

Performers pack the house, bring unique music to campus

By Jessica Saitz, Staff writer

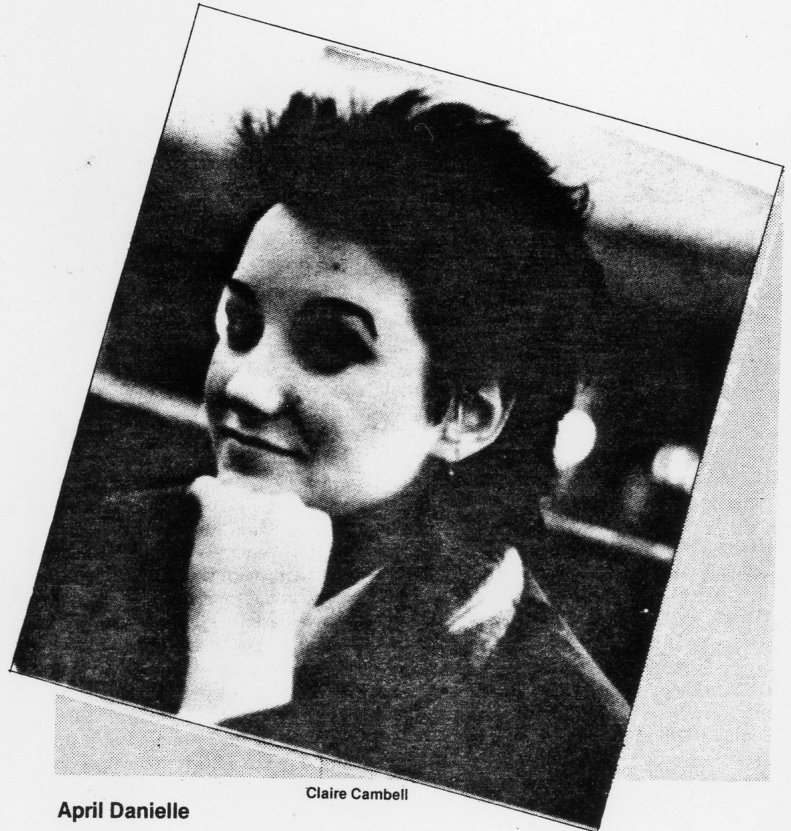
It was a bumper week for exotic performance art at UCI. If you were among the fortunate many crammed into the Backlot Friday night, you got more than your money's worth in beer and entertainment. Starting right on time at 4:30 p.m. last Friday (a first for the Backlot, no doubt), April Danielle treated the rowdy crowd to 45 minutes of exquisite folk singing, guitar strumming and pleasingly cerebral lyrics. Though the place was typically crowded and noisy (it was Friday evening, after all, and the bar opens at noon), it was impossible not to be impressed by April's lovely voice and charming stage manner.

Next up was a recitation by local UCI poet Chris Crockett, accompanied by Dean Ferrell's bass and occasional obnoxious comments. Safari Sam's had nothing on UCI as Crockett's reading and Ferrell's plucking held the crowd, if not in awe, at least in a state of semi-attention. They should have dimmed the lights, though.



Frank Moore

Dan Fiegenger/New University



April Danielle

Claire Cambell

After a short break, Ferrell was back up on stage, sitting on his bass and doing what appeared to be a stand-up comedian-musician routine. Whether it was part of the act or not, I'm still not sure.

The best was yet to come, though. The performance ended with a great duet between Ferrell and jazz-flautist Harold Todd. When the crowd showed signs of waning attention, Todd grabbed it back by executing a brilliant (and improvised) flute solo and rap routine that had even the most Budweiser-soaked patrons sitting and clapping in time over their empty pitchers.

For students who like their art a bit stranger, quadriplegic performance artist and "unlikely sex symbol" Frank Moore performed the Wednesday before in Humanities Hall. A good-humored fellow who, according to *East Side Story*, a newspaper in the Bay Area, describes himself as a born extrovert whose performance is likely to feature "exposed spastic body parts or flop like a fish," Moore played before a small but enthusiastic crowd. Moore was sponsored by the California Endowment for the Arts.