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Los Angeles Times

Power Pop's Elvis Costello Coming to SDSU Open Air Theater

By THOMAS K. ARNOLD

Most rock critics hold Elvis Costello responsible for the start of the power pop movement. Up until the wistful English singer/songwriter's arrival on the recording scene in 1977, new wave music had not yet progressed beyond the primitive three-chord hardcore punk stage; rock fans had to choose between the ear-shattering brawls of the Sex Pistols and the Ramones, or the portentious progressive rock doodlings of bands like Yes and Emerson, Lake and Palmer, who dominated much of the FM airwaves back then.

But with the release of Costello's first album, a refreshing breath of both melody and structure was brought back to rock 'n' roll.

The new music was labeled power pop in one of its first reviews and the name has stuck. It combined the urgency and brevity of punk rock with the strong sense

In San Diego, however, where he appears July 24 at San Diego State's Open Air Theater, he has always fared a little better than he has elsewhere in the country — as is evidenced by the fact that nearly every bar band in the city plays at least a couple of Costello covers.

Also scheduled for the Open Air Theater this month are Pete Dinklage and Judy Collins on July 16.

Also on one of those lyrically trite and musically self-indulgent bands whose undistinguished form of hard rock has been mainstay of the once-adventurous rock airwaves since the middle 1970s.

Judy Collins, along with Joan Baez, is one of the leading folk songwriters of the 1960s protest era. Like Baez, she began her career by knocking everything from the Civil War to Southern prejudices against her, however, she's mellowed out considerably and now indulges in standard easy listening fare, as evidenced by her big hit a few years back, "Send in the Clowns."

Other major acts scheduled to play San Diego this month are Jamaican reggae outfit Steel Pulse at the California Theater July 19 and heavy metal guitar thrasher Ted Nugent at the Sports Arena July 22.

On the local club scene, the Spirit will host punkers Pre-Ede (formerly the Suburban Lawns) Saturday and Los Angeles groups the Plogz and the Skanksters July 16.

Also at the Spirit will be power poppers Billy Sheats, Usherover and Little Herb July 17, Tom Verlaine, former leader of pioneer new wave band Television, July 23, and punkers Twisted Roots and Red Wedding, the latter of which sounds a lot like vintage Rocky Music, July 20.

At the Bacchanal, jazz fusionist Ray Ayers will open the month Wednesday followed by veteran country rockers Asafes at the Wheel July 21 and noted jazz saxophonist Gato Barbieri July 22.

Other national acts at local clubs will see East Los Angeles new wave group the Brat and the local Paganets at Tia Juana Tilly's (that's in Tijuana), on Friday.

In North County, the Distillery East in Escondido will host the Bus Boys, a nearly all-black new wave group



Elvis Costello, in most critics' eyes the father of power pop, is due in San Diego later this month.

POP MUSIC

of melody and abundance of hooks that had characterized the best of middle 1960s pop rock.

It caught on almost immediately, and within a year had spawned a legion of imitators (the Knack, the Pop, the Romantics, and countless others), most of whom were not as talented as Costello.

Within several years songs like "Allison," "Watching the Detectives," and "The Angels Want to Wear My Red Shoes" had established Costello as one of the most important and creative musical forces of the 1970s and his songs, it seems, were being covered by everyone from Dave Edmunds to Linda Ronstadt.

But, for reasons that can only be surmised, he never really caught on with the public the way everyone seemed to think he would. His albums crested near the top of the charts, but never reached R; radio stations preferred to play songs by such Costello-copiers as the Knack, rather than Costello himself.

And, to this day, he remains mostly a critic's darling.

whose upbeat, highly danceable tunes take very, often tongue-in-cheek looks at major social issues Thursday and power pop band Gary Myrick and The Figures July 15.

The Belly Up Tavern in Solana Beach will host rhythm-and-blues singer/guitarist Fast Forward July 16; the Bus Boys July 22; rhythm-and-blues singer/songwriter Catfish Hodge July 29 and the Rebel Rockers July 30 and 31.

And at the Old Time Cafe in Leucadia, special concerts will feature bluegrass banjo stylist Larry McNeely Bass July 17; acoustic jazz band the Tony Miles Unit July 18; Texas singer/songwriter Townes Van Zandt, who has written for such artists as Emmylou Harris and Doc Watson, on July 24; and country-blues duo Tom Ball and Keesay Seltzer July 30.



Handy in a Pinch—Gas company crew lowers contractor on Activity Road north of Black Mountain Road. Area was evacuated briefly.

BUDGET: Ax Falls Hard

Continued from First Page

"The administration got a hell of a whack," said Supervisor Paul Eckert, who predicted that this year's cuts may be "kids' play" compared to what may be in store for the county in the coming years.

