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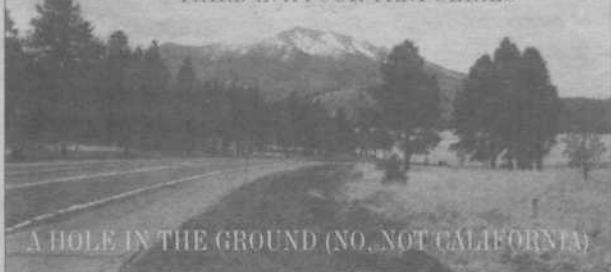
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THE MIX

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER: "You're luggage."
 AFTER SHOOTING AN ALLIGATOR IN THE MOUTH IN 'ERASER'

GOIN' TO CALIFORNIA

THIRD IN A FOUR-PART SERIES



A HOLE IN THE GROUND (NO, NOT CALIFORNIA)

Today was the day: I was going to reach Corona, Calif., or die trying. My eventual destination was (cue the warped trumpets) the Fender Guitar Museum.

As I left Albuquerque before sunrise, I knew the day was going to involve at least 10 hours of driving.

Luckily, a natural wonder in the middle of Arizona kept my sanity stewing in between New Mexico and California. No, I'm not talking about the Grand Canyon, which I wound up seeing on my return trip. I'm talking about Meteor Crater.

Yes, that's the official name. It's a big damn hole in the ground from a meteor strike about 50,000 years ago. This was not the one that killed the dinosaurs or their oppressive caveman rivals.

By the middle of the afternoon, after taking an easy five-mile detour from Interstate 40 and hocking \$12, I stood on the lip of a gigantic crater in the middle of the desert and experienced true silence. Once the children on a field trip piped down, I heard no motors, no humming transformers and no people. My ears were but-tressed only by the wind as I tried to grasp the immensity of the crater.

Quick traveling tip: If you have to choose between Meteor Crater and the Grand Canyon, choose the former. It's cheaper, less crowded and easier to get to, and it has all the natural wonder of the canyon. Plus, there's a Subway.

After leaving, I blacked out again, cognizant only of various Route 66 tourist advertisements. Once I crossed into California, however, my trip turned into a veritable nightmare.

I consider myself a typical 20-year-old male behind the

♦ **GOIN', SEE PAGE 7**



PHOTO BY STEVEN VAN HAREN/THE GAMECOCK

Arizona's Meteor Crater formed 50,000 years ago.

KNIVES OUT

Rainer Maria on cutting ties and epic songs

BY MEGAN TREACY
THE GAMECOCK

Rainer Maria stopped through Mount Pleasant Friday while on tour supporting its most recent release, "Anyone Who Loves You Already Knows," a live DVD and CD.

The DVD was recorded March 11, 2003, at Cat's Cradle in Carrboro, N.C., and the songs for the CD were compiled from different shows over the previous two years.

The band members were approached with the idea for a DVD by a friend who had been taking pictures of them over the course of their career.

"He said, 'I'd really like to shoot a band live, and I have the resources to do it really cheap,'" drummer William Kuehn said.

When the band members saw the finished product, they liked what they saw.

"We had no plans at that point of making an official release like a DVD," Kuehn said. "We were like, 'Why don't we put this out, 'cause it's there. It's just sitting there, and it'd be a shame to let it go to waste.'"

Other motivations to release the DVD stemmed from the fact the band knew it wouldn't be touring again for a while since it was in the process of writing new material.

"It'd give people an opportunity to see a live

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Rainer Maria is (left to right): Kyle Fischer, William Kuehn and Caithlin De Marrais



show if they hadn't before," Kuehn said.

Cat's Cradle had the equipment necessary for filming, so the decision to film there was an easy one, but the CD came from various sources.

"People would say, 'Here's a tape of your show,' or some things we had recorded," guitarist Kyle Fischer said.

The songs were chosen based on the quality of sound, performance and their evolution since the original recording.

"Like 'Tinfoil,' it's like, wow this song has changed a little bit since we recorded it originally," Fischer said. "It'd be great to have what it sounds like now out in circulation."



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

William Kuehn behind his drum kit for Rainer Maria.

The band is playing new material live in preparation to go back in the studio in September. The band's previous four albums all consisted of exactly nine songs.

"It's voodoo now," Fischer said. "Maybe we'll break it this time."

Other changes might occur on the next album. The band's "handshake" agreement with Polyvinyl Records has come to an end, and it hasn't yet decided whether it'll stay with the label.

"We can decide to do something with them again, but neither party is required to," Fischer said. "We're just leaving it wide open."

Rainer Maria's last album, "Long Knives Drawn," saw singer and bassist Caithlin De Marrais taking more control, both vocally and lyrically, and the band hopes to continue on the same path with the next record.

"We're continuing to rock out more on some songs," De Marrais said.

"We've written a few songs recently that are a little more epic in their scope," De Marrais said. "We're really excited to get our hands into those ones."

♦ **MARIA, SEE PAGE 7**