



formed the Saturday night of the festival doing a sock hop to a woman-packed house at the Neighbors of Woodcraft. After their success at this concert their friends encouraged them to take themselves more seriously, so they began to produce themselves under the name Mixed Fruit Productions.

The performances of the Dyketones were so sporadic in those early years that each performance of the Dyketones was rumored within the community as their last, and playing on the rumor the Dyketones would always announce that their "next final concert would be at . . ."

The fall of 1980 found the Dyketones leaving Portland on their first tour traveling to Yosemite National Park for the West Coast Women's Music Festival. From there they did a stint performing at Ollie's in Oakland, CA. Being days on the road caused some burn-out within the group and it was during this period that the Dyketones disbanded for eight months and didn't regroup until Easter of '81 for a concert at Reed College themed "the Dyketones Rise Again."

The seven member band of the Dyketones has made as many changes as the band has costumes over the years of its existence. Today, three of the original Dyketones are still a part of the group, Chukki aka Cha Cha Linguini; Skallopiní (Skully) Tetrzini aka Rebel aka Mama LaBoaca, aka Patsy DeCline; and Frankie MacAroni. The other four members of the group are Donna aka Donnie Delgato, Renee Irenestein, Butchy Wax Castanasty and Patti O'Furniture aka Slick Licks. As you can see, the Dyketones not only have a fetish for food, they also are schizophrenic, chang-



ing costumes and personalities throughout the show.

The Dyketones perform songs of the '50s with a twist, changing the words to songs like "My Boyfriend's Back" to "My Girlfriend's Back" Back," and "My Guy" to "My Dyke" with band members holding up flash cards to prove it. Rebel comes out wearing a pink and blonde wig, a plaid skirt, and a yellow school jacket with *Bullpups* embossed on the back, singing "She's a Rebel." Patsy DeCline drifts out on stage wearing green and blue boa chaps, going a little bit country with, "I Fall to Pieces," and a foot-stomping "Hey, Good Looking."

Donna Delgato wears a poodle skirt named Fifi, who is a butch little pup sporting a choker chain. One of Donna's costume changes is into a green chiffon prom dress that won her the title of Prom Queen at Sister Tomato's Swing into Spring Prom last April.

Patti O'Furniture most recently joined the band. She wears her hair in curlers and tight polyester pink pants. "When I look in the mirror I see my mother," she remarks.

One of the funnier bits performed by the Dyketones is Mama LaBoaca, president of the Dyke High PTA who speaks before the assembly on the epidemic of teenage pregnancy at Dyke High. She warns, "If you're in the back seat of a car with your favorite dyke and she pulls out a turkey baster, you'd better get the hell out of there!"

The saga of the turkey baster was developed when Renee Irenestein returned to the group after a year's absence and came on stage as a pregnant bride singing (what else?) Chapel of Love. They had to think of something to explain the pregnancy.

From their extreme political roots in the early part of their career, the Dyketones have downplayed politics and concentrated more on their music. Opinions vary among the band members as to just how political they should be, but Chukki points out that their butch/femme role playing is certainly an issue in today's gay community, and even their name is a political statement.



As part of their early act band members threw themselves down on the floor enacting an air raid, throwing the audience back to the '50s when air raids were commonplace. The band stopped doing the bit because it was straining on the audience to be thrust so low after being so high and then having to come back up again. The band is thinking of reviving the bit, though, because a nuclear holocaust is once again on everyone's mind.

The Dyketones recently returned from Provincetown where they spent six weeks playing to standing-room only crowds. They received rave reviews in all the local papers and even received national attention from the Gay Community News.

The Dyketones have plans to begin a tour next spring, traveling across the states and ending up in Provincetown to finish out the summer.

The only contemporary tune sung by the Dyketones is their theme song by Christen Lems called "The '50s Sound." The song expresses the relationship to songs of the '50s and songs of the '80s.

Those olden days were not so golden you know, Girls who got in trouble they had nowhere to go. They couldn't take their lives into their own hands, Spent their time swooning over rock and roll bands.

In those days colored people knew their place. They didn't try to barge into the human race.

But Elvis and the others picked up all their cues. They made a million dollars singing white boy blues.

Girls wore thick makeup. Boys wore thick grease. If you didn't have a steady you were never at ease. Swearing and sex they were mortal sins. Why the hell you think we brought the '60s in?

Everybody looked and walked and thought the same. And learned all the details of the dating game. Boys they were lettermen or else they were queer. If they were small or shy they lived in constant fear.

Wowowo . . . They're dancing to what oppressed us thirty years ago.

Oppression is still prevalent today, as is apparent by the fact that even though the Dyketones have such an outspoken and open name, they still decline to release their true identities to the press.

It will be wonderful when the Dyketones no longer have to worry about gay oppression, because it will be nice to be able to introduce the women behind the crazy stage personae.

