



THE BUZZ will perform at the Zoo Bar tonight in a 21-and-over show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ZOO BAR

## The Buzz encompasses more than just the blues

By ANN STACK  
Senior Reporter

There's an alternative to everything these days, and the blues don't seem to be an exception.

And while there is always something to be said for tradition, injecting something new to the blues genre can prove to be worthwhile. That's where The Buzz comes in.

The Buzz, a Chicago-based blues band with a twist, will be at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St., tonight.

Frank Binkal, singer and lead guitarist, describes his band as "James Brown meets the Black Crowes meets The Paladins with a David Bowie twist."

Come again?

"We'll do some blues, then maybe an old-school rockabilly, then the Beatles," he said.

The Buzz came together three years ago when three of the members — Binkal, bassist Chris Bernhardt and drummer Jon Hanrahan — started playing Monday jam nights at Buddy Guy's club, Legends, in Chicago. They started backing a female blues singer, doing straight-ahead blues. They eventually became the Mon-

day night host band, jamming with blues musicians like Guy and Otis Rush.

"They'd hear us play this straight-ahead blues, and they'd tell us, 'That's great, but with your youth and energy, you need to be doing something else,'" Binkal said. "That's something we'd been wanting to do anyway."

They added horn and keyboard player Jay Moynihan, and gave up the Monday jam sessions, so "people wouldn't think we were just a blues band," he said.

"Legends was always really cool about not curtailing our music just to appease some 50-year-old tourist."

Binkal can see the parallel one might draw between today's insurgent movements combining rock music with other genres, like country or R&B, to what The Buzz does.

"That's kind of like what we're about," he said. "They play traditional stuff that shows their roots, that shows they're students of the music, but then they put a twist on it and make it different."

The Buzz definitely know their music. As well as getting their training in the blues clubs of Chicago, two of the members received music

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## 'Vegas Vacation' revisits old high jinks

By BRET SCHULTE  
Film Critic

Another breakthrough in food preservatives leads to another vacation get-away for America's most gleefully unfortunate family, the Griswolds.

Once again Chevy Chase is the overly zealous, mostly faithful family man, Clark Griswold, accompanied by his patient and loyal bombshell, Ellen (Beverly D'Angelo).

Clark rallies the reluctant family, who, in the Lampoon tradition, feature a new (and improved) Rusty and Audrey, played by Ethan Embry ("Empire Records," "That Thing You Do") and Marisol Nichols.

Any possible high jinks that may have occurred on their minivan excursion are glossed over and the film abruptly begins in the sex-and-neon-illuminated downtown of Las Vegas.

The Griswolds quickly become ensnared by the trappings of Las

### The Facts

Stars: Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo, Randy Quaid, Ethan Embry, Marisol Nichols, Wayne Newton

Director: Stephan Kessler

Rating: PG (language)

Grade: B-

Five words: Griswolds plus Vegas equals gamble

Vegas: Clark loses a small fortune to a particularly menacing near-midjet blackjack dealer (Wallace Shawn of "The Princess Bride"); Ellen becomes enamored with the ever-enticing Wayne Newton, who attempts to win her affections through plenty of chest hair and pasta; Rusty turns into a major Vegas player while Audrey ends up dancing in a cage.

Appearing again as Cousin Eddie, Randy Quaid provided most

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RANDY QUAID (left) and Chevy Chase star in the latest installment of National Lampoon's "Vacation" series, "Vegas Vacation."

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

### Theater Review

## Theatrix cast opens season in fine fashion

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Theatre Critic

Audiences to the opening of the Theatrix season saw two features contrasting in both tone and style.

The first feature, directed by Heather Currie, consisted of three selections by David Ives. Though flubbed lines slowed the pace of the play, the chemistry of the cast held the show together.

Patty Dillon vacillated humorously between flirtation and indignation in "Sure Thing." But her counterpart, Mike Zaller, seemed to pass over and rush through lines, ignoring their comic implications.

The couples in "Foreplay, or the Art of the Fugue" were expertly matched. Zaller heightened his energy level for the role of the seducing Chuck, and

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