The Tubes at the Orpheum, Saturday, October 31.

I feel sorry for those who listened to this concert over the radio instead of seeing it live—they will probably never realize how much of the concert they missed. The music is only part of a Tubes concert. The salient feature of their live performances is their original and uniquely entertaining stage show.

The best way to describe the Tubes' stage show is as a visual interpretation and extension of their songs. It features careful choreography and appropriate props and costumes, in addition to enthusiastic and energetic performances by lead singer Fee Waybill and the two dancers performing with the band on their tour.

"Mr. Hate" featured Waybill being carried out on stage in a straightjacket, escaping, and taking one of the dancers hostage with a knife. He then dragged her off the stage, threatening to kill her, as the band nonchalantly played on. "Mondo Bong" had Waybill and the dancers in black leather and outer space suits dancing to a recorded instrumental track. Continually changing backdrops, good lighting, and a superb sound system added to the show.

In short, this band is a lot of fun; they take nothing seriously, especially themselves. The Halloween atmosphere added much to the concert, as many of the audience came in costume (one guy shaved his head into a Mohawk, and dyed it purple) and the Tubes' antics were perfectly appropriate. In a way, I hope that this band never makes it big; the visual aspect of their concerts would be lost on most of the audience in a cavernous arena like Boston Garden. If you go see the Tubes the next time they're in town and come away a convert, keep it to yourself—these guys are much too good to be rock stars.

Bill Delfino