

## BANDS GIVE HOT PERFORMANCE IN STERNBERGER

by Jeff Schreiber

The steamy atmosphere inside Sternberger auditorium December 4th provided a fitting stage for one of the hottest young bands on the pop scene, the Connells. The Raleigh-based quintet was the headliner of a three-band bill set up by the Student Union.

Two student bands began the proceedings. Diet Chicken Soda played an inventive set of extended jam instrumentals. IOU followed — with several tasteful covers by the likes of R.E.M., Jim Reed, and Jimi Hendrix.

The pleasant folksiness of I.O.U.'s set seemed to tranquilize the crowd, but the Connell's got everyone up and moving with songs from their newly released second album (*Boylan Heights*). The album recently moved into the #30 spot nationwide in the *College Music Journal* and the group was fresh off a short tour of the Midwest in preparation for an upcoming nationwide tour.

The Connell's trademark is jangly folk-hop pop. The group's live performance couldn't fully capture the rich, elegant studio effect of *Boylan Heights*, but their strengths shined through: Peele Wimberley's percussion and David Connell's bass propelled the twin 12-string harmonies of guitarists Mike Connell and George Huntley.



*The Connells*



*Chris Jenkins and Tony Ward* Photo: Eric Buck

Huntley, also contributed a frosty synthesizer and a few vocal leads, like on "Home Today," but the group's lead singer, Doug MacMillan, controlled the show with his lilting melodies delivered while pounding a tambourine.

Most of the live material came off the new album, "Scotty's Lament," with its Celtic jig introduction and "Tray" seemed to be popular dancing tunes with the crowd.

The quintet featured only three songs from their first release *Darker Days* closing their first set with a rip-roaring version of "Hats Off" from that album.

Their set did not last very long; the crowd thought they were only taking a short break when actually it was encore time. Soon enough, though, the applause mounted and the group came back to tear through covers of "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" and Alice Cooper's "18." MacMillan did a pretty fair Jim Morrison on "Riders on the Storm" and "Love Me Two Times," while Mike thrashed around on his Rickenbacker. Their finale was a chanted request for one of their earlier tunes, "Seven." As the song came to a close, MacMillan seemed to speak for many newly-won fans when he sang "I know that someday/I would see him again."

## Democrats Sponsor Political Pollster

by Jason Underwood

Harrison Hickman, a nationally reknowned political pollster and Guilford graduate, was here from November 9 through November 12. Sponsored by the College Democrats, Hickman delivered four seminars and one major speech in Sternberger Auditorium on Monday, November 9, which was open to all.

Hickman spoke of his career as a pollster, which, he asserted, was not always favorably looked upon. In his speech on

Monday night, he said that pollsters and other political consultants collate information from voters for the candidates with whom they are affiliated.

Using the medium of questionnaires, they find out what the voters would consider their ideal candidate. The pollsters and consultants then try to fit the gathered information with their candidate, in hopes to present a sellable image to their constituents.

Hickman asserted that

the most prominent argument against consultants was that they "take the issues out of political races and turn them into personality contests." Hickman defended his position by saying that personality is actually what the voters care most about; if they trust a candidate's ability and character, they will tend to pay more attention to their views on the issues at hand.

Hickman said that many people have serious ethical questions about the

job of the political consultant. For example, they are often seen as undermining the legitimacy of voting, since they find out what the voters want, and then mold their candidates to that.

Hickman argued that consultants actually cannot do that; they cannot change a candidate into something they are not. Also, he said that the voters are smarter than they are credited to be. If a candidate comes across as a phony, then they will not trust them, and thus not

vote for them.

Hickman concluded that political consultants help, not hurt the system, since consultants play a large part in presenting information about the candidates to the voters. Also, candidates know more about the voters than the voters know about the candidates.

In his other seminars, Hickman discussed the campaign of Senator Terry Sanford, with whom he was a pollster during his campaign. He showed many different commercials for the candidate,

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