

## Band didn't die with punk era

### Music Notes

By Sean McGuinness

Of the punk bands to crash out of Los Angeles in the 1979 to 1983 era, only Social Distortion has survived and flourished.

Formed in 1979, S.D. set itself apart from the faster-than-you crowd with a traditional approach to songwriting, an approach that made melody as important as speed and aggression.

"When punk started in the late '70s, I thought it was great music, not just a fashion statement," Mike Ness, S.D.'s founder, vocalist and songwriter, said. "The music I wanted to do was a mix of blues, country and Ramones-y punk."

When the punk scene died a quiet, elusive death, S.D. continued to record independently. *Prison Bound*, their 1988 release, was their most successful to date. The key to their success lies in their non-radio format. Now they've made the leap to major record label, Epic, which has caused much controversy with hardcore fans.

Many of the faithful following say that Ness, guitarist Dennis Danell, bassist John Maurer and drummer Christopher Reece have all sold out to the bureaucratic



Social Distortion

label giants. However Ness, in a telephone interview, said S.D. wanted to expand its realms.

"Mainstream is changing, moving toward alternative music. Mainstream will accept Social Distortion, but Social Distortion doesn't have to accept the mainstream," he said.

S.D.'s new Epic debut is named *Somewhere Between Heaven and Hell*. "It's like a soundtrack to those old teenage exploitation films ... biker hot rod rock 'n' roll ... and love, dangerous, desperate love," Ness said.

The new release, produced by Dave Jerden of Jane's Addiction and Red Hot Chili Peppers fame, draws heavily from Ness' obvious love of traditional music and contempt of contemporary music.

"Hank Williams felt the pain he sings about ... while the others whine about not being able to go home with the hooker of their choice," Ness said.

For upcoming projects, S.D. wants to work with The Ramones or Johnny Cash. But whatever the future holds, Social Distortion will stay true to itself and stick to its guns.



**B**ubba 'n Buck, a country-western bar in St. Andrews, provides country that can be cool, packing in 600 to 800 guests nightly to hear country tunes and learn the two-step.

## Cool country

Country-western bar features music, dancing

By KATRINA BLASETTI  
Staff Writer

A place to 'push your tush' all night, with or without a partner, Bubba 'n Buck offers an alternative to the Five Points scene.

While two-steppers circle the perimeter of the hardwood floor in couples, more than 200 people at a time crowd the center of the floor to wiggle, stomp, clap and kick in synchronized line dances such as the Push-Tush, the Matador, the Bocephus, the Cotton-Eyed Joe and the Clide.

A country-western bar in St. Andrews about 15 minutes from campus, Bubba 'n Buck is proving that country can be cool, packing in 600 to 800 guests nightly to hear country tunes and learn the Two-Step.

Bubba 'n Buck opened almost two years ago to meet the need for a country music bar in Columbia,

co-manager Steve MacDougall said. MacDougall attributes the success of the bar to word of mouth and an increase in country music fans.

"We've seen a rise in popularity over the past seven or eight months, mainly because country music is really starting to catch on," MacDougall said.

In addition, live country bands recruited by co-manager Pat Burgess from Nashville, Tenn., perform on most Thursday nights and weekend nights.

Bubba 'n Buck features a variety of entertainment for its guests. Aside from the huge dance floor, more than 200 square feet perfect for boot-stomping, it has three service bars, pool tables, dart boards, and an abundance of tables for resting and socializing.

Really dressing the part takes time and effort from head to toe.

An authentic cowboy hat, usually black, tops off the outfit. A pair of boots, as long as they're comfortable and make a lot of noise, provide the finishing touch.

In between, just about anything goes. Women wear everything from flouncy dresses to t-shirts and jeans. Men play up the standard dress shirt and jeans with gold belt buckles, tassels, string ties or leather vests.

Linda Wolson, a criminal justice sophomore, said, "It really doesn't matter what you wear, but where else can you throw on some holey jeans and boots without feeling out of place?"

While Bubba 'n Buck is not for everyone, the relaxed atmosphere and country flavor can provide a welcome change.

## Spike Lee calls for diversification of black cinema

By The Associated Press

The public will tire of movies about black America unless black filmmakers begin tackling more diverse themes, director Spike Lee said.

Citing the films "Juice," "Straight Out of Brooklyn" and "Boyz N the Hood," Lee said too many black filmmakers are using

repetitive themes, plots and characters.

"We seem to be in a rut," he told a crowd of about 500 at a black film conference Saturday at Yale University.

Lee, who directed such films as "Do the Right Thing," "Mo' Better Blues" and "Jungle Fever," warned that the public eventually turned

during a period of black filmmaking in the 1970s.

He also said some of his peers have a lack of dedication to the craft.

"I don't see a love of cinema," Lee said. Some black filmmakers are more interested in making money as ways "to make money and meet women" than in the art of cinema.

## Warfield to perform with symphony

From Staff Reports

Grammy Award-winning artist William Warfield, renowned for his roles in "Showboat" and "Porgy and Bess," will perform with the USC Symphony Orchestra April 16 at the Koger Center.

Born in West Helena, Ark., in 1920, Warfield grew up in a musical family and won a full scholarship to the prestigious Eastman School of Music. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees at Eastman, Warfield won the lead in the national tour of the Broadway musical, "Call Me Mister."

But it was Warfield's role as Joe, the dock hand, in the movie version of "Showboat" that catapulted him to stardom. His rendition of "Old Man River" in the

1951 MGM movie has become a favorite of audiences everywhere.

Warfield's most famous role is the title role of George Gershwin's opera, "Porgy and Bess," which toured the United States and Europe in 1952. Warfield was nominated for a Grammy in 1964 for an RCA recording of the opera.

Warfield has since performed as a guest artist all over the world, and in 1984 won a Grammy in the "spoken word" category for his narration of Aaron Copland's "A Lincoln Portrait."

Warfield will narrate the Copland work during the April 16 concert with the USC Symphony.

"A Lincoln Portrait" is a wonderful piece that uses excerpts from several of Abraham Lincoln's

addresses. It is very moving and has a tremendous impact on the audience," Donald Portnoy, a USC music professor who directs the USC Symphony, said.

Other works on the program include Modest Mussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" and Johannes Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture."

Warfield will also sing "Old Man River."

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for the public and \$5 for students and senior citizens. They are available at the Carolina Coliseum and all SCAT outlets. To order by phone, call 777-SCAT.

For more information about the concert, call 777-7500.

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