

Marx rocks Civic Center

by Christi Luden
Collegian Staff Writer

Dressed in tight black jeans, a black fringe jacket, and red cowboy boots, Richard Marx put on a great show for all those who saw him on October 26 at the Erie Civic Center.

Marx' opening act was Henry Lee Summer, and he did a great job getting the audience psyched up. Summer is an extremely hyper, John Cougar-like singer. He played seven songs each from his first and current albums. Some of the more popular were "I Wish I Had a Girl," "Just Another Day," and "Hey Baby." He also sang the Rolling Stones' hit, "Satisfaction." Summer got the audience up and clapping by jumping down into the aisles and dancing, in his words, "not very well, but like I want to."

After Henry Lee's introduction and a short intermission, the moment everyone had waited for arrived. The band members came rushing out on stage playing, "Too Late To Say Goodbye" from Marx' recent album, *Repeat Offender*. Then Richard Marx came walking out to center stage amidst the screams and claps of all his fans. Following a few upbeat songs that got the crowd up and dancing, Marx slowed it down with two of his recent love hits, "Right Here Waiting" and "Angelia."

From his premiere album, Marx performed "Endless Summer Nights," "Should've

Known Better," "Have Mercy," and "Remember Manhattan." He explained his meaning behind "Don't Mean Nothing," a song about the hard times in Hollywood and how you never get what you're promised. He then continued on a faster pace with songs from his recent album.

Repeat Offender contains a few traditional love songs, but Marx seems to be heading more towards the rock n' roll type of music. This trend change really showed in his concert since he performed more upbeat songs than love songs. Works like "Nothin' You Can Do About It," "Satisfied," "Real World," and "If You Don't Want My Love" showed Marx' harder edge. Marx and his band also sang a Sam Cooke song, one of Marx' favorites, a capella. The whole three hours was filled with great music, dancing, screaming, clapping, and the traditional flickering lighters when a love song was played. The atmosphere was at times exciting and rowdy, but it had a touch of romanticism when Marx brought out a piano to play a few of his popular love hits. "Hold On to the Nights" was the last song of the evening, after which Marx and his band took a bow and said they'd be back next year. Although Richard Marx sang about the hardships in Hollywood, he has certainly overcome them and displayed his excellent talent through his music in this captivating concert.

Janet Jackson steals her brother's spotlight

"Rhythm Nation" continues Jackson's climb to independent success

by Christi Luden
Collegian Staff Writer

A mixture of rap music, pop, a touch of harder rock, and interludes describes Janet Jackson's new release *Rhythm Nation*. The album, produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis and dedicated to her mother Katherine, is quite different from Jackson's first release, *Control*.

Rhythm Nation begins with an eerie interlude (a spoken sequence) that suggests we should strive toward a world of unity. The majority of the songs are geared toward this theme. "Rhythm Nation" talks about getting rid of color lines and working to unite. The following song, "State of the World," talks about a teenage mother and a homeless little boy, along with the spread of drugs and crime in our nation. Then, the thread continues through the tape with songs such as "The Knowledge" and "Livin' in a World (They Didn't Make)."

Although Jackson stresses the problems of our world through her rap-oriented music, she also has a few songs that are more typical of her style. "Miss You

Much," the only song on the tape that has become a hit, is the most similar to her previous works such as "Nasty," "Control," and "The Pleasure

"Someday Is Tonight." These are all a bit more geared toward Jackson's typical style of "dance-oriented" music.

Finally, Miss Jackson surprises listeners once again by throwing in a song called "Black Cat," which resembles a Joan Jett type of understandable hard rock. This song is more abstract and compares the life of a guy in a gang with that of a black cat. It is unique in another way because it combines the two themes of the tape: the problems of the world and relationships.

The first impression given by this tape is one of disappointment. The first songs and interludes may seem too strange for some listeners, but this viewpoint may change when the lyrics are read over and understood. Jackson ends this tape by saying: "In complete darkness we are all the same / It is only our knowledge and wisdom that separate us / Don't let your eyes deceive you."

It is messages of this merit that make *Rhythm Nation* a great piece of work, and the variety contained in it makes it a tape which can satisfy all types of musical tastes.

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Principle." Along with this song, the topic of love and relationships continues through others such as "Love Will Never Do," "Escapade," "Lonely," "Come Back To Me," and

"Full-throttle, warm-hearted entertainment. THREE FUGITIVES is touching, fast-paced and very funny."

— Michael Medved,
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Nick Nolte Martin Short

THREE FUGITIVES

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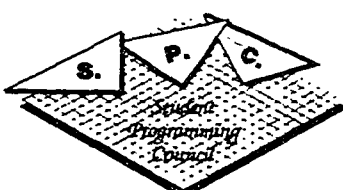
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