

Bonzo beat

By Jane Scott
Young Ohio Editor

Dylan canceled. Neither Crosby, Stills, Nash nor Young could make it. The weather was bad. But the Off-Broadway Production of Charlie Wiener's Bonzo Revue, featuring the All Star Bonzo Band went on Sunday night without them.

WIXY's Dick (Wilde Childe) Kemp drove

through the snow squalls from the provinces of Huron County to emcee the show.

The Viking sent out engraved invitations. But it didn't turn out to be a white tie and tail affair, admitted Wiener.

Wiener chose a plaid shirt, a homemade bonzo T-shirt, a railroad cap and rolled up blue jeans for the occasion.

"Men Working" read the sign on the carpenter's sawhorse at right stage. A pinball machine was in the corner. A couple of old hats, records and a purse were nailed on the wall.

"Are you ready?" shouted Wiener to girl singer Robin (The Nightengale) Stratton. She nodded.

"I'm not," protested Wiener.

But the packed audience was more than ready for his outlandish antics and organized chaos.

"Rock 'n' roll!" yelled out a heckler at the bar.

"This is a boogie song," scolded Wiener, breaking into "Please Don't Tell Me That It's O.K. Because I Hate You." Then came Thunderhand Hach's 50s spoof, "The Second to Last Kiss," complete with class rings and angora fuzz.

An uninvited spider, unimpressed by the true solemnity of the occasion, climbed up and down a



The Bonzo Band are not only Off Broadway, but Off Euclid, too. From left, Robin Stratton, Charlie Wiener and Spa John on the washboard bass.

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Rock lover Nora Jones warms up in the game room.

string in front of Wiener's nose.

Yes, there were a few other interruptions. Gene O'Connor, guitarist for the Rocket from the Tombs band, climbed up on stage to play the pinball machine, dressed in his date's glitter jacket. Others popped up to tell jokes.

Betsy Marshall with

the two "t's" and a full-bodied sound filled the second act, scoring high with her "Stormy Monday."

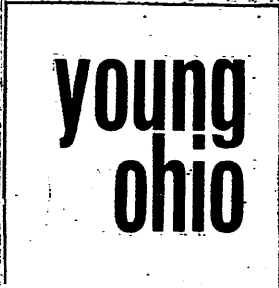
"They spelled my name with two 't's' at the Bunch of Grapes and I've used it that way ever since," explained Betsy.

Then came the finale, the All Star Bonzo Band,

back together again, with Viking owner Dick Korn on his trusty tambourine. Spa John stole the show with his antique autoharp, though.

None of the audience left.

Neither did Wiener. Spa John had nailed his moccasins to the stage floor.



And at the head table were, from left, Dick Korn, his sister Betsy, with tray, and Wilde Childe Kemp



The celebrities kept coming in. Here Crocus, left, stamps in A. J. Robey of Lover's Lane, formerly of Bluestone.