

# 'X-Files' premiere entices fans



By SEAN MCCARTHY  
Assignment Reporter

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VARIOUS APARTMENTS, HOUSES and  
DORMS

Unusual phenomena involving a show and a rabid band of followers seems to be culminating into one event on Sunday night. The Fox network-based show "The X-Files" has had an almost hypnotic effect on viewers across the nation and has amassed a growing number of fans since it started its run almost five years ago.

Arguably the most anticipated television season-opener of the year, "The X-Files" last May had millions of fans guessing the outcome of the season finale.

In that episode, FBI agent Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) apparently committed suicide. He was distraught when he found his discovery of alien life might have been a fraud engineered by a secretive government conspiracy. In a subplot, fellow FBI agent Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) is dying of a tumor, which is related to her earlier abduction by aliens a couple of seasons ago.

Justin Lewis, a senior fine arts major, said he has watched "The X-Files" since it premiered in 1993. He plans on getting friends together to watch the series' season opener Sunday.

And he has a prediction of what will transpire.

"I think it's all a set up with Skinner's assistance to catch the Smoking Man," Lewis said.

For the initiated, Walter Skinner (Mitch Pileggi) is Mulder and Scully's boss. And the Smoking Man (William Davis) is considered to be the series' villain. Last season, the Smoking Man had Skinner framed for a murder he didn't commit.

Shawn Darnall, co-owner of Bodega's Alley, 1418 O St., said he planned to broadcast the season opener at the bar. Though Darnall isn't a professed "X-Files" fan, he says he knows his bartenders are.

"They schedule their work hours around the show," he said.

More examples of this abnormal behavior are evident and will clearly surface Sunday night.

The truth is out there, and some of those truths probably will have to wait for the series' upcoming movie in order to be solved.

# Halloween provides Wide usual spooky atmosphere

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Describing himself as the lead screamer — not singer — of the local band Wide, Heath Cole plans to scare up audiences tonight.

His band will play at 10 p.m. with Cadmium and Mercy Rule at Knickerbockers Bar & Grill, 901 O St.

Bassist Jimmy Webb and drummer Smokey Anderson round out the trio. Cole — also the guitarist and better known as "H" — knew Anderson from Anderson's former band, Stew.

The two met each other from playing with their respective bands at Knickerbockers. After forming Wide in 1994, H said he needed two musicians who would be willing to tour with him. He found the answer with Anderson and Webb.

"We're kind of a lightly salted Minutemen," H said.

Stew shared one side of an LP that also made up Wide's first release. The LP, "The Perfect Gift," was released this year on -ismist records. "The Perfect Gift" takes up side one while Stew's last release, "Karma Suture" makes up side two. Bad news for compact disk and cassette players though, the album is only available on vinyl.

Ron Albertson, drummer for the band Mercy Rule, screened 300 copies of the cover of the album. After those 300 are sold, H said he doubted the group would reprint more. Instead, members are working on a new album that should come out in early 1998.

Despite his Halloween hype, H said the band didn't need to add anything to make the holiday show special.

"We're going to be spooky, as usual," he said.

Sitting back in H's apartment, watching an episode of "Beavis and Butthead," the band waxed about its favorite horror movies. Webb's favorite was "The Exorcist," H was particularly fond of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" and Anderson's pick was "Evil Dead 2."

Morbid movies often yield a watershed of writing material, but Wide's influences for writing is more varied than a slasher film. Webb said his favorite topic for writing was people who were "party machines." H said he liked writing about the butchering of corporate business. Anderson's muse was a tad simpler — "People who are idiots," he said.

Wide's ideal environment for a Halloween show would be underground, Webb said.

"We enjoy hot, sweaty, stinky rooms."

Until that special "sub-genius" show happens, fans should revel in tonight's above-ground version. Tickets are \$3.

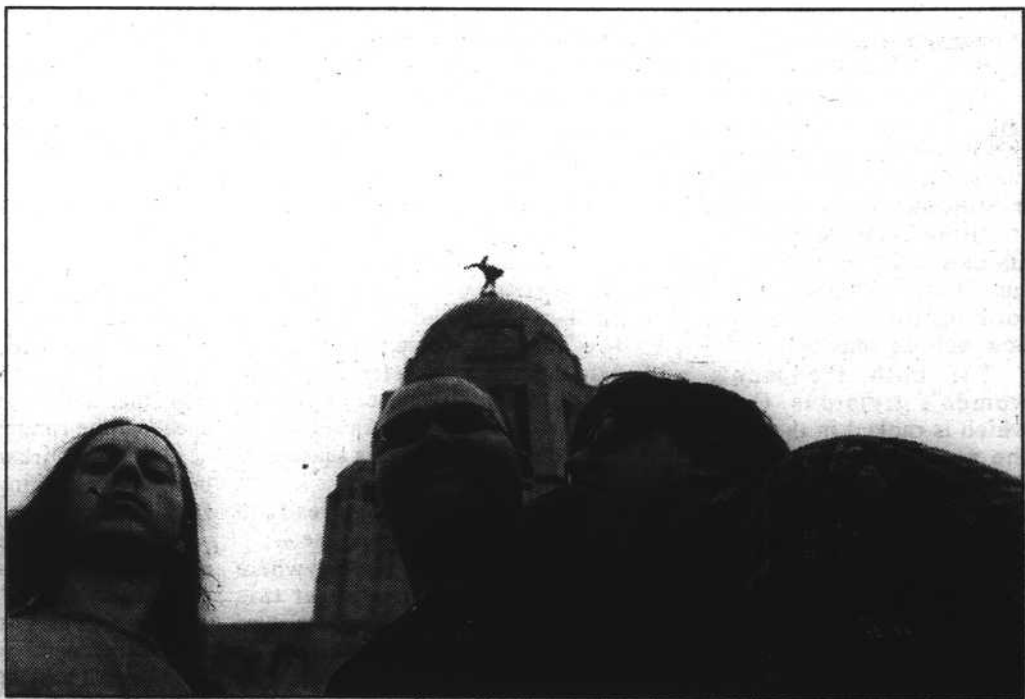


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIDE  
WIDE (from left, Webb, H and Smokey) delivers its girthy, gritty rock 'n' roll sound tonight at Knickerbocker's Bar & Grill, 901 O St.