



## Blasters blast Mojo's

by Brent Hoover and Tony Brusca

The Blasters, one of America's finest rockabilly bands, played a five encore set Monday to a very excited crowd.

It's not very easy to get people to go to a concert, much less get them excited on a Monday night before an up-bright-and-early Tuesday morning, but the Blasters seemed to have no problems getting people off their feet and dancing.

The evening began with the opening band, "The Incredible Diamonds", a more rock and roll oriented band. Seldom is an opening band so well received, or as talented as this Chico based group.

The Blasters strolled on stage about 9:30 and immediately kicked into "High School Confidential" wasting no time before putting their soul into their music. Most bands take time to "warm-up", yet the Blasters seemed to be pre-heated.

Before long the dance floor was filled to capacity with people. Punks, cowboys, and people who looked like they just walked off "American Bandstand" all danced side by side.

The Blasters slammed songs off both their albums, "Over There" and "The Blasters" plus songs from their new record to be released April 11.

For some songs, the Blasters brought on their part-time sax section, adding a rhythm and blues flavor to the otherwise straight-forward rockabilly. Also the lead singer-guitar player Phil Alvin occasionally switched to harmonica while piano player Gene Taylor covered vocals.

It's not often that a band generates as much excitement as the Blasters did. Maybe it was just that only die-hard rock and roll fans were there on Monday night, but whatever it was, everyone had a good time, and that's what rock and roll is all about.



The Blasters (left) left to right: John Bazz (on bass), Dave Alvin, Bill Bateman (on drums), Phil Alvin, and Gene Taylor. Above: Vocalist and guitarist Phil Alvin shows the audience his trademark grin.