

By John White  
PHOTOGRAPHER AND STAFF WRITER

*opposite page: Freddy Greene hopes to release his first CD in the near future.*

**Y**ou see them in the early hours of the morning as you stroll down Franklin Street to grab a bite to eat. You hear them in the late afternoon before you catch the U-bus back to campus. Even late at night as you leave the Varsity Movie Theater with your friends, you find that your step has a little bounce as you walk in tune with the sounds they create.

They provide you with a brief respite from the hustle and bustle that Chapel Hill, as small as it is, can produce. These "street artists" bring unmistakable rhythm and character to our college street. This level of character and identity is only eclipsed by their own character and the wonderful stories they tell through their music.

Among these artists of sound is Freddy Greene of Franklinton, North Carolina. Greene has played the saxophone for nearly twenty years and has entertained downtown Franklin Street for almost as long. In conversation he would say the best part of playing in this area is meeting the different types of people who sometimes stop to listen or talk to him.

Greene usually performs many of his favorites from jazz legends such as John Coltrane. However, he also writes his own songs and plans to release an album in the future.

John Broom doesn't have an album in the works but, like Greene, writes his own songs. He is originally from San Antonio, Texas, and has been playing the harmonica for nearly seven years. Broom incorporates everything from daily events in life to a can of Pepsi as motivational elements for his songs.

This is a small sample of the individuals who bring character to the main "hangout area" of Chapel Hill. Some people may just see them as beggars or people down on their luck. However, they probably are happier and have lived fuller lives than many of us. Many of them enjoy sharing their experiences with others.

So, if you are ever curious about who these people really are, do as I did: stop, listen, and learn.

*Murray Dameron contributed to this article.*



*above: "Bryce", former member of a local band, draws inspiration for his songs from rock artist Beck.*

*below: John Broom, enjoys playing the blues and draws inspiration from daily events in his life.*

