

• THE FRESNO BEE Sunday, July 15, 1984

Horror concert fans find only a rocky hoax show at FSU

By COLLEEN FITZPATRICK
Bee staff writer

The calendar showed it was Friday the 13th. But judging by the turn of events, it was more like April Fool's Day.

About 50 people showed up Friday night at Fresno State University's O'Neill Park to listen to Renegade Ape, described as a Puerto Rican "horror rock" group launching its first U.S. tour. Two other bands, Death Trap from Rhode Island and Diet Food Terror from South Carolina, also were scheduled.

But horror turned to hoax; the harmony never happened.

"Hey, how come it's not happening — who booked 'em?" Fresnan Dan Snag asked, seeing no sign of a musician half an hour after the concert was set to begin.

No one had answers, leading many people to conclude the concert had been a prank.

It all began when KFSR, the university's radio station, began announcing the upcoming concert. The Bee also publicized the event, and included a photograph of the four-member band.

But campus security officials, who treated the event as a non-event, had not been told of the concert by the Executive Dean's Office, which must approve all uses of the park. For police, it was Friday night business as usual, with three officers on duty.

Kirk Biglione, music director of KFSR, admitted he'd never heard of Renegade Ape but never imagined the band didn't exist.

"There was no reason to. Every day we get new records from bands we've never heard of," he said, adding that publicity fliers had been sent to the station. "And it sounded right because it was on Friday the 13th."

Peter Haugen, The Bee's entertainment editor, said the newspaper receives between five and 30 press releases a day similar to the one that came in for

Renegade Ape. The Bee requires an accompanying name and telephone number in case information needs clarification, but it is unclear whether they came in. Publicizing events is done as a public service, Haugen said.

Horror rock, described by one person as electric rock similar to music from Dracula movies, focuses on death and suicide, and is played by such bands as Corpse Delex, Christian Death, Alien Sex Fiend and Specimen. The dress of concert-goers Friday ranged from Levis and T-shirts to leather pants, orange spiked hair and crosses dangling from noses.

Some people said they came to the park because the event marked the first time a free concert with interesting music had been scheduled in Fresno. Others said they had nothing else to do. And some said they came out of curiosity.

"It's an unheard-of band," said Rick McGuire, 31, of Fresno.

Apparently, it will remain so.

While most concert-goers took the no-show in stride, some were disappointed.

Said Fresnan Tonya Marcum, "I'm so depressed. I came all the way over here for a concert and it's not here."

But Marcum, her eyelids dusted with dark blue eyeshadow, her blonde hair cropped close on one side and long on the other, seemed in good spirits, as did her companions. A keg of beer had been brought to the park in celebration of Marcum's birthday. And music, although several decibels lower than expected, did play through a transistor radio.

As much as an hour after the announced starting time, some people who were just arriving refused to believe it wasn't going to happen. The groups, coming from out of town, might just be a little late, they suggested.

But when the hoax finally sunk in, Brad Bissell, 16, of Fresno said, "Well then, get the leader of The Bee out here and have him play."

Fresno delegate is representing 'average voter'

By JOE ROSATO
Bee convention bureau

To romance writer Pam Wallace of Fresno the Democratic National Convention will not provide the ingredients for a best-seller.



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Tuesday, July 17, 1984

A concert program featuring Renegade Ape, Death Trap and Diet Food Terror promised a long afternoon of entertainment for "horror rock" fans. The free show was advertised on KFSR, the California State University, Fresno radio station, and in the Fresno Bee, which published a photograph of the four-member lead band. But alas, 50 people who showed up for Friday's event at the university's O'Neill Park found that the whole thing was a hoax — a joke on Friday the 13th. There was no reason for suspicion on the part of Kirk Boglione, KFSR music director. "Every day we get new records from bands we've never heard of," he said.

of water and was pulled out of the swirling current by long poles.

shot car.

Friday the 13th joke

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