The Union is introducing the audience to music styles from the '60s and '70s. Myriad Creatures, a five-member Athens music team combining pop, new wave, and eclectic music, will be performing at the Frontier Room. This Friday and Saturday, the Creatures plan to perform an original set from U2, Talking Heads, and the Shadow Lords' rock 'n' roll, touched with a few songs from the old stuff. Willie Phoenix and the Shadow Lords' rock 'n' roll comes close to imitating the band's music, and guitarist Marte Falle, according to vocalist Anne Mark, will be strumming "Sounds of Silence." The Creatures are prepared to give its Athens audience a mixture of music styles.

Images of western landscapes and ancient Indian architecture float across an arc of 10 video monitors to create a quadrophonic sound on Thursday night. Visiting artist Steina Vasulka's hypnotizing video titled "The West," pans the red New Mexico land to the Anzio's Casa Rinconada in Chaco Canyon. Working with barren, almost level scenery and monotone sound effects, Vasulka Ingeniously emulates the empty, natural quietude of America's flatlands.

"You cannot take the overwhelming beauty of nature and put it in a box and be successful," Vasulka explained as "The West" glided behind her. To capture nature's gifts with man-made technology, an artist must concentrate on smaller geographic areas, she said. In color-tinted detail, the 30-minute tape delves into abandoned Indian buildings, focusing on window-like openings looking toward the vibrant blue sky. About 800 years ago, the windows were used to mark the stars, moon and sun. "On certain days, a beam of light will hit exactly one of these windows," she said, "It was a way for them to find space. This Indian settlement was abandoned in the 1200s and no one knows why." Vasulka said with an Icelandic accent. Vasulka was raised in Reykjavik, Iceland where she studied violin and music theory.

Later in "The West," Vasulka's lens centers on a video camera and a Very Large Array disk set in the same vicinity of the crude stone architecture. Man still uses his "high space technology" to look for intelligence outside the universe.

"The VLA is an impersonator of nature, but it is beautiful to see. It just sits out there and listens to the sky," Vasulka commented. But behind Vasulka's aesthetic, ethereal concept lies experimental video techniques. Probably the simplest yet most effective method Vasulka employs is showing "The West" in an A-B-A-B pattern. Every other screen displays the same image. Vasulka discreetly adjusts the timing so the landscape on screen A moves to the left as it is just beginning to appear on screen B. Thus, the illusion of panorama is created with only a small arc of monitors. Vasulka uses 10 screens, but "I would love a thousand," she said.

In the near future, Vasulka and "The West" will head east to New York for a statewide tour.

By Joan Kushel

**Video Panorama Captures Spirit of the West**

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