



Travis Heying/DN

Caveman Mike, also known as Dave Harroun, stands in front of one of his prehistoric counterparts at Morrill Hall. Harroun performs his show, "The Adventures of Caveman Mike," for children and parents alike.

Dinosaur rock

Neanderthal musician is a smash with area children

SPOTLIGHT

By Mark Baldrige
Senior Reporter

Mike Harroun is living in the past — the distant past.

Most of the time he seems like a modern enough guy with his chic overcoat and his aerospace engineer's ways.

But every so often he dons a Robert Plant wig and leopard skin threads and lives out his secret life as Caveman Mike, king of Dino Rock.

After being laid off "with about 2,000 others" from Ford Aerospace, he said, he went to work as a bartender at a Japanese restaurant in Costa Mesa, Calif.

He sang at the piano bar on occasion, but he dreamed of bigger

things.

He wrote a song of his own, "The Rompin' Stompin' Dinosaur Rock," but he didn't know what to do with it, he said.

Iesa Wayne, daughter of John Wayne, used to come into the bar where Harroun worked. Harroun said she encouraged him to perform at children's parties.

The rest is, well, history. "I used to do a set of songs and improvise the stories," he said.

"It's kind of like a mini children's rock opera."

His show, called "The Adventures of Caveman Mike" consists of a half hour or more of songs and stories by and about Harroun's hairy alter ego.

And Caveman Mike gets around. "I close my show with a song called 'I'm a Caveman in Outer Space,'" Harroun said.

"So I go from the past all the way into the future."

"But that's another song — and

another story," Caveman Mike said, as he switched from story to song to story.

"The favorite of the children is 'The Brontasaurus Wearing Striped Underwear,'" Harroun said.

But he's been a hit with parents as well.

"Honestly, the adults laugh more than the children — of course the children pick up on that," he said.

Harroun described his tunes as a combination of folk and old style rock music that appeals to the parents of small children.

"It's the music they grew up with, the music parents loved when they were kids. It's the music I grew up with," Harroun said.

In California, Harroun said, he charged \$100 per show. That's not feasible in a community as small as Lincoln.

But living here, back in his old home town, has given him more time to dream those "big dreams" that got him started in show busi-

— "It's not a matter of if it will sell. It's already sold. 'Kid Tested and Mother Approved.'"

— Harroun
Caveman Mike

ness in the first place.

"It wasn't 'till I came back to Lincoln that I was able to be more creative and write the stories down in a form that could be published," he said.

"Believe me, the stress of living here is nothing like living out there. My blood pressure's back to normal."

He said he hoped to find a publisher smart enough to see the mar-

See CAVEMAN on 11

For rent:
New flicks
full of fun,
foolishness

NEW VIDEO RELEASE

The video shelves are burgeoning with new releases this week. The sensitivity police probably won't be happy with some of these flicks, but wah! None claim to be anything but mindless entertainment.

"The Adventures of Huck Finn" Elijah Wood and Jason Robards star in the newest version of the Mark Twain classic tale of life on the Mississippi.

Young Huck fakes his own death and heads for the Mississippi riverways to escape his drunken and abusive father. Accompanying Huck on his journey to freedom is Jim, a runaway slave hoping for a better life up north. The two encounter many troubles and adventures as Huck searches for happiness and understanding.

It's a great picture for the whole family, but don't write it off if there are no young 'uns around — it's a rollicking adventure worth seeing.

"Cyborg 2" Ahh, another robot-in-love flick. In this one, the year is 2074 and humanoids are everywhere.

The American manufacturer of these fleshy robots is itching to destroy the competition — yes, a Japanese company — through use of one sexy female cyborg (Angelina Jolie).

The shapely 'borg is filled with a liquid explosive, set to detonate inside the Japanese main plant. But, alas, she breaks from the plan when she unexpectedly falls in love — gasp — with a real flesh-and-bone man (Elias Koteas).

Jack Palance costars as the renegade general who helps the lovers escape the tyranny of the capitalist company.

"Life with Mikey" The latest move in Michael J. Fox's attempt to rejuvenate his career has him starring as a former TV child star turned talent scout.

