

## Roots Rock Society brings crowd to their feet

By Jessica Rutan  
Staff Writer

An excited crowd welcomed the musical group Roots Rock Society to ACC's Granum Theater on Jan. 28.

The Chicago-based group combines African, Caribbean and American culture into one highly-energized program of music and dance.

The music has a reggae feel to it, but is much more than that. They combine many different styles in their music along with important messages of today. These included, "Cost of Living Going Up" and "Liberation."

They also played songs that got everyone up and dancing, forming a train for the audience to follow around the theater.

Guitarist/singer/songwriter Stann Champion, singer Jahkiya, percussionist Angel Luiz Bedell, and bass player James Cornolo form the group.

Champion founded the group in 1986 to keep his culture alive. He has been playing music since the age of 15. In 1981, he left his job at an ad agency in Chicago to play music full time.

Like Champion, the other members of the group also attended college.

Bedell was teaching nutritional chemistry in Cuba while playing. He began playing full time because music was in his blood. His dad was a musician and his uncle was a famous musician in Cuba.

Jahkiya began her career



Photo by: Jocelyn Haske  
Roots Rock Society had the audience moving to the music.

singing in the church choir. She has been singing reggae for ten years and has been with Roots Rock for three years. She has a degree in music business management.

James Cornolo became interested in this style of music because he went to school

with a Jamaican singer at the Chicago Conservatory of Music. He enjoys reaching people through Roots Rock.

"Roots Rock is kind of political because we're a mixed group," he said.

Champion enjoys the diverse audiences they play for.

"By coming to places like this, I meet people I would never meet any other way," he said. "I get to reach out to all races and ages."

The band has gained worldwide attention with the release of two albums, 1993's "Bass Mint Sessions" and

1995's "Again!" They are currently working on a new album.

"Trends come and go, but culture is forever," said Champion.

The band can be reached at <http://members.xoom.com/iriemusic/>

## "Doors" labyrinths through author's mind

James Eaton  
Staff Writer

"If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, infinite."

This fitting quote by Blake was used by Aldous Huxley to create the title of his book "The Doors of Perception." The book takes its reader down the spiraling path of Huxley's mescaline-induced consciousness, illuminating the reasons people can never truly share experiences.

Huxley enlightens the

reader by describing how most people perceive the objects in their environments as utilitarians, seldom taking the simple joy in those object's form, color, and texture. An example of this idea can be found in a portion of the book in which Huxley is looking at the objects in his home.

He writes, "I was looking at my furniture, not as [one] who has to sit on chairs, to write at desks and tables...but as the pure aesthete whose concern is only with forms and their relationships within the field of vision or the picture

space...The legs for example, of that chair, how miraculous their tubularity, how supernatural their polished smoothness."

Huxley's writing style is refreshing and a pure delight to read, creating transitions from one point into another with amazing clarity and ease, giving

the reader the feeling of being inside the author's mind. A relatively short book, Huxley succeeds in saying in 80 pages what would take many writers considerably more. However,

this slows the rapidity of the reading down, leaving almost too much to digest with each page.

Huxley takes the reader from Buddhist philosophy to the "labyrinth of endless significant complexity" found in the folds of his gray flannel trousers.

Anyone who has ever wondered how great artists, musicians, the mentally ill or children full of simply blissful naivete might perceive the world around them would thoroughly enjoy this book.

## Reviewer's high hopes for "The Wood" dashed by boredom

Amy Wallot  
Co-Editor

MTV's "The Wood" shows the lives of three Inglewood, Calif., boys through their adolescence and adulthood.

The story starts with Mike (Omar Epps) and Slim (Richard T. Jones) looking for their

friend Roland (Taye Diggs), who has vanished on his wedding day. To help Roland with his cold feet, the trio reminisces about their first experiences with females.

With a backer like MTV, "The Wood" has the promise of being a hysterical movie that can go places that more civilized movie backers wouldn't dare. Unfortunately, that's not the case.

