

Purple Rain percussionist is most likely to succeed

by Ellesia McCracken

Although the media emphasized Prince and Sheila E. after the mid-summer release of "When Doves Cry" and "The Glamorous Life," there were many exceptional talents involved in the Purple Rain tour.

Juan José Escovedo is one of those talents. The 22-year-old percussionist from Oakland, Calif. has many attractive qualities and a few punk-rock attributes, such as the blond streak on the left side of his silky mane.

He wears a 2½-inch multi-diamond earring, a present from Prince. His wardrobe is packed with interesting attire, some of which he trades with spectators after shows for things he wants but can't find.

Although Sheila E. is his sister and Prince a close friend, he doesn't try to

"shine on people" or put on false airs. He is very down-to-earth and seems to care about his impact on people.

He has big dreams that he is working hard to accomplish. He hopes to have his own band one day and to produce other bands in an effort to help rising young stars. Right now he is involved in the family and strives to help them become a success.

Juan doesn't do a lot of partying. He likes to get adequate rest and exercise to keep in shape and prepared for the next evening's performance. He enjoys eating lots of fruit, grapefruit in particular.

Although he plays percussion for his sister's band while on tour and also appears in "The Glamorous Life" video, he is an excellent vocalist and enjoys singing the work of Phillip Bailey, lead singer for Earth, Wind

and Fire. He not only takes his music seriously, he also takes it everywhere as is proven by the portable Casio stereo that sits at his headboard.

The most impressive quality that Juan projects is his willingness to remember where he came from and the hard times in Oakland when he saw people with all the things that he wanted but couldn't afford.

"Things are looking up," he admits, but he says he's far from earning the kind of money he would like. He reminisces about times when he and his family played in clubs for \$25 a night three nights a week. Yet he says, "It was all worth it."

Juan is the type of person one would place on the "most likely to succeed" page of high school yearbook. One day soon, he may be a renowned talent.

The club scene: a surprising array

by Chandra Austin

Concealed between the palpitating nightlife of Atlanta and the hypnotic pulse of Washington, D. C., Greensboro is hiding a vast array of yuppie cocktail bars, uptown jazz clubs, *très chic* discotheques and traditional college hangouts.

Side Effects, located at 2312 E. Bessemer Avenue, has become an institution within the Greensboro nightclub scene. It has two disco dance floors, a comfortable lounge area and a full-service bar.

After dancing to the top R&B hits, one may enjoy a strawberry daiquiri, play a game of Ms. Pacman or converse with one or more of the many eligible men.

Although Side Effects has a minimum age requirement of 21, the ages range from 19 to 55. Expect to get carded on occasion, depending on who's at the door.

"There are a lot of nice men at Side Effects if you can weed out the riffraff," says a 23-year-old waitress. "The majority of the men here just want good conversation and will allow things to just be Platonic. That's a change from most of the clubs here."

Ladies get in free on Thursday nights until 11 and Fridays are free to both sexes. This is quite an improvement over the awesome \$5 cover charge on Saturday night.

Jazz is no longer a genre of music appreciated only by the older set. "College students are beginning to realize the true beauty of jazz," explains a local jazz musician. "Yenrof's is the perfect place to relax, eat and hear some of the best music in the Triad." Featuring talent such as Eve Cornelius and the Bill Bright Quartet, Yenrof's at 2200 Randleman Road serves good down-home food and drinks.

"The Tom Collins' are especially good," says a Burlington woman who goes to Yenrof's at least twice a week. "I don't care for the loudness you get at the discos. I'd rather hear live mellow music in a comfortable setting."

The clientele at Yenrof's is a welcome change from the run-of-the-mill night spot. The crowd is more mature and there is an abundance of black professionals.

If the professional scene becomes a bore, Greensboro definitely offers alternatives. One refreshing option is the Ale House, a typical college bar with plenty of beer, on the corner of Smyres Place and Madison Ave. On Tuesday nights ladies can drink barrels of beer and hear the best in turntable rock 'n roll, just as long as it's between 9 and 10.

Wednesday is men's night and more diverse since the music is more of a cross-section featuring many tunes by the Police. Sounds too good to be true? The Ale House has two major pitfalls: the cover charge is a dollar and only one beer is given at a time.

This spot has a good sound system and a nice mix of UNC-G students.

Another alternative to the conventional nightclub is the Rhinoceros, a private club, at 313 S. Greene St. Recently, rock superstar Bruce Springsteen stopped there to drink and do a few songs. "We get a creative mix of college students and downtowners," says a Rhinoceros bartender.

The decor is a taxidermist's dream complete with a stuffed rhinoceros over the bar.

Instead of a disc jockey, the Rhinoceros offers a good old jukebox with everything from Cyndi Lauper to Little Anthony and the Imperials. Live entertainment is also offered Thursday through Saturday.

