



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

Former Village People frontman arrested on drug, robbery charges

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The original lead singer of the Village People, the 1970s disco group that made fun of macho men, was jailed Saturday on robbery and drug charges.

Victor Edward Willis, 45, of San Francisco, was arrested in his Flamingo Hilton room, where officers said they found about 45 grams of rock cocaine.

Officers went to the hotel-casino after a woman reported that a man struck her and robbed her of an undisclosed amount of money and a bracelet. Police went to Willis' room and found the woman's belongings. The woman, who wasn't identified, told police she had met and socialized with him earlier.

Willis, who lists his current occupation as a writer, was in the Washoe County Jail Saturday afternoon, unable to post \$16,500 bail. He was arrested for investigation of robbery, possession of a controlled substance and trafficking in a controlled substance.

Willis was with the Village People from 1977 to 1979, when it recorded such hits as "Macho Man," "Y.M.C.A." and "In the Navy." He played the cop in the six-member group, designed to attract gay audiences with its parodies of male stereotypes.

The group broke up in the 1980s, but made a comeback at nostalgia shows in the 1990s, and still tours with four original members.

Season opener connects cast

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nically matched the naivete of Amy, played by Heather Reichenbach.

Dillon's transformation from an average, 20-something in "Sure Thing" to a tough, no-nonsense gal named Annie in "Foreplay" was excellent. Mario Bravo perfectly offset Dillon as her golfing partner, Chuck II, with his blunt comedic style.

Finally, Julie Abrahamson in the role of Alma turned the tables on Mike Semrad's Chuck III with her abrasive, quirky delivery. However, it was unsure whether Semrad's caution in his role was meant to depict the confusion of his character, or the confusion over the difficult cue lines.

The last selection, "Speed the

Play," was an excellent farce on the works of David Mamet. The comedy just seemed to roll off Bravo in his various roles and showcased his nonchalance. Though the cast maintained the fast pace that climaxed the show as a whole, lines were sacrificed to mumbling and stumbling.

The second feature was "Patient A," a poorly written play by Lee Blessing about Kimberly Bergalis, a young woman who is infected with HIV through contact with her dentist. Blessing seems to have a knack for inserting comedy at the most inappropriate times, and thus, impeding the tempo and plot of the story.

However, the play was redeemed by Courtney Shaw's performance as Kimberly. Her relaxed, conversational, energetic portrayal

reflected a true affinity for her character, while her illuminating stage presence helped to move the play along.

Shaw's support in the show was average. Michael Bergstrom, as the playwright Blessing, seemed to struggle with Blessing's swings between comedy and tragedy, but adequately portrayed the concern and confusion Blessing felt toward his subject matter. T.J. Nuckolls, in the part of Matthew, at times seemed awkward in the various roles his character had to serve keep the play moving. His gestures and blocking also seemed forced.

The cast was able to communicate the play's message on the compassion all AIDS victims deserve, despite Blessing's paltry script.

The Buzz develops style of blues with alternative

BUZZ from page 9

degrees from Columbia College and from the Berklee School of Music.

They've played with the likes of Jeff Healey, Liquid Soul, The Paladins, The Flaming Lips, Matt "Guitar" Murphy, Storyville, Buddy Guy, Roomful of Blues and even rapper Chuck D.

That lineup alone shows that The Buzz really know how to run the gamut of musical styles — they have a power to appeal to all types of audiences.

"We did a Friday night at Legends with Buddy Guy, then got up the next morning and drove to Iowa to open for The Flaming Lips the next night," he said.

The Buzz recently played the opening month at Chicago's House of Blues. Contrary to the venue's name, several rock shows play there, too.

"Since we did the House of Blues, the alternative clubs have been paying more attention to us," Binkal said.

"We did a Friday night at Legends with Buddy Guy, then got up the next morning and drove to Iowa to open for the Flaming Lips the next night."

FRANK BLINKAL
singer/guitarist

The Buzz will start playing around 9:30 p.m. There's a \$3 cover charge.

'Vegas Vacation' leads Griswolds on zany gamble

VEGAS from page 11

of the spark in "Christmas Vacation," and in a hilarious episode of the original "Vacation." However, the PG-rated script and rather stale dialogue seriously dilute his usually gregarious white-trash performance.

"Vegas Vacation" will cause you to laugh out loud more than once, partially because of the apt performances of the Griswold clan, particularly the equally wide-eyed and innocent Rusty and Audrey.

But the PG rating hampers the script a bit. While this rating guarantees this film to be a family "Vacation" that the entire family can actually see, it detracts from the mildly raunchy and successful humor of the past Lamppoons.

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