The flashbacks of the past contain the funniest scenes. Too bad they had to be interrupted by the present. Between the occasional humor of awkward teenage adolescence, there isn't much else. The constant jumping back and forth between the past and the present does not give us the chance to connect with the characters. Combined with one of the most boring endings of all time, "The Wood," while not completely horrible, just isn't really good.

MTV does provide a positive aspect to the movie. It does have a great sound track, featuring artists like DMX, Blackstreet and R. Kelly.

While "The Wood" has promise, it just doesn't live up to it. Stick to the soundtrack, and just skip the movie.

## "Nunsense II" audience rolls in fits of laughter

By Jennifer Werda  
Staff Writer

Nunsense II, the Second Coming presented in January by the ACC Players was a smash hit. The sequel by Dan Goggin to last fall's successful comedy played two weekends to sold-out audiences.

Directed by Sonya Titus, the play was filled with laughter until the last "Amen."

Linda Suneson, appearing once again as Mother Superior, scored with her one liners like, "I'd rather have a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." Suneson's facial expressions and body movements showed the energy she puts into her role.

Sister Mary Paul AKA Amnesia played by Mary Broad was superb as the nun who has amnesia and tries to remember who she is through a psycho puppet nun. Alisha Cole who portrayed Sister Mary Hubert was splendid as the jealous nun under Mother

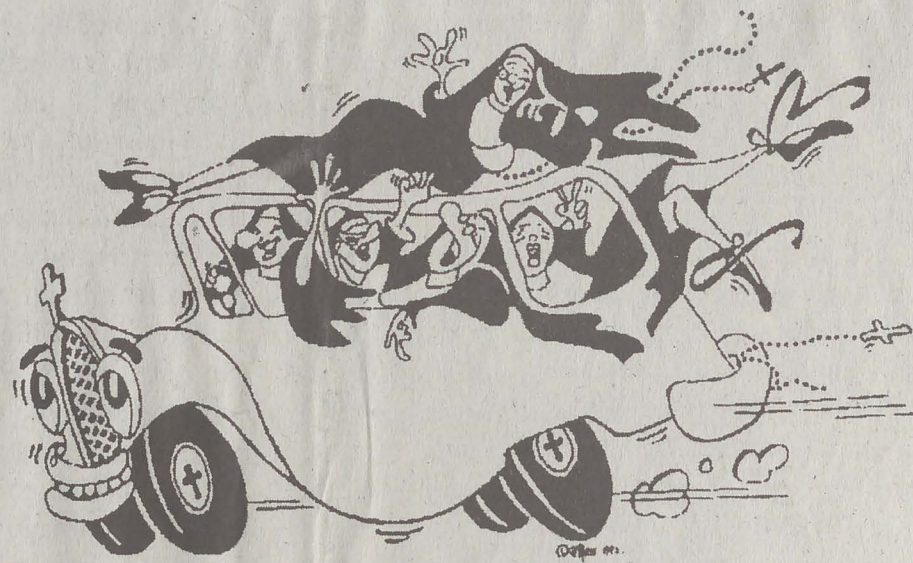
Superior. Marsha Hoppe played Sister Robert Anne, the nun with the shady past, and Heather Pines portrayed Sister Mary Leo, the dancing ballerina nun.

One of the hardest parts of comedy is timing including leaving enough time between lines to allow for audience response of laughter. During rehearsal, the cast has no audience to practice timing with. Even without the practice, the cast handled the timing like pros, pausing to allow just the right amount of time between lines for the audience to laugh but not miss the next line of the show.

Titus, the cast and all of the people behind the scenes of Nunsense II should be proud of their efforts on this production. The zany nuns left the audience crying with laughter and begging for more!

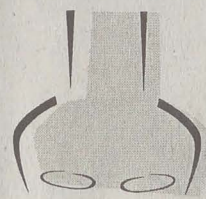
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The second coming ...



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