"It is a budget that left no one smiling," said Supervisor Tom Hamilton, who along with other supervisors cut more than \$1 million from the budget in the closing hours and ordered a 50% reduction in travel for county employees and elected officials.

During the marathon budget hearings, supervisors at one point were \$4 million over the proposed \$710-million budget submitted by the county's top administrator. But in the closing days of the hearings, they whittled away at the surplus spending and finally balanced the budget the last day with a flurry of cuts.

Sheriff John Duffy and Dist. Atty. Edwin Miller were the most successful in convincing the board to add money to the budgets proposed by Graves. Duffy got an additional \$3 million, but still fell millions short of what he said he needed to get him through the coming budget year. Miller was given an additional \$700,000.

Marshal Michael Spogba, who has been in a running battle with some supervisors over the cost of operating his newly consolidated office, was granted an additional \$384,000. But the increase, which raised the budget of the Marshal's office to just over \$7 million, was taken back by the supervisors Tuesday.

Graves did have some good news. He announced that his earlier prediction that 500 county employees would be laid off to meet budget restraints was erroneous.

Now, he said, it appeared that as few as 150 employees may lose their jobs. Graves said demotions, transfers and some unexpected money from the state accounted for the reductions in layoffs.

The budget approved Tuesday will be officially adopted by supervisors in the coming weeks. The \$710-million spending plan was \$3 million less than the 1981-82 county budget.

In an earlier letter to supervisors, Graves said the coming fiscal year "will challenge all of us to provide essential county services during the most severe period of economic malaise we've seen in 30 years."

Graves predicted that the county, suffering from slumping revenues, would be adopting "light" budgets

for at least the next two years.

Speaking of the just-approved budget, Graves said health services appeared to be the hardest hit.

"If there is one area of the program that is suffering the most it is in the health area," he said, adding that reductions would be felt in health clinics and overall client services.

But things could have been worse, he said. At one point Graves thought the state might reduce local aid to the county by \$30 million. But the final cuts in "hell-out" money only reached \$1.4 million.

Eckert said the budget was a struggle this year because "government is not accustomed to reductions."

But he said he would continue to oppose the board's decision to spend \$400,000 in county money on the Workfare program, designed to put welfare recipients to work.

He argued that workfare is a federal government project and the federal government should pay for it.

"We are trying to prove something to us to who he asked, Supervisor Jim Bates, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said the budget "may be difficult for the poor." Especially, he said, in the area of indigent health care.

Bugs in Border Crossing Plan?

Bates Sees Cover-Up in Delay on Environmental Report

By GEORGE FRANK, Times Staff Writer

Supervisor Jim Bates charged Tuesday that the county's legal department is withholding an opinion that cites serious deficiencies in the environmental impact report on the proposed border crossing on Otay Mesa.

Bates said in his letter to Graves.

Bates' contentions were supported by Supervisors Paul Forderm and Paul Eckert.

But Hamilton and Hedgecock said they had the right to meet with county attorneys on any issue and intended to do so on the border-crossing opinion.

No Plans to Meet

Hedgecock said he had had no plans to meet with the attorneys until Bates sent the letter to Graves.

"I don't know what he is talking about," Hedgecock said. "But now that he has brought up the issue I will meet with county counsel."

Clark refused to comment on the issues raised by Bates.

Bates also directed Clark not to meet with individual supervisors before the border-crossing opinion is issued, and ordered Clark to issue the opinion "forthwith."

"Further," Bates said in his letter to Graves, "the chief administrative officer is to immediately begin an investigation into whether the environmental impact report was properly reviewed by the county Planning Department."

2 Hollywood Officers Freed in Assault Case

By MYRNA OLIVER, Times Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Two Hollywood Division motorcycle policemen were absolved Tuesday by a Los Angeles Superior Court jury of civil charges of assaulting and falsely arresting a young woman who thought they were the so-called Hillside Strangler.

The eight-man, four-woman jury in the court of Judge Philip M. Sesta voted 10 to 2 in favor of the city of Los Angeles and Officer Frederick Yu and Robert Despain after a one-week trial and two days of deliberation.

Carolyn Marie Zechiel, now 34, accused the officers of grabbing her breasts, kicking her and propositioning her when they stopped her in a parking lot at Sunset Boulevard and Marfan Avenue shortly after midnight on Sept. 13, 1977. She was arrested on a charge of drunk driving.

Because the incident occurred during the time the so-called Hillside Strangler was stalking young women and using the ruse of pretending to be a law-enforcement officer, Zechiel said, she feared the officers might rape and strangle her.

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