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SF-BAY AREA BAND ZONK WINS NATIONAL MUSIC FOR AMERICA CONTEST

February 11, 2004 (SAN FRANCISCO, CA) It started with a phone call from Nica Lorber, a local artist who joined forces with Music For America (MfA). Thousands of downloads later, ZONK, a trip-hop-rock group based in the Bay Area, was declared the nationwide winner of this music download contest designed to get young Americans interested in and involved with politics.

For ZONK, the contest has provided the forum to introduce new music and get behind a good cause while, as the band's spokesperson put it, "proving the power of community and friendship." Winning means future support from MfA, the opportunity to open for national acts like Mike Patton and Blackalicious as part of MfA's Party and Politics concert series, and plenty of attention during this politically intense time.

The ZONK lineup: female Songster Nic McFiendish, Producer/Musician/Sound Designer Dave L (www.h-machine.com), Guitarist/Bassist/Harmonica player Uncle Bergie, and Scratch DJ/Mixologist DJ Red 5. Sometimes described as Beck meets Portishead, ZONK is a modern melding of styles united by a distinctive, sultry voice and evolved songwriting. While various San Francisco rock photographers have documented their live show, it's reported that you must experience the intensity to believe it. ZONK is scheduled to play the Last Day Saloon in San Francisco, Saturday, February 21st.

Music for America (www.musicforamerica.org) is a non-profit effort that is using the music community as a gateway for rousing, enlightening and empowering American youth to join in the political process. Their message for 2004 is clear—"Youth of America: our country is headed in the wrong direction and voting is the *least* we can do." All MfA events follow a simple formula: they fuse culture with politics to engage and mobilize young people to get involved in the political process.

ZONK's near-term focus is to present their new material to suitable management, labels, and the world—while performing, touring, evolving and, of course, voting.

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ZONK (pictured from left): Uncle Bergie, McFiendish, Dave L, and DJRed5