

Me & Dixon: Crowd-pleasing, unstructured fun

One of North Carolina's first-ever supergroups played at Cat's Cradle Saturday and Sunday night. Me & Dixon, a temporary unit led by Don Dixon, played a weird, fun set for the small but enthusiastic crowd that braved Sunday's ice and snow.

Dixon is a prominent local musician and producer. He sang lead and played bass for Arrogance, duties he continues with Me & Dixon. Dixon, who lives in Carrboro, currently produces a number of prominent artists, including R.E.M., Let's Active, and X-Teens.

Rick Rock and Pressure Boy Robb Ladd round out the group. Rock, whose alter-ego is *Spectator* critic and former

Eddie Huffman

Review

Rick Rock leader Rick Miller, plays guitar, provides backing vocals and sings lead on several Me & Dixon tunes. Ladd plays drums for the group and switches on the drum machine to add a second guitar on several songs.

Me & Dixon is serving as a temporary touring combo for Dixon to try out some new songs in a live setting. Although the band was tight, the

performers obviously were not overly concerned with anything beyond having a good time, and it showed in their funny, irreverent performance.

"While Rick is tuning," Dixon said during a break between songs, "Robb and I are gonna play some free jazz." The pair proceeded to lay down some truly awful jazz licks. The crowd loved it.

The rest of the show followed suit. The band had a good time but was musically sound and played a number of good songs, including Dixon and Miller originals, several Arrogance songs, and an inspired batch of covers.

Dixon has a fine soulful voice, and his new tunes were well-suited to his singing style. His vocals are reminiscent of the Rascals and Bob Seger, but his songs have more of a pop feel than the songs of either of those performers.

Dixon standouts included "Most of the Girls That You Dance With" and "February." He sounded terrific on covers of the dB's "Bad Reputation" and the James Gang's "Funk #49."

Miller sang two good new songs as well as a grand rendition of the Rick Rock classic "Buddha Buddha," and did a more than creditable Robert Plant imitation for Led Zeppelin's "Whole Lotta Love."

During "Praying Mantis," a large part of the audience crowded up to the stage and began swaying their arms back and forth in homage to the band.

"I thought stuff like that only happened in Elvis Presley movies," Dixon said. Well, Me & Dixon may not have the charisma of Elvis, but it's a fine rock 'n' roll band. Expect to hear more from all three members in the future.

Lab Theatre auditions tonight

The Laboratory Theatre of the UNC department of dramatic art will hold auditions tonight for two upcoming productions.

Two black women and one black man are needed for Samm-Art Williams' *Home*. Diana Osberg will direct this production, to be performed Feb. 24-25.

At least four women and four men

are needed for Tennessee Williams' *Clothes for a Summer Hotel*, a drama about F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. Mike Wilson will direct this production, to be performed March 17-18.

The auditions will be held at 7 p.m. in 208 Graham Memorial. No preparation is required, but auditionees are recommended to read the plays.

Kitchen

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by the Inter-Faith Council for Social Service in 1983, is supported by 20 to 25 church congregations and staffed by more than 100 volunteers, Higgs said.

The kitchen operates on a budget of \$3,500 per year, Lycan said. It buys staples such as coffee and beans, but produce markets, grocery stores, churches and restaurants donate the rest of the food. "We try to use any leftover food in Chapel Hill and Carrboro," Higgs said. "For instance, if a restaurant has a lot of extra meat that they think will spoil, they bring it here."

The kitchen tries to serve food its patrons will like, Higgs said. Some local restaurants donate certain foods each week. One restaurant donates fried chicken every Tuesday, said kitchen supervisor John Campbell.

The kitchen is needed especially in the winter, according to Campbell. "The patrons) need a warm place in the winter. They survive better in the summer than in the winter."

Lycan said, "We have become the eyes and ears of the Social Service agency. The magnitude of the shelter problem was unknown before."

"Some would go very hungry if the kitchen were closed," Higgs said.

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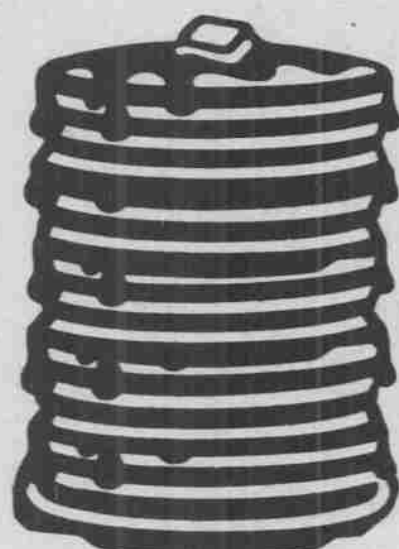
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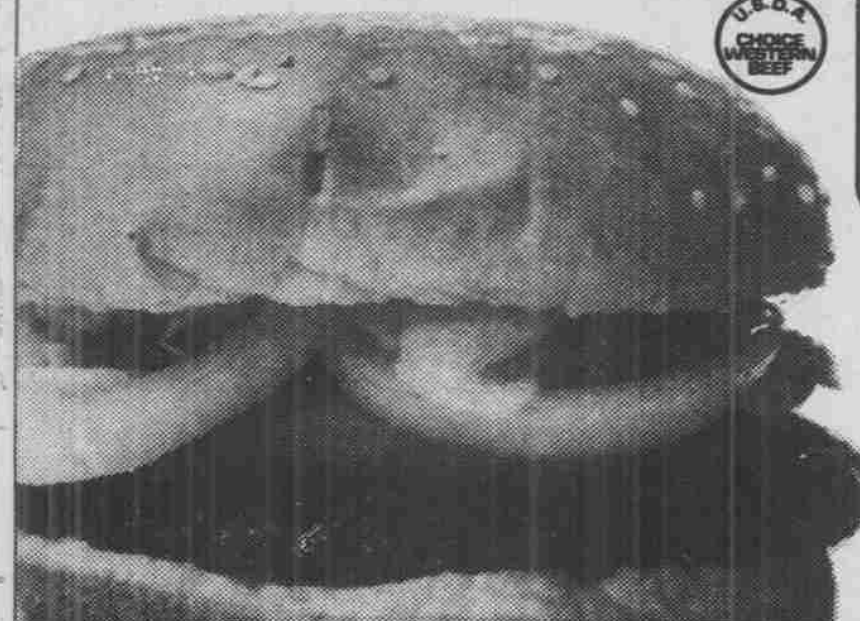
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