

The Bobs to Perform Silly Show Tonight

BY ALLISON ROST
Staff Writer

Their style has been labeled a mixture of Barenaked Ladies and the Manhattan Transfer, and their song titles range from "Fluffy's Master Plan for World Domination" to "There's a Nose Ring in My Soup."

Who is this goofy bunch of musicians? They're the Bobs, a celebrated a cappella group touring in honor of their 20th anniversary and spooking up Carrboro tonight in the "Halloween Bobs-a-thon" at the ArtsCenter.

Amy "Bob" Englehardt, the most recent addition to the Bob crew, is coy when explaining the essence of "Bob."

"BOB stands for Best of Breed, a dog show term, as in 'This Airedale Terrier was BOB two years in a row,'" she said. No matter what's behind their name,

they've garnered accolades of all sorts. In addition to their own wacky songs the Bobs have covered such classics as "White Room" by Cream and "Strawberry Fields Forever" by the Beatles. The singers often perform out of their own vocal ranges just to give a song a different feel.

Matthew "Bob" Stull, one of the founding Bobs, is amazed that something he and a friend started as unemployed San Francisco telegram singers in 1981 has become so successful.

"At the time, it really wasn't anything other than a hobby," he said. "It was a surprise beyond belief."

Even after 20 years of writing and performing, the group keeps pumping out unique ideas for new songs.

"I listen to NPR a lot, and sometimes a turn of phrase someone uses hits me like a bright spotlight and sends my

brain careening," Englehardt said.

Stull attributes some brainstorming to their typically rowdy audiences.

"I think someone shouted out something one night, and we thought, 'Hey, that's a good one,'" he said.

The course of a show is often a reflection of the particular crowd in the audience. "We don't plan what we're going to say between songs, so with four goofy ham balls the banter gets insane," Englehardt said.

With a performance on Halloween, the group expects the audience not to check their boisterousness at the door—some very "sca-wee" things await them.

"Although we prefer to elicit laughter in audiences, horror will do," Englehardt said. "Perhaps an impromptu Monster Mash will occur."

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

ATTACK

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der of U.S. forces involved in the war in Afghanistan, said Tuesday that opposition Afghan forces could help the United States in several ways.

They could contribute directly by aiding in the overthrow of the Taliban government and the fight against the al-Qaida network, he said, or they might help open an overland route to deliver emergency food aid to starving Afghans.

So far the U.S. Air Force has dropped about 1 million packets of food rations, but the pace of that effort has been criticized by international aid agencies as too slow.

Speaking to reporters in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Franks said more than 7 1/2 million Afghans need food.

About 1,000 soldiers of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division are deployed at an Uzbek air base at Khanabad, 90 miles from Afghanistan's northern border.

LETTERS

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Safety Department responded and took possession of the letter, which according to procedure, officials would typically destroy after a set number of days.

But Samulski said he wants the letter back so he can respond to the sender.

"It's one of the few things we can do for people in that part of the world to communicate with them," he said.

Reinhardt said ultimately it is up to the mail recipient to decide whether to report a letter as suspicious. "Everyone has to make personal decisions (about what they deem suspicious)," he said.

Reinhardt speculated campus reports of suspicious letters have dwindled

because there have not been recent national reports of additional source letters containing anthrax.

If more reports of anthrax-contaminated packages surface, people will likely raise their awareness, Reinhardt said.

At this point, he said, campus mail openers do not need to be overly concerned about the possibility of contracting anthrax.

"Because no packages (containing anthrax) have been found in North Carolina or at the University, we're telling people the use of gloves is voluntary," he said.

"At this point, this is the only precaution that needs to be considered."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

PRESS CONFERENCE

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Foy, who attended the press conference, said he was thankful for Hill's support. "I'm very happy to have him as a supporter," Foy said. "I respect him for the issues he's raised."

Pavao said he doesn't know how Hill's withdrawal will impact the election but said he respects his decision. "If (Hill) feels (by dropping out of the race) he would do the voters more good, I certainly respect him. It's what he's entitled to do."

To further one issue he emphasized during his campaign, Hill said he created Chapel Hill First as a resident group

developed to back politicians who oppose UNC's extensive growth. He said the group will resist the expansion of UNC that he said results in negative impacts on the town, such as traffic problems and increased likelihood of flooding problems. "Chapel Hill First is being formed to support politicians who put residents ahead of the University," Hill said.

Hill said he feels the problem is that UNC officials pay little attention to Chapel Hill politics. "The University has shown complete lack of concern for town government," he said.

Hill said the group already has backed Foy and Chapel Hill Town Council candidates Mark Kleinschmidt and Dorothy Verkerk.

Hill said he thinks his campaign had a positive impact on town government discussions. "I feel like it's been successful. There were things that weren't being talked about that needed to be brought up. It's been a blast."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

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