

Features

Fresh

On Thursday, September 19, 1985 the Musical group Kool and the Gang had a concert in Hedricks Stadium at Fort Bragg. The concert was sponsored by the Morale Support Activities Division in conjunction with Schlitz Malt Liquor and Sullivan Wholesale.

Concert activities began at 7 p.m. with The Fresh Air Band opening the show. At about 9 p.m., Kool and the Gang arrived and gave a very entertaining show. They played most of their new hits and even reached back into the past and brought a few "moldy oldies but goodies" out of the closet. Some of the songs they played were: "Joanna", "Too Hot", "Celebration", "Cherish" and as their finale, "Fresh."

Kool and the Gang first started as a group around the year 1964. The band first started playing at the Cafe Wha in Greenwich Village, New York. Soon, the Jazziacs, as they were then called, began playing Rhythm and Blues. In 1969, when the group changed their name to Kool and the Gang, they left most of the jazzy sound behind and began concentrating on pop music. Some of their early hits include: "Jungle Boogie," "Hollywood Swinging," and "Funky Stuff." Things were really going well for the group until the disco craze hit the nation. Only by riding piggy back on a few other hit movie soundtracks did the group manage to stay on the music scene.

In 1979, the group decided that they needed to look into another approach to music. That is when they hired a new producer, Deodato. They also took on a new lead singer, James "J.T." Taylor who helped add sex appeal to the group. He also added a smoother more melodic sound to the music. After those changes, the group produced the album *Ladies' Night*, which included the hit songs "Too Hot," and the title track. For the first time in seven years, the group was back on the charts. Group leader Robert "Kool" Bell described it as "...like our resurrection in terms of being accepted again." The group followed up the *Ladies' Night* album with another hit, the *Celebrate* album including the hit single "Celebration" which went on to become "a national

anthem of sorts that year." Since then, the group has added other hit singles and albums. Some of their hits include "Joanna," "Fresh," and "Cherish."

The band was asked how they managed to stay together for so long and did they plan to be together much longer. They replied to this question by saying that they try to promote a family atmosphere among themselves. But they did say that like any family, they do have their problems but they

manage to control these by sitting down and talking with each other. In reference to their continuing to be together, they said that they have a few more challenges to face, such as doing their own movie, so, they believe that they will be together for a long while.

Well, if the group Kool and the Gang stay together and continue to give performances like the concert they gave in Fort Bragg's Hedricks Stadium, they are guaranteed continued success.

FSU Student Tours With Fatback

By: Garret A. Davis

As a baby, Ed Walker would pick up spoons and hit on whatever was in sight. As he trouble with teachers in grade school by once again beating on desks with pencils instead of paying attention to his teachers.

But perhaps all this has paid off, for now Ed Walker is a professional drummer on his way to the top.

Ed Walker who likes to be called Skip, started playing professionally at the age of 14 with the group Mello Madness. He played with the group three and a half years. Bill Curtis of the group Fatback recognized the talent of this energetic drummer August 22, 1984, while Mello Madness was at the same concert with Josilin Brown at the Cumberland County Arena.

Just recently, he toured with Fatback to England, Germany, and Holland. When asked about his experience, Skip, replied:

"The tour with Fatback allowed me to see what playing with a group is like. People may think it is easy but it is not because you must do careful individual planning. There are going to be times for everything if you plan it right. Time to sight see, meet people, and of course practice. Opening night I was of course nervous but, once the crowd got into me, I in return got into them and then I was off and running. The tour was a great experience for me

and I plan to tour again in June of 1986, back to England.

Sadly Skip is leaving FSU to School of Music in January of 1986 to prepare himself for studio work as a drummer. His major will be professional music.

Skip stated his long term goals as follows: "Berkle will prepare me for teaching basic music and professional music, such as working in studios. I would like to do studio work and tour with bands 2 or 3 times a year. I really love what I am doing but I can't excel without the quality education that I will pursue at Berkle, I must pay my dues now so they can pay off for me later."

Skip also said, "I admire FSU because it gives one a chance to better one's weak points academically and it has been beneficial to me. "What I learned no one can take away from me."

Some of Skip's major influences include: Steve Ferrone, who played with the Average White Band, and now plays with Jeffrey Osborne and George Duke; Steve Jordon who plays with the band on the David Letterman Show; and Billy Cobham who plays for Stanley Clark.

Incidentally, Johnny Deberry will be featured on the next Fatback album; he attended Fayetteville State from 1982-1984. It seems as if Fatback tends to look at Fayetteville for talent.



Standing L-R: Robert "Spike" Mickens, Curtis Williams, Robert "Kool" Bell, George Brown, Charles Smith. Seated L-R: Clifford Adams, Dennis "Dee Tee" Thomas, Michael Ray, James "J.T." Taylor.

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the world is nothing but one continuous competition. Russell went on to tell the students that "nothing comes to a sleeper but a dream. But when he wakes up, even the dream is gone."

Through her use of analogies, Russell made some interesting points. One was that students think college is a cafeteria smorgashborg where they pick

up the appetizers and deserts and skip the meat and main course. Russell reminded students that because of the large number of qualified people being turned out by colleges and universities, competition is great. As Attorney Patricia Russell put it, " 'C' will not see you through."

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