



## 311 and The Wailers Charm Chico

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As the pit filled in excitement, noise and the thick smell of ganja hung heavily in the air at the Senator Theatre, as fans waited in adrenaline-charged anticipation for The Wailers and 311 to take the stage.

Just before their excitement turned to restlessness, The Wailers strolled onto the stage and began playing their laid-back reggae beats that had the entire theater swaying like the palms of Jamaica.

The Wailers, who are the former backup band of Bob Marley and The Wailers, have been playing Marley hits and new tunes since Marley's death in 1981.

Aston Barrett, or "Family Man" as he is more widely known, is now the driving force behind the band's success and though he has been making this music for so long, it is still incredibly important, he said.

"Reggae is a very special music," Barrett said. "It is my job and my duty to perform that music."

When speaking of the music he made with Bob Marley, Barrett spoke of the legend with the deepest respect.

"It feels new to me," Barrett said. "As the saying goes 'the older the moon, the brighter it shines.' There is no end to this music, as Bob would say."

After playing through their set, which included classics like "I Shot The Sheriff," "Jammin'" and "No Woman, No Cry," The Wailers ended their half of the show with the impossibly cool "One Love."

Though the crowd seemed to love it all, the songs associated with Bob Marley and The Wailers invariably got the loudest support.

“I liked that they were Bob Marley’s band playing his songs,” sophomore Molly Honsowetz said.

After The Wailers had finished, it was 311’s turn to play and the “one love” vibe of the theater swiftly changed when the band charged onto the stage.

311 opened with a number of very heavy and incredibly loud pieces that set the tone for the night. In a matter of minutes, the smell of the theater turned from sweet burning herb to sweat and blood from the mosh pit.

As the band played through their set of past hits and songs from their new album, 311 undoubtedly lived up to their hype by putting on a live performance that kept fans moving the entire night.

From the sweat-drenched T-shirts and the at least three people who passed out, it was apparent that Hexum’s periodic checks to see how everyone was doing were unnecessary. “They were really energetic,” sophomore Aimee Hernandez said. “They definitely kept it interesting.”

The band even showcased their rhythmic talent by setting up four additional drum sets, and playing nothing but percussion for the piece.

Soon after, 311 went back to basics and played their popular 1997 song, “Beautiful Disaster,” which received ecstatic shouts from the crowd.

After the band had finished their three-song encore, the crowd reluctantly wandered out of the theater. Soaked, deafened and bruised, it was apparent everyone was charged by the band’s solid performance.

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