

# Features

## Savoy: classy dining without classy prices

By Hilary Russell  
Staff Writer

Several weeks ago, a little Italian restaurant named Savoy caught my attention while watching WLOS at noon.

I was standing in my kitchen trying to decide which of my frozen dinners was calling to me from inside the freezer, when I heard, off in the distance, something about pesto, linguini, and tomatoes.

I walked back into my living room, turned up the volume on the televi-

sion, and there was Bob Caldwell, the guy who does morning weather reports for WLOS, in an apron.

Turns out Savoy, located at 641 Merrimon Ave., was giving two-minute cooking demonstrations. In fact, every day that week, the chef at Savoy was trekking on over to WLOS to cook a dish for the "Carolina Kitchen" news clip.

Gotta love those subliminal advertising schemes. Well, I did, because a friend of mine dropped by shortly after and I convinced her to head over to Savoy for lunch. I bid my entourage of frozen dinners goodbye, and off we went. It was a Tuesday after-

noon, and because it was around 2 p.m., the lunch crowd had dwindled down, leaving us to dine in solitude.

We were greeted at the door immediately upon arrival, and seated next to a window towards the back of the restaurant.

A basket of fresh bread and a small plate of olive oil were set before us before we had time to open the menus.

There were so many choices and such a wide variety of dishes that it took some time to decide what to order. Everything looked so good, and the descriptions of the plates alone left my mouth watering. The prices aren't bad, either.

Ranging from three to eight dollars for lunch, meal prices at Savoy fit any budget.

There are salads to choose from, such as the Chicken Salad Ivy (\$6.95), which is a scoop of diced chicken breasts mixed with dill mustard, surrounded by grapes, kiwis, walnuts, and tiny fruit muffins. Savoy also serves a Caesar salad with chicken

(\$7.75) made with their own homemade dressing. Each of the dishes cooked and served at Savoy are made from scratch.

I tried their grilled chicken sandwich (\$4.95), which comes with enough food to request a take out container before you are finished eating.

On another occasion, I ordered their grilled veggie sandwich (\$4.50), an assortment of peppers, onions, and mushrooms, on a grilled hoagie roll. All sandwiches come with a choice of roasted new potatoes or pasta salad.

Savoy also serves dinner, and while I haven't tried dinner there yet, judg-

ing from the lunch dishes, I can only imagine the feast they offer. This restaurant is a perfect place to go with friends when you want something a little more classy than the typical eatery and less formal than, say, the Grove Park Inn.

Savoy

641 Merrimon Ave.  
253-1077

### Review

## Methodical Overkill Weinberg, UNCA students set for annual holiday show



COURTESY OF DEF JAM RECORDS

By Jason Williams  
Staff Writer

It's been four years since Staten Island rapper Method Man of the group Wu Tang Clan dropped his first solo album, *Tical*. Now he is positioned to takeover the rap world again with the release of his much anticipated second solo album, *Tical 2000: Judgement Day*.

With the release of *Tical*, Method Man emerged as one of the top lyricists from the influential Wu Tang Clan, as well hip-hop in general, and inspired a barrage of imitators looking to reproduce his solo prosperity.

He also quickly became one of the most popular rappers within his genre, appearing on numerous other artists' works, mix-tapes, radio stations and soundtracks. His numerous guest appearances fueled the appetite for an eagerly awaited second release.

Hip-hop fans have waited through seven Wu Tang member albums, four false starts, and almost 15 rescheduled release dates for a second offering from Method Man.

With the release of *Tical 2000*, Method Man serves up 28 tracks of hip-hop lyricism, more than enough to satisfy the most voracious appetite. But, as many of us know from Thanksgiving, sometimes there can be too much of a good thing.

That's exactly what happens with this album. Method Man's lyrical abilities left me flabbergasted, and the beats kept my head nodding, but with 18 songs and 10 skits, there is a bit of overkill.

Method Man's raps are always on point, and he will amaze you with how freely he can come up with very complex rhymes. Many of his rhymes have the distinct feel of freestyle rhymes, or those coming of the top of his head, at which he is quite skilled.

Where his early work was rough and raw, this newer work demonstrates much more confidence, knowledge, and experience. Unfortunately, with all the maturity gained in his work over the past four years, there is a loss.

Much of the going-for-broke feel that characterized debut album has been lost in the overpolished tracks of *Tical 2000*, many of which lack the hunger to succeed that was displayed in his earlier work.

RZA, Wu Tang's main producer who is known for arranging many of the group's works, only produces three of the songs on this album. This may account for the differ-

ent feel of the album. Method Man might be trying to spread his wings, working with other producers such as Eric Sermon and the Trackmasters, but I think it's the RZA produced tracks on the album that stand out the most.

I feel it would have been a much tighter album if it were cut down a bit. Songs like "Perfect World," "Retro Godfather," "Party Crasher," and "Judgement Day" really come through with Wu Tang's trademark rawness, sparse beats, and unique samples, but other songs such as "Cradle Rock," "Dangerous Grounds," and "Torture" often become repetitive, and the music never quite melds with Method Man's trademark lyrical assault.

Also, most of the skits between the songs are dumb and really serve no purpose other than to cash in on a trend in hip-hop albums.

Many of the tracks have guest appearances by other artists, another popular trend in hip-hop.

Appearances include Left Eye of TLC, Mobb Deep, Redman, and D'Angelo, as well as Wu Tang Members Raekwon, Inspectah Deck, Masta Killa, and Capadonna. One good thing is that, unlike many guest appearances on other albums, where the guest rapper almost always outshines the featured rapper, on *Tical 2000* they help enhance the track while not taking anything away from Method Man's abilities.