Although the Rhinoceros sells liquor, the atmosphere is more suitable for drinking a few beers, playing a game of pool and shooting the breeze on a Friday night.

To get the big city effect from a small town, try Dadio's, which is located at 3404 High Point Rd. In order to get in, a \$10 membership is needed. Ask someone with a membership to admit you.

At first glance, Dadio's looks like an uptown spot right out of a major metropolis. Its clientele has a robust kind of energy. The music is Top 40 R&B combined with techno-pop. The music fits in well with the light system, which gives this club an urban flair.

The drink prices are average, ranging from \$1.25 for domestic beer to \$4 for an exotic drink. The minimum age requirement is 19 and a hand-stamp differentiates 19-year-old beer drinkers from the 21 and older crowd.

Trevi Fountain, located at 709 E. Market St., entertains an older clientele from 21-55. However, this club is famous for untamed fraternity parties from 2 to 6 a.m.

The sound system at Trevi is of excellent quality, and the music is comfortably progressive with an occasional tune by Grover Washington Jr. during happy hour.

The bar area is charming, with oil lights, plants and mirrors separating a two-sided bar. Both dance floors have enough space to accommodate a moderate crowd, and the men are eager dancers. The cover charge is \$3, which is reasonable, considering the good time that's in store.

Miller—from page 1

tion of biochemistry here now. If I weren't president of Bennett, I would like to be a biochemist researcher for a large pharmaceutical house," he states.

Sometimes people only see the exterior of a college president. Miller would like to convey more of the interior. One of the things that he hopes people can sense about him is his compassion: "I think most people know that I try to work out problems and I have a hearing ear even if I can't solve the problem."

President Miller would like to be remembered as a person committed to academic excellence. "So many people come to college because it is happening. So many students don't know what college is supposed to do for them... It is important for students getting a liberal arts education to be able to compete. It isn't enough to make passing grades but to excel so that they can excel after life at Bennett," he says.

Despite the very busy schedule, he occasionally does find time to relax. "I like to participate in the men's glee club at church, and I like to build things from electronic kits. I have built a stereo and an organ. I also like to garden and to build things with wood," he says.

His public and private roles merge in one activity—building.

Prof is shining presence

by Tricia Hairston

Ask students to describe Dr. Marshena Baird, and their comments range from "awesome" to "zesty." She is a bright, energetic person who represents the pride of black women.

Baird, an associate professor of reading and education, is committed to teaching black people. "I believe that as a black person, I should give my people the very best I have to offer," she says.

Along with the Bennett Scholars, Baird coordinated the landmark October conference, A Sociocultural History of Black Women, which featured authors Angela Davis, Paula Giddings and Margaret Walker.

Baird, who came here in 1978, is optimistic about the student body. "I think they want a lot for themselves," she maintains. "I honestly believe every student is a diamond in the rough. She just need polishing."

The mother of three children whose ages range from five to 14, Baird takes a traditional view of education.

"I understand when parents tell their children to come up to their potential. I tell mine, too! Don't be happy with a 'C'; go for an 'A'. Par-

ents have seen more and want the best for their children. Do your very best. Push yourself to fulfill everything possible. God gave you gifts to do things with," she advises her own children and students. What angers her most is "a lazy person."

She derives energy and inspiration from nature. Happiness is "watching a baby grow." "I'm so awed by nature," she explains. "It's wonderful in all its dimensions. It really trips me out! My children make me happy, too."

Baird likes to discuss current events, and she's still pondering the significance of the '84 election for blacks.

"One thing I don't think was expected was that blacks would appear to be separate and apart from mainstream America. Voting can give the false impression that we are anti-American. This isn't true. For example, Jesse Jackson's leadership was intended for everyone—the Rainbow Coalition. The image projected of us during the election saddens me."

But Baird isn't despairing. "We have demonstrated that we as a majority could agree on one thing," she says. "That's positive. We cannot get depressed. Depression is

an enemy. Look towards the positive direction."

The plight of the people in the Third World affects her, too. "The famine [in Africa] has been going on for several years," she says. "A lot of the problems have to do with a lack of water, farming and practical methods. Ethiopia was a great nation at one time, a very proud people. They are now humble and begging."

Baird believes that it is crucial for America to give advanced technology as well as food to developing nations.

In terms of personal philosophy, Baird offers this encouragement to everyone: "Never give up. Even when things look dark, keep going and saying, 'I will.'"

"There were times in my life I thought the world would end," she adds. "Take one day at a time. There will be days of sunshine. Always evaluate yourself in terms of what you have achieved. Then strive for what you have not achieved. Be honest with yourself and I think you'll be all right. Last but not least: the future is yours."

Everyone she touches is lucky to know Dr. Baird, a polished diamond shining brightly.

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