



# MUSIC

With DOUG NEEMS

Doug Neems, deejay at *The Scorpio*, holds a journalism degree from the University of North Carolina.

The year 1986 was something of a milestone in the music business — not because of new and noteworthy artists, but for the lack of them.

Record companies elected to play it safe rather than support innovative and progressive talent. A quick look at the overall economic picture brings an explanation (though no consolation).

We witness large corporations taking over small enterprises at an alarming rate. Monopolistic control is the major objective and is largely admired by the public. Champions of idealism bite the dust; the quest for power grows. Innovation is shot down and circular thinking maintains the status quo.

How is the music industry affected?

Artists fear alienation from the buying public, and therefore compromise. Conformity is demanded. Mediocre but marketable performers become superstars through media hype. Songwriters are expendable; who needs to waste money on new material when you can

## '8x10 Glossy' Set For March 19-21

Charlotte's Women In Performance — known for the much acclaimed "Late Snow" — will stage "8x10 Glossy" at Spirit Square March 19-21.

The Sarah Dreher work, which played off-Broadway in New York, tells of two sisters — one is a lesbian photojournalist — and their mother who come together on the anniversary of the father's death. Their memories are explosive.

To reserve tickets, call 704/364-1275.

record a cover version of an old standard for half the price? Witness the ever growing number of "classic rock" and "all hit" radio stations. The instant gratification syndrome prevails.

Proponents of the slowdown argue that they're only giving the public what it wants. Why bother to expand the taste of the people when the current material pacifies? It's the same attitude as asking why society should bother to educate ghetto children since their poverty level keeps them under control.

And so we stagnate, caught in the money trap. No one wants to lose a job in a questionable economy where class differences between wealth and poverty become more evident daily.

I have no suggestion for a solution; in fact, I doubt anyone does. You see, as long as the cash registers keep ringing, record company execs are convinced that no problems exist. Alas, the rich get richer. I only hope that somewhere a cure for tunnel vision is in the works.

### Doug's Top Ten

1. Debbie Gibson, "Only In My Dreams." Atlantic 12-inch
2. Expose, "Come Go With Me." Arista 12-inch
3. Human League, "I Need Your Loving." A&M 12-inch
4. Madonna, "Open Your Heart." Sire 12-inch
5. SOS Band, "No Lies." Tabu 12-inch
6. Tracey Ackerman, "Love Hangover"
7. Linda, "Fire," On The Spot 12-inch
8. Trance Dance, "Do the Dance" (remix), Epic 12-inch
9. Stacey Q, "We Connect," Atlantic 12-inch
10. Peter Gabriel, "Big Time," Geffen 12-inch

### Pick Hits

- Billy Idol, "Don't Need a Gun" (remix), Chrysalis 12-inch  
 Lisa Smith, "Sweet Fantasy," TSR 12-inch  
 FunFun, "Happy Station" (remix), TSR 12-inch  
 Sabby Reyes, "Friday Night," JDC 12-inch

# The Weathergirls

One Show Only  
FRIDAY, FEB. 13

Advance Tickets  
On Sale Now  
\$7 In Advance  
\$8 At The Door

# ENCORE

Monday-Thursday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Friday 4 p.m.-4 a.m.

Saturday 9 p.m.-4 a.m.  
Sundays 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

# February Fantasies!

<p><b>SATURDAY, FEB. 7</b>  <b>Bartles &amp; Jaymes Night</b>                  YES! We've Giving Away  <b>FRANK &amp; ED</b>                  Drawing At Midnight</p>	<p><b>DURING FEBRUARY</b>  <b>NO COVER!</b>                  Wednesdays &amp; Fridays                  Beer And Drink Specials</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY, FEB. 12</b>  <b>Ladies Night</b>                  Jane Barlow From Atlanta                  Live! In Person!</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY, FEB. 14</b>                  ♥ Valentine Sweetheart Ball ♥                  Champagne \$3.50 Per Bottle</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18</b>  <b>Members Birthday Party</b>                  Free Champagne To Members                  With Birthdays In February</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY SHOWCASE</b>  <b>Showtime At 11:30</b>                  Includes Boom Boom Latour ♥ Michele Craig                  Kasey King ♥ Jamie Monroe ♥ Kasey King                  Geri O'Neal ♥ Amber Blake ♥ Tina Terrell                  Grand Prix ♥ Buffy DeMareau ♥ Tracy Morgan                  Plus "Cheri" Live!</p>

# SCORPIO

2301 Freedom Drive • Charlotte, N.C. • 373-9124

Be Prepared! Mardi Gras Costume Ball Wednesday, March 4