Tracks that stand out include "Spazzola," a lyrical feast with the Wu members, and "Break Ups 2 Make Ups," featuring D'Angelo, a track reminiscent of Meth's hit single "All I Need," off of *Tical*.

*Tical 2000* is a definite must-have for any hip-hop devotee. Despite some of the flaws, Method Man's lyrical ability, combined with production from some of the best in hip-hop, make this album one of the better choices out now. But, if you are looking for the same rough and raw feeling of his first album, you may be a little disappointed.

### Music Review

Check out the archive of past music, restaurant, and movie reviews on The Banner Online @ [www.unca.edu/banner/fyi](http://www.unca.edu/banner/fyi)

By Rachel Penix  
Staff Writer

The UNCA Music Department will present its 20th holiday concert on Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. in Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

There are about 15 pieces in this concert and approximately 200 people involved with the show, said Lloyd Weinberg, adjunct instructor in UNCA's music department.

The jazz band, the brass choir, the ebony ensemble, the UNCA community chorus, and the university singers are slated to perform in the concert.

The groups will perform traditional holiday songs and there will be a solo by Santa Claus. He will conduct the Hallelujah chorus, and after the concert, children tell him what they want for Christmas.

Santa Claus will be played by Charles McKnight, chair of the music department. He also sings in the community chorus and plays in the brass choir.

Charles Taft, adjunct instructor of music, will be conducting the Community Chorus and the University Singers.

The Ann Dunn Dancers and children from the Claxton Elementary School will be special guests.

The children will play several instruments, which include xylophones and bells.



PHOTO BY CARRIE ENDERS

UNCA's jazz band performs during a concert in Lipinsky Auditorium.

"It's a real community effort. It's a variety show," said Weinberg.

The concert should last about one hour and 15 minutes, and the individual pieces are each around three minutes in duration.

The directors of the different choruses chose the songs that they wanted their group to do. They chose songs that they thought the audience would like, as well as ones that the singers like to perform, Weinberg said.

The directors then checked with Weinberg. "We have a very nice lady who is coming in

at 10 o'clock that morning to set up all kinds of stuff. It's going to be very festive," said Weinberg.

The concert is a fundraiser for the UNCA music department and counts as a humanities cultural event.

### UNCA holiday concert

Dec. 6 - Thomas Wolfe Auditorium  
Student tickets: \$4, \$6, \$8 with ID

## Stella Blue marks its first anniversary

By Sammy Ensley  
Staff Writer

This Man's Hat, one of the first bands to ever play at Stella Blue, reunited to open up for the Derek Trucks Band for the club's one-year anniversary on Nov. 20.

"Getting them back together to play on our one-year anniversary was pretty important to us," said co-owner Peggie Mcgreth. "We got off to a rough start with the whole fire thing."

Stella Blue's proprietors, Joe Haugh and Mcgreth, were proud to have Trucks back for his second performance at the club. This is understandable, considering he brought in one of the largest crowds that the club has ever seen.

Trucks, nephew of Allman Brothers drummer Butch Trucks, has been one of the most well-known acts to play Stella Blue. For those of you who don't know, Trucks is only 18 years old, and a world-renowned slide guitarist often compared to Duane Allman.

Stella Blue's first year got off to a rough start. After opening on Nov. 20, 1997, a kitchen fire destroyed the club on Dec. 6.

The club was not able to reopen for almost four months.

Despite the fire, Haugh and Mcgreth have managed to make their club a prominent venue for their audiences and local musicians. Since it reopened, Stella Blue has supported a wide variety of music, from pianist Andy Milne to El Vez (the Mexican Elvis) to Derek Trucks.

Even though the club has enjoyed modest success, Mcgreth and Haugh are surprised that more UNCA students don't visit the club.

"We always have free pool, I think our beer is relatively cheap, and we've got better sound," Haugh said.

Every Wednesday night patrons can enjoy live entertainment and 25 cent draft beer for a nominal admission fee.

"We're always working to make it better," Haugh said. "We've got some big things coming up in '99. New Years Eve, this will be where the party is."

"You've got to get people to support places like this, or the only place you'll have to go is Hannah Flannagan's," Haugh said.

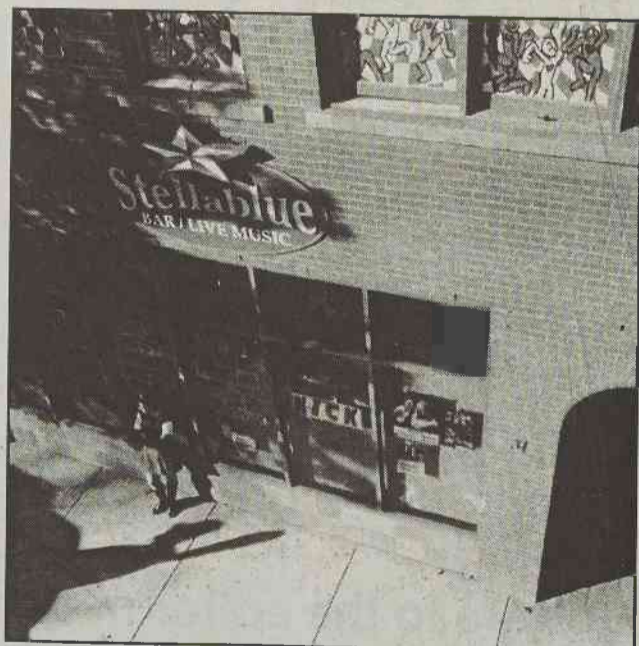


PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Stella Blue, located at 31 Patton Ave. celebrated its one year anniversary on Nov. 20.

The Banner is now hiring all positions for the Spring 1999 semester. If you are interested in writing, taking photos, etc., come by Carmichael Hall 208A and pick up an application. Applications are due by Dec. 11.