

George Benson's "On Broadway" is Off Broadway

By GWEN BIKIS

George Benson, Jazz guitarist, is one of the few artists of his idiom to have achieved "crossover" popularity. His last two albums, "Breezin'," and "In Flight" were highly successful; this live album should achieve the same success for much the same reasons. The personnel on this album is the same as that of the previous nights: Phil Upchurch, Rhythm Guitar, Ronnie Foster, Keyboards, Jorge Dalto, Acoustic Piano and Keyboards, Stanley Banks, Electric Bass, Ralph MacDonald, Percussion, and Harvey Mason on drums.

George Benson is highly talented; but, it is not his best work (as in "Blue Benson," for example) that has gathered the highest acclaim. Benson is condemned in jazz circles for having comprised his vast talents.

This album is a revelation both of what Benson has, could be, and what he has unfortunately become.

Washington Internship Emerges

During the past two years seven Guilford students have spent the fall semester in Washington, D.C. in a combination internship/study program. The program enables students to work in Congressional offices and Executive agencies as well as in many areas of interest such as the environment, consumer affairs, journalism, communications, the arts and business.

The internships enable students to develop professional skills, explore career options and participate in a professional work experience as well as to supplement their academic experience. Twelve hours of credit may be earned on this program: eight for the internship and four for participation in a seminar.

Only a limited number of students may participate each year. There are no restrictions as to a student's major. Applicants should be rising juniors or seniors, have taken two political science courses including one upper level course and have a 2.5 Q.P.A. The deadline for application is April 15. For more information contact Dick Coe.

The two tracks that best document the unfortunate turn of events are "On Broadway" and "The Greatest Love of All." Both have received a moderate amount of airplay. There is nothing wrong with either; it is just that they could both be so much better.

"On Broadway" is comparable to any other cover version of "The Same Old Song" - it is easy listening, but there is absolutely nothing outstanding about it. It does, however, contain good scat-singing accompanied by guitar.

"The Greatest Love of All" is another cut that showcases Benson's voice, which is flexible and strong, with jazz inflections. It is my opinion, though, that the over-use of vocals, as evidenced in both this album and "In Flight," is the mislaying of a gift, Benson could well have been

born with a guitar in his hands.

That is what makes the two best songs from "Weekend in L.A." such a shame. "We All Remember Wes," a Stevie Wonder composition, is an apt tribute to Wes Montgomery, to whom George's guitar style has been compared. This captures Benson's brilliance: long runs, fast finger work and clear, light notes. Benson swings here.

My next favorite song is a Benson original entitled "Ode to a Kudu." Benson is less free-flying here than in "Wes" but is instead more introverted and personal. He plays alone for most of the song, very fittingly. The Ronnie Foster keyboards and rock beat would be ludicrous in "Ode" and that perhaps is the best indicator of the shaky state of George Benson's art.

Energy Awareness:

Local Organizations to Speak

By BILL HALL

Last November a group of students gathered to talk about their growing concern for U.S. Energy Policy. The potential hazards of nuclear power coupled with higher prices of electricity, the U.S. policy of short term planning for long-term energy needs, wasteful use of energy, and the present coal situation are some of their interests.

A coalition of differentiated interests, Energy Awareness is also involved in alternative soft energy paths; solar heat could supply up to 58% of a house's heating needs; methane can save 20% of a car's fuel needs with no modifications; and satellite solar electricity production to supply growing electricity needs.

March 26 through April 1

Energy Awareness will be sponsoring speakers, films, and demonstrations about present energy policy and

present energy policy and alternative soft energy paths, with people from Mother Earth News, Duke Power, Nuclear Alliance, and other concerned organizations. In an attempt to make our community aware of the seriousness of our energy decisions and alternative soft energy paths. With depletion of oil, natural gas, and uranium within our lifetime, we must plan for future generations needs. If you are interested in attending, a schedule will be forthcoming, if you feel you can help Energy Awareness in their goal please write: Energy Awareness, P.O. Box 17121.

Tune Up Reading Skills

(This is Part I of a two-part series)

About 85 per cent of the work you do as a college student involves reading. It is the single most important learning skill, and yet many students are bogged down in poor reading habits that can make studying a chore.

Reading is the visual ability to understand words and their relationship one to another. To improve reading skills you must increase your capacity to see and grasp the grouping of words, or ideas, at a speed that is comfortable for you. The key is to move your eyes at a rate that allows your brain to absorb the main ideas printed on a page.

Remember, your eyes, like fingers for the piano or legs for jogging, must be trained to be skillful. If you would like to tune up your reading skills, these basic steps will help.

Step 1 - Evaluate Your Reading Habits

Do you vocalize words in your mind, or move your lips as you read? You may be using the childhood habit of sounding out each word. This slows you down.

Do strange words constantly stop your progress? Your vocabulary needs improving.

Do you read every single word separately? Train your eyes to span phrases and to group thought units together.

Do you have to back up and reread very often? You are not paying attention. Force yourself to concentrate.

Do you read everything at the same speed? Your speed should vary with the subject matter.

Are you reading faster now than when you were in high

school? Skillful reading is an art and needs continual practice.

Step 2 - Provide the Right Atmosphere

To read effectively, you need to set the scene for concentration. Pick a quiet place where you can read with a minimum of interruption. Have a pencil ready for taking notes.

Most individuals find that 15 inches away from their eyes is a comfortable distance to hold a book. Make sure the lighting is good.

Radio, television, and music, all pull your attention away from the words and ideas you are reading.

Step 3 - Use your Eyes Efficiently

The eyes see printed words and transmit them to the brain. They are the key to how well you read.

Eyes perceive words only when they stop moving or make what is called a "fixation" During the pause, the brain registers what the eyes have seen. Depending on your eye span, you will perceive on, two or more words in each fixation. The average college student, for example, has a span of 1.1 words and makes 4 fixations per second. By increasing the number of words your eyes include in each fixation, you increase your reading speed.

Train your eyes to take in more than one word at a time. You can make your eyes fix on related words, phrases, or short lines in one brief stop. This sentence, for example, should be read in five fixations: "The cost of oil/has risen/because of/limited natural resources/ and increased imports."

Vocalizing words, even in your mind, slows down your eyes. Don't allow your eyes to

reread sentences. You will find that you remember more if you can keep moving forward This does not mean, of course, that you cannot review what you have read.

Many people need glasses to read well. Blurred words, constantly tired or itching eyes are signals for an eye examination. Don't put it off.

1979 BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

MARCH

23, 24, 25 UNION GROVE, N.C. - 54th ANNUAL WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP OLD TIME FIDDLER'S CONVENTION - INFO. J. PIERCE VAN HOY - BOX 38 (28689), (704)-539-4934

24, 25, 26 REIDSVILLE, N.C. - CAMPSPRINGS BLUEGRASS PARK - 6th ANNUAL NEW GRASS FESTIVAL - Info. Carlton Haney - Box T-A, Ruffin, N.C. (27320)

April

14-16/21-23 NEW ORLEANS, LA. - 9th ANNUAL JAZZ FESTIVAL Info. - (504)-522-4786

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