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# Band pays homage to diversity

Musicologists are generally not fun to be around.

But Camper Van Beethoven is. This band of college dropouts and graduates from Santa Cruz, Calif., has unleashed world music from the gaze of academia and claimed it for its own.

Like its name, the five-member group seems to get a perverse joy out of juxtaposing contrasting cultures in one song.

Camper's commitment to diversity, reflected in the group's 50-percent ratio of in-

strumental songs, has resulted in the group's excommunication from Santa Cruz's college club scene. The "Mafioso ethic" of the club owners requires bands to play world-beat music exclusively to get booked, Krummenacher says.

While Camper could undoubtedly play this mix of African and Third World rhythms — currently popular in the Bay area — the band has been content to put out two independent records and tour up and down the West Coast.

The band's absurd humor is

probably most responsible for its strong identity. One song, "Where the Hell is Bill," even earned them a spot on the syndicated Doctor Demento radio show (heard locally on KRXX, Sunday nights at 10).

Probably more than anything else, "Take the Skinheads Bowling" has solidified Camper's standing. The singer's unconnected thoughts such as how everyone's coming home for lunch these days mingles with how last night he found skinheads on his lawn.

His solution to all this? Take the skinheads bowling. The insistent background chorus echoes the lead singer's lines no matter how absurd they are.

The song has been both a breakthrough and a noose around the band's neck. In places like Columbia, Mo., this is what the band is known for, and audiences will berate the band until they play it, Krummenacher says.

"Sometimes I get apathetic about that song, but I'm happy that was the song that made it on the radio because it's so abstract. It's really just a nonsense pop song," Krummenacher says.

Camper Van Beethoven will bring their mix of bizarre ethnic instrumentals and satirical rock to the WOW Hall tonight at 8:30. They will be the second band in a bill including 10,000 Maniacs, the Uptones and local band St. Huck. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 the day of the show.

## Award-winning country music star to perform

"Ricky Skaggs is the brightest thing that has happened to country music and the brightest star on the horizon," says country legend Merle Haggard. "I've admired him not only for his singing talents, but he's a helluva musician as well."

Skaggs' star will shine on the horizon of the Silva Concert Hall stage Sunday night at 7 in the Hult Center. Skaggs was selected as the Country Music Association's 1985 Entertainer of the Year, and his band was named the CMA's Instrumental Group of the year.

Monday night, Skaggs appeared at the 1986 Academy of Country Music awards ceremony as a nominee for entertainer of the year and top male vocalist of 1985.

Skaggs' band recently returned from a tour of Great Britain, whose various folk music styles came to America with colonists and immigrants 300 years ago and evolved into modern country and Western music. The Britons gave Skaggs and his band rave reviews.

The Sunday Times' Simon Frith wrote that "what mattered wasn't musical roots or U.S. utopianism, but something more fundamental — the great country band's ability to translate humdrum emotions into moments of power and beauty."

Tickets for Ricky Skaggs' Hult Center appearance cost \$18.50 and \$16.50, and are available at the EMU Main Desk, the Hult Center box office and all Hult Center ticket outlets. For more information, call 687-5000.



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