currently touring. Most of the first half of the set was devoted to self-indulgent guitar grinding and growling. Not that this was all bad. I had plenty of opportunities to fill my beer because I knew that I wouldn't miss anything.

In fact, the only thing I did miss in the first half of the show was the lead

singer's hair. Apparently, that must have disappeared with the happily jangling pop hooks that once made the Gurus so loved.

It wasn't until the middle of the set that the band proved they weren't too old to be happy. The Gurus appeased their old fans by playing the truly groovy "Death Defying," "Poison Pen" and "Bittersweet" from 1985's "Mars Needs Guitars!" — their finest release. I'd forgotten how many catchy hooks flooded the swinging pop of the band's early years.

"Tojo," the band's first song, is arguably the Gurus' best. "Tojo" captures all of the high-flying spirit of the early 1980s with jangling guitars and sugar-sweet lyrics. All of it simple, very simple.

The Gurus work best when they don't work hard. Simplicity works the best. When the Gurus rely on the lyrics and vocals on top of sparser guitars, the band's identity seems clearest.

Simply put, the Gurus are at their best when they're having fun. Fans should be drinking beer. Throwing beer. That's the spirit of the band.

Even with the older, heavier tunes like "Poison Pen" and "Bittersweet," the band had fun. Both tunes are every

bit as viable as today's happy pop tunes, yet they are almost seven years old.

The wonderful jaunt of "Good Times" and "Like Wow, Wipeout!" provided the perfect encore with bouncy, crunchy chords and snappy snares. And lots of goofy happiness.

Don't get me wrong. The Gurus still have promise. Newer tunes like the groovy "Miss Freeloze '69" and the wistful "1000 Miles Away" prove that the band is far from being in a downhill direction of annoying metal.

The opening act, Food For Feet, with more hair than the Gurus, comprises its rhythm section from the L.A. greats, Oingo Boingo. Several of the songs, with their layers of hoppy rhythms under guitar noise were reminiscent of the Oingo heyday a few years ago.

The extra layer of Latin percussions and drum pads revealed the occasional influence of Paul Simon and the Red Hot Chili Peppers in a couple of the poppier, lighter tunes. All of the air drummers in the bar seemed to enjoy this, several of them keeping up rather well. Still, the entire crowd, young and old, drunk and not quite drunk, all preferred the happy, hopping Gurus of old.

Take 6 delivers message to sold out crowd at Lied Center

concert REVIEW

By Robert Richardson
Senior Reporter

The six members of the Southern a cappella band Take 6 were greeted with a sold out Lied Center Wednesday night on their first visit to Nebraska.

After the first tune, "I Believe," bassist Claude McKnight told the audience that Take 6 definitely would bring its harmonies, vocal talents and aerobics back to the state.

Hailing from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., Take 6 took control of the show right from the beginning. Audience participation was a big part of the upbeat and happy show with an almost constant clapping of hands.

With a song called "Introduction," McKnight introduced the six members as each took time to showcase his voice — a musical instrument in itself.

And then, as the band did all night long, Take 6 once again united the audience with an unerring and un-

touchable a cappella rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." Slowly, as all audience members rose to their feet, the soft hum of the audience could be heard along with the stunning voices of Take 6.

As much a part of the show as the music was the message that Take 6 was trying to get across.

The newest and youngest member of the group, Joey Kibble, joined his brother Mark and the rest of the musicians in January. Kibble said the message the group wanted to relay was one of love and understanding.

"The style (of music) wouldn't mean anything if the message isn't there," Kibble said.

Kibble went on to say that Take 6 members try to live their lives in good ways but "nobody's perfect."

"Jesus is real in our lives, we want to make him real in other people's lives," he said.

Take 6 performed songs from its first two albums and said at the concert that its next release — a compilation of Christmas songs — should be out around December.

Comedian's road leading to Omaha

From Staff Reports

He can be rude, compassionate and dirty, but he's always funny. His most recent movie and sequel "Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey" showcasing the funnyman's talent has done well at the box office and is making him an even bigger star.

He's George Carlin. The middle-aged man with a beard, guy-next-door type has a style all his own.

And he's coming to the Omaha Civic Auditorium for what should be a thought-provoking live show.

Carlin's comedy routine "will be a combination of new material, classic Carlin and some of his HBO Specials," according to a Civic Auditorium press release.

Doing comedy since the early 1960s, Carlin had a road to success that he strictly followed. He wanted to be a disc jockey, then comedian and follow up with movies. He has hit all three, but the last had to be put on hold while Carlin got back to the stand-up routine.

His Omaha performance Saturday night will be one of 100 he will do this year, while still concentrating on his acting adventures.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$17.50.

Straight

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ter most approaching richness is Ray, the embittered father. We see, in glimpses, his internal world. It's easy to believe that he is not what he planned to be. Dennis' girlfriend (Reana Drummond) is a relief from his own flat obsessions. She goes a long way toward making him likeable.

For the rest, there seems to be little connection between events. Things just happen, and it hardly seems to matter — even to the characters.

As a teenager having made a full-length feature film, Rich can be proud of his accomplishment. But he should not be satisfied. Perhaps if he had been less easily satisfied, we would have been rewarded with a better movie, by a slightly older man. That would have been worth waiting for.

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