

# Features

## OUT FOR A SLOT ITY SPOTLIGHT



No, you're not tripping. This is simply the supernatural aura of The Knowledgeable Kamakasi, Neil Taveras. What a hunk.

yelling and laughing.

10:45 p.m.

Neil Taveras, aka the Knowledgeable Kamakasi, approaches the mic with wide-legged jeans cuffed at his shoes and camoflage tee. The man who was practicing in the window is now facing the pendulum of a swaying crowd, moving to his confident rapping over recorded beats. Neil is two men. He says, "this first one is gonna give you a taste of what the Knowledgeable Kamakasi is all about, and after that you're gonna hear what Neil Taveras is all about." True to form, Neil shifted between raps

DAVE SNOFT

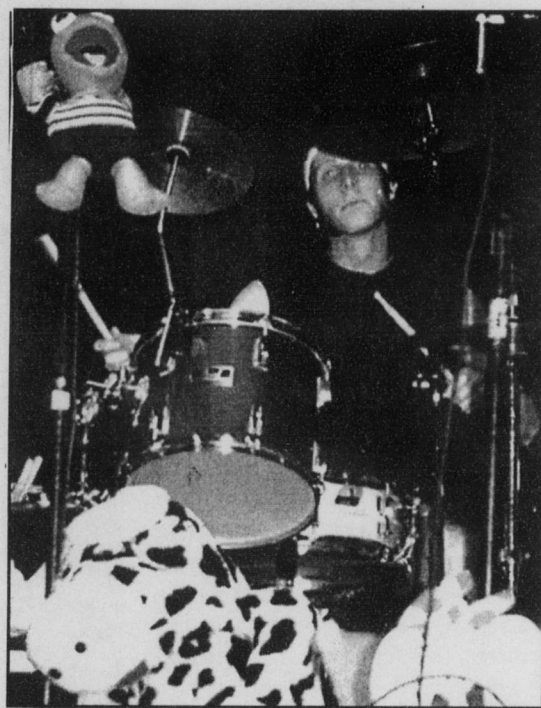
exists but funk.

Cousin Jimmy works like cocaine, and, after the first dose, Curly teases the audience's new hooked addiction while the other members re-tune by throwing out riffs of Led Zeppelin and southern rock heavies; the crowd sucks it up and begs for more. Curly only gives them little tastes and laughs blissfully at their reaction while his hands make lithe, precise movements across strings.

Their next song, Allman Brothers "Hypnotized," turns the mood from dance to drone. Whole note harmonies from the two guitars epically escalate and reverberate against the walls of Dana. Bodies brought to the trance-like state of the song sway, bounce, or stand immobile.

12:27 p.m.

A shy Jenne Sluder, lead singer for Waiting For January, who sat alone most of the night, approaches the stage and drops all reservation. Though the sound system, at times, leaves the audience struggling to decipher the words, the emotions in her face and tone articulate the temper of the songs, brooded in sadness, passion, and mystery. Mary-Eleanor Joyce, Asa Archer, Andy



I'll bet Geordie Woods, drummer for Little Brother and the Spoiled Siblings, sure knows how to keep a rhythm. (Wink, wink.)

LYNDSAY ELIAS

ence. Tim Lafollette's band sets up their wares composed of stuffed animals, a blow-up tulip, and a worn umbrella.

9:43 p.m.

"I had me a girl from North Carolina, she is still on my mind....a." Tim croons a Tom Waites cover accompanied by an acoustic guitar into a front stage mike. Geordie Woods on drums, Ted Fetter on keyboard, and Eric Mann on guitar enter the main stage. The band is bedecked in shorts, knee high striped 80's socks, and T's and proceeds to play original pieces reminiscent of Tim's friends, memories, and fears in the past 4 years. Tim's fascinating stage presence ignites with his rote recitation of a scene from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, with almost perfect impersonation of Splinter the rat, and his glorious tribute, in song, to Jesse, present and held atop someone's shoulders, cheering and singing along 3 feet from the stage.

10:22 p.m.

Outside the side door of Dana, five people stand around smoking butts. Through a window into a classroom, fluorescent bulbs outline the forcefully gesticulated movements of a man practicing for his turn on stage, his body reacting to his muted words. The rhythmic nature of his expressions permeate through the jostling of voices

in the style of popular MC's, emitting lyrics that boast of "mad skills" and raps displaying his use of the medium to deal with personal feeling and circumstances.

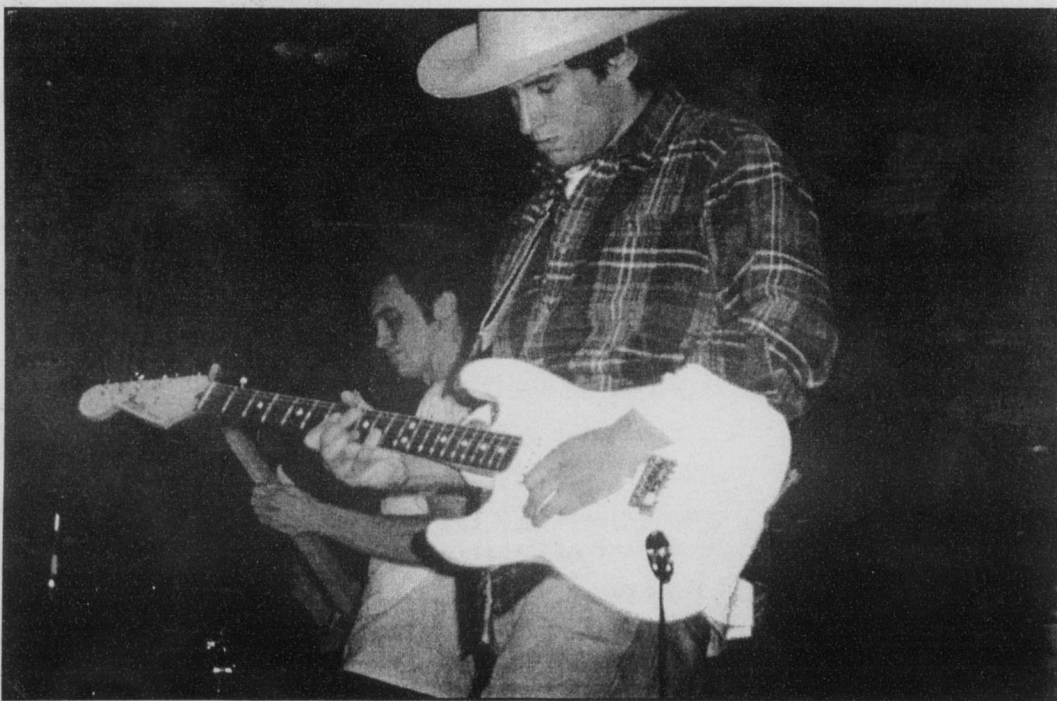
11:16 p.m.

Dave and three helpful bodies drag his drum-set forward. The announcers, eager to perform, scramble on stage and fill the role of clowns in the ever-intoxicating circus.

11:34 p.m.

Everything changes. Dehydrated bodies burst into flames, ignited by the deep soulful rhythmic pulse of *Herbie Hancock's* "Chameleon" thumped and pierced on layered-back strings. In the balcony, silhouetted dancers arch through empty space filled with feeling, their bodies spinning and throbbing, their arms curving and diving to the suddenly wonderfully tangible feeling of Cousin Jimmy.

Nothing



Ben Many, guitarist for Cousin Jimmy, is the epitome of Southern rockstar. He knows it too. And how could he not with that spankin' fine cowboy hat on....

LYNDSAY ELIAS