

Hard-rock band fails to please

By NICK CHARLES

Jefferson Starship brought its '60s hard rock to Pine Knob Music Theatre last week and won zero points with the crowd.

Only one original member from the early days, rhythm guitarist Paul Kantner, is still with the band. Kantner co-founded the group Jefferson Airplane in 1965 with former lead vocalist Marty Balin.

Kantner was always an integral part of the band along with Balin and vocalist Grace Slick.

JEFFERSON AIRPLANE has always been thought of as one of those legendary '60s bands during the days of Woodstock, drugs and war. Many changes have happened since 1965 in Jefferson Airplane and in life. Music is now a more respected profession and not the drug escape that it was in hard times.

In the spring of 1971 Balin left Jefferson Airplane, but rejoined the band four years later in 1975. During this time the band went through musical changes and even changed its name to Jefferson Starship in February 1974.

Grace Slick, who gave the band something new and exciting in a female vocalist, left Starship in 1978. Six months after this, ex-Turtle drummer John Barbata was critically injured in a car accident and replaced



Jefferson Starship is (from left) Aynsley Dunbar, Pete Sears, David Freiberg, Mickey Thomas, Craig Chaquico and Paul Kantner.

by former Journey drummer Aynsley Dunbar.

Vocalist Mickey Thomas, formerly with The Elvin Bishop Band, joined Kantner, Dunbar, bassist Pete Sears, keyboardist David Freiberg and guitarist Craig Chaquico to complete the newest Jefferson Starship.

Its first album, "Freedom at Point Zero" (RCA) was released in October. The album contains some good tunes

but the songs just didn't seem to sound right.

Every bass drum beat Dunbar played with his feet was felt in the chest of the first few rows, and for all the people who ever wondered: If the people on top of the hill can hear the music what does it sound like to the first five rows? The answer is — loud!

THE BAND OPENED the recent Pine Knob show with an old song called

review

"Ride the Tiger," on which Kantner and Thomas sang to a far-from-sold-out audience.

From the size of the crowd, one would believe that when Grace Slick and Marty Balin left the band — so did their fans.

Even though Thomas's voice seemed to echo sounds of Slick, the music still sounded repetitious and monotonous live. Most of the songs went on and on, but ended up nowhere.

After playing the title tune from its one and only album, the band had the crowd waiting while instruments were tuned.

Images of lightning and sounds of thunder introduced "Awakening," which sounded like Elton John's "Furber For A Friend" and Pink Floyd. Unfortunately, the beautiful introduction eventually grew into an intolerable mountain of noise.

BASSIST SEARS proved to the crowd that he knew his instrument inside out during a fantastic solo.

Even though most people left after the band played its hit single "Jane," the remaining people either left or found somewhere to go during Dunbar's drum solo.

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All proceeds, less expenses, will be donated to the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

the tournament must bring their own board.

Registration begins at noon; the elimination tournament begins at 1 p.m. Nine point matches will be played with an 11-point final. First through eighth place prizes will be awarded, with the first place prize being a custom-made backgammon table.

The tournament will be limited to the first 128 players to register. Entry fee is \$12.50, which includes complimentary food and beverage. For further information regarding advance registration, call 459-5776.

In case of rain, the tournament will

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