

Mental Anarchy concert coming to ECPAC

By Kevin Murdock
Staff Writer

If you're bored out of your skull and tired of hearing the same mindless music, prepare yourselves. April 14 and 20 the heavy metal band Mental Anarchy will be at the East County Performing Arts Center, in a performance piece that will excite the senses and the mind, according to Dr. Ron Shane, the man behind the concept and the band.

The concept that Dr. Shane, who teaches English at Grossmont, has is that we are ready for a revolution — not one against the government but of the mind. Shane said, "The type of revolution that I'm aspiring to is a metaphysical revolution, no guns, no bullets, nothing against the social-political system. It's a metaphysical revolution, a revolution that has to take effect in everyone's psyche."

Shane cited many ways in which individuals and our society are sick — how we are taught to act and feel, and how teenagers cannot relate to what just does not seem real to them. Perhaps, as a consequence, teenager suicide is on the rise. "The problem is in the way we think," he said. We are not allowed to react to our natural instincts and impulses and, as a result, are not truly ourselves.

Shane noted another problem. "I see a marked decline in education standards from the 10 years when I was in college." There are less students studying the Humanities, our values and ideals are very conservative, similar to the America of the fifties.

It is time to stir and awaken the mind healthy awareness and attitude. 'Mental Anarchy' c 'Anarchy of the Mind' is needed to bring us back to that natural state. Since Shane writes the lyrics for the band, it is interesting to note that his concept comes from Act V of Shakespeare's "Hamlet." "That all that we do is an illusion," he said.

"The only reality is the energy we have inside ourselves and learning the various instinctual permutations of

that savage animalistic energy. That's where the real reality lies, and that's where the truth has to be found." The combination of the music, which is the 'power' and the 'juice,' and the words form the important aspects of it all. The result of these two forces should have a positive reaction.

"I want to see people get wild inside," said Shane who was once in a punk-rock band called Nightfire and enjoyed being it. He wore the obligatory ripped jeans, shirt and wrote lyrics as well as sang for the band.

Shane also has worked in the film industry and describes those in it as "bombastic," greedy, moneygrubbing and the entire industry as a "mental holocaust." He says that the theater is nearly as bad and that the only possible way to deal with art is through rock-n-roll. Art to him is "creativity, imagination, an experience that is enlightening." Mental Anarchy promises to be an interesting event that shouldn't be missed.



Kevin Lucas

Dr. Ron Shane, Grossmont English teacher, composes revolutionary lyrics for the band Mental Anarchy. His group will be performing on April 14 and 20 at the East County Performing Arts Center.