

OZZIE !!!!

To Appear May 10th

Editor's Note: "Ozzie" will highlight CRC Community Day activities, Sat., May 10th at 2 p.m. with a free concert in the Fountain Quad area. The concert will be presented by the CRC Journalism Club, Freebird Magazine and KROY Radio.

By Mark Weaver

In the Sixties there existed a T.V. sitcom called Ozzie and Harriet; a bland, happy show where nobody worked and everyone had fun. The only thing "Ozzie" — the band has in common with this show is that their audience has fun.

Ozzie has been playing as a band throughout California for years as a cult phenomenon working hard in every situation from sleazy beer bars to concert venues. It is high time the situation changed.

The group has paid their dues, losing only a few members along the way. They have honed their sound, songs and visual attack into a well-oiled rock band with unique

vision and musical presentation.

Can they be linked with any trend? Many scribes have tried; being called everything from glib heavy-metal to a bizarre fusion of Capt. Beefhart, Frank Zappa twisted jazz-blues.

Critics and rock pundits alike have gone out of their way to pin a label on this band, but to no avail.

Ozzie combines elements of rock music and other subterranean cultural artifacts from the fifties, to the shifting realities of the present, on into the Eighties and beyond.

Lenny "Animal" Schotter holds down the primal rhythm area with a drum kit that



equals only his talent and humble ability in size and volume.

"Happy Jack" Hastings, bassman and giant in songwriting and frontman duties, forms a triple threat in singing and composing with Spencer Sparrow, able guitarist — visionary and bon-vivant plus William "The Cell" Fuller, keyboards and golden throat extrodinarre. Last, but by no means least, is lead glissando guitarist Bob "Ozone" Jolly who spits out lead lines like boxers do teeth.

The group's songs run the

gamut from the complicated to the subtly simple. The subject matter observes the inner workings of the mind to the outer reality of the world and sometimes beyond as they perceive it.

Laced with keen wit and black humor, this is no boogie band or idle amusement for the decay of western man. It is a band you can dance to, think and even laugh about. Ozzie takes their work seriously, but they are not egomaniacs or stuffed shirts about it.

Not only does Ozzie use the temporal patterns of a

nightclub laced with booze to get their message across, but they have been known to employ outside help from time to time. Other artists in the area have combined audio and video forms to create mutant science fiction scenarios (witness their Berlin 1990). Ozzie has even committed themselves on vinyl on two occasions — once on a 45 and the other on an EP (extended play 45).

Ozzie's next scheduled nightclub performance is May 17 at Bitter Creek Tavern (Howe and Arden).