Features

MMW exhibits unique style of jazz



The policemen gather around their Sergeant, center, played by Daryl Cambaugh, as they prepare to capture The Pirates of Penzance. The policemen are (clockwise, left to right) Bond Davis, John Champagne, Buck Goedicke, John Groller, and John Hanley. The musical is playing March 26-29 nightly at 8:00pm and March 29 at 2:30pm in the Reed Union Building Commons. Call 898-6016 for reservations.

by Dan Riefstahl staff writer

For rock-solid grooves and a fusion of funk, hip-hop, reggae, and blues, check out MMW's latest release

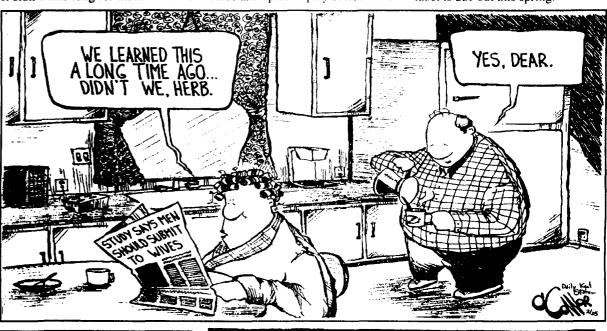
Shack-Man. The album is a mix of what some have called "downtown jazz" and even "headbangers jazz." Organist Jon Medeski, bassist Chris Wood, and percussionist Billy Martin bring their audacious approach to jazz alive with Shack-Man.

Medeski, Martin, and Wood, a.k.a. MMW, formed in New York City in 1990. Each was involved in some music scene or another, and they eventually met and began jamming. It didn't take long for them to realize

that they had a special chemistry that would prove to be a mix of show-stopping tunes that no one could resist. Soon after they released their debut album Notes from the Underground on the independent label Hap-Jones Records, they played several nights together at New York City's Village Gate. John and Chris then moved to Manhattan where their apartment became the rehearsal spot for the band.

To escape the harsh New York City winters, they later began to tour the southeast United States in Billy's old Ford van. During the tour, the trio's popularity began to grow. Touring like workdogs, they made it a point to avoid the uptight and exclusive jazz clubs and opted to play coffeehouses and small rock venues instead. As they continued to tour, the van was replaced by a used Coachman RV/ Camper in which they ventured to Canada and the West Coast. In 1993 they joined the Rykodisc/Gramvision label on which they released: It's a Jungle in Here (1993), Friday Afternoon in the Universe (1994), and later Shack-Man (1996), which was actually recorded at the band's shack in Hawaii

MMW have gone on to play concert halls and theatres, touring nationwide, Europe and Japan upgrading from RV to bus. On November 5th 1997, the trio signed with Blue Note Records. Their first release on this label is due out this spring.



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