

## Al Millan & the Robots attack Odd Fellows!!!!

*Forget Terminator and Transformers; here's the real summer blockbuster!*

**BY GLEN STARKEY**



### OLD AND NEW

*Al Millan (second from left and inset) returns with his band the Robots for a fundraising concert for People First of SLO at the Odd Fellows Hall on July 18.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AL MILLAN AND THE ROBOTS

I've got an extra special place in my heart for Al Millan and the Robots. After all, as a wee senior high-schooler, I used to slip through the back entrance of the Dark Room to see this awesome bluesy, garage-y, Americana rock act. The Dark Room and Millan were essentially my first nightclub experience, and I remember heading over to Boo Boo's the next day to buy Millan's red-covered album *Come Alive*, which I'm pretty sure is still in my stacks. I think I lent my copy of *Soul Protection* to someone. If you're reading this, bring it back!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AL MILLAN

I also have fond memories of the Dark Room's Robot Burger, but I digress.

Millan now resides in Sacramento and hasn't played around these parts since a gig at Pozo Saloon back in '05. On **Saturday, July 18**, at 7 p.m. in the Odd Fellows Hall, **Al Millan and the Robots** return for a fundraiser for People First of SLO, a self-advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities.

Millan, along with original members Gary Steinmann (bass) and Kirk Handley (keyboards), will be joined by Bay Area drummers Mark Schiltz and Bobby Flamingo, as well as local sax man Scott Wright of the Mighty Croon Dogs and guitarist Jack Collins of Big Daddy's Blues Band.

Millan's an old hand at fundraisers, and throughout his long musical career he's engaged in advocacy for people with developmental disabilities, in part because he's the director of a similar organization that advocates for developmentally challenged individuals and assists parents who are looking for help with their special needs children. Such advocacy is more than theoretical for Millan as he became one of those parents 18 years ago, experiencing difficulties while searching for support services for his daughter. This is a cause that is very personal for Al and his band members.

Get your \$15 tickets at Boo Boo's or Cheap Thrills. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. The Hoot Road Show and Bill Gaines Audio are pleased to be able to assist in these efforts.