When his child-talent agency is nearing disaster, the company's head (Fox) meets a young con artist (Christina Vidal) whom he thinks is his ticket for saving the business.

The sentimentality play is terribly

See NEW VID on 10

Novel explores America if South had won Civil War



Harry Turtledove
"The Guns of the South"
Del Rey Books

Just looking at the cover art for "The Guns of the South" is enough to jar you — Robert E. Lee holding an AK-47. What is contained in the next 556 pages is a wild ride through a history that might have been.

Harry Turtledove, history professor at UCLA, has penned the magnum opus for alternate history's most oft-explored subject, a victorious South in the Civil War. Other writers have tried, most notably Ward Moore with "Bring the Jubilee" in 1955, but none have so masterfully captured the feel of the war, and explored what it was really all about.

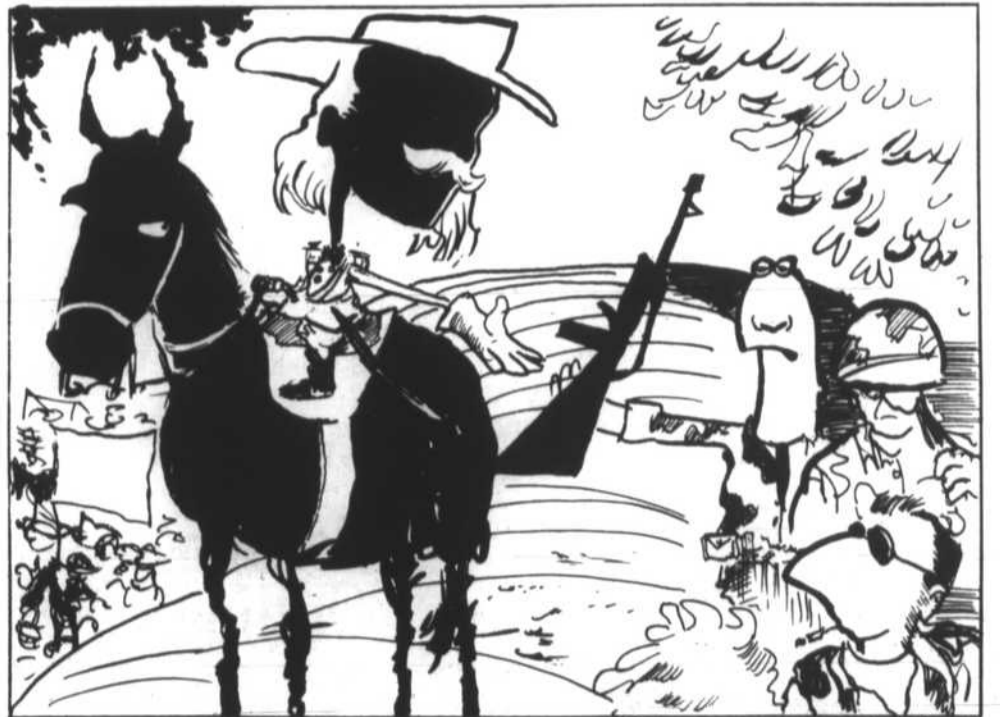
The tale begins in January 1864, with the Army of Northern Virginia still reeling from

Gettysburg. The Wilderness campaign is a few months off yet, and Ulysses S. Grant is about to be named commander of the Union forces which will eventually grind the South down to defeat. Out of a remote corner of South Carolina appear men, dressed in camouflage, speaking English with a strange accent, and offering General Robert E. Lee a new repeating rifle, called the AK-47.

The rest is history turned on its head. The South sweeps Union forces off the field of battle, and enters Washington, D.C. to receive the surrender from President Lincoln. Victory is only the beginning, not the ultimate end, for the South. For one thing, negroes accustomed to freedom in formerly Union-occupied territory rise in rebellion, and the question of blacks in the Confederacy becomes vexatious for Lee, after being elected President.

The mysterious benefactors, meanwhile, begin to assert their power over a grateful South, with guns and gold. They are unmasked as members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement, from the twenty-first century, determined to establish an empire for the white man in the

See BOOK on 11



James Mehling/DN