Aliens in concert

Frank Zappa at the Ocean State Theatre Providence, November 8.

The band was comprised of Ray White on lead vocals and drums, Tommy Mars, keyboards; Vinnie Colaiuta, drums; Arthur Barrow, bass; and several soloists were Zappa's. Tommy Mars' keyboard solos, ranging from quiet jazz fills to the loud, majestic

About four songs in he lets each of the three guitarists and Tommy Mars into very early long solos, all of which were very good, and towards the end the drummers took a few minutes by himself, but most of the solos were Zappa's.

They played a pretty wide selection, ranging from "I Ain't Got No Heart" off the first Mothers of Invention album, "Freak Out", through "Magic Fingers" from 200 Motels, "Yellow Snow" from Apostrophe, "Andy" from One Size Fits All, and even a mutated version of "Doin' Whatever" which is from his most recent album, Joe's Garage Acts I and II.

All the playing was extremely tight except for one instance at the beginning of "Booby Brown" where they almost lost the Mars whenever he was about to modulate.

One of the high points of the show followed a slow jam on stage which was almost too quiet and then Zappa gave us a mock tango solo, in the same vein as "The Sheik Yerbouti Tango," but longer, more exciting, less grainy, and clearly

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The anthology, comprised of stories written over the past two decades, reveals not only the concerns of the authors, but also the concerns of those who, here in the 1980's, gathered it together.

The book seems to claim, along with Ed Doziers in "Be Merry," that all civilizations are alike. Perhaps the only thing that is not very important is that humans are simply good businessmen; the ones that destroy the human race, insensitive gardeners.

The book also contains the most brave or desperate can only be heard in a special occasion or in Star Wars and Battlestar Galactica in

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Curtis Lightburn, Damon Knight and Gardner Dozois (both extremely gifted writers in their own right) have prov"i"ed each story with an informative and well-researched introduction that, usefully for the novice reader of SF, answers its both in the field and in the author's body of work. The introductions also place the story in perspective within the field. And for those whose appetites the collection has whetted, they have included a bibliography of landmark alien stories.

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