

ARTS

# Local bands to perform at Cat's Cradle's annual Springfest party

By Alex Frew McMillan  
Staff Writer

The University's last all-campus, nonfraternity party will take place Saturday at the Cat's Cradle when 1993's version of Springfest, replete with three

bands and a DJ, takes the stage. Springfest has been a campus staple since the '70s. The party used to take place on Connor Beach outside Connor Residence Hall. Last year, because of rain, the party relocated to the Cat's Cradle, where it

sold out. After the demise of Burnout, Springfest is the only all-campus party outside of Fraternity Court. Such notable musicians as Jimmy Buffett have played at past Springfests. The party is co-sponsored by Henderson Residence College (Winston, Connor and Alexander dorms) and the Residence Hall Association. The proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House in Carrboro, which houses children who are being treated at N.C. Memorial Hospital and their fami-

lies. Peter Berl, who is organizing this year's Springfest, said he hoped to raise \$800 for the charity, which is holding a challenge grant from March 15 to June 15. Any money raised during that period will be matched by a grant from Ronald McDonald's Children's Charities. The show will open at 8 p.m. with DJ Joe Bunn spinning an hour of early '80s tunes. Bunn will make way for the Atlanta-based Catfish Jenkins, who are a Southern '90s rock band in the Spin Doctors mode. Local cover band The

Stegmonds step up to the mike next, playing classic rock, and, following a repeat appearance by DJ Joe Bunn, reggae band Seventh Tribe will round out the program. The party should end at 2 a.m. "Springfest is the last all-campus party that's not a frat party," said Berl, a junior from Knoxville, Tenn. "We're not catering to a specific group on campus — all people are welcome. We just want people to come dance and have a good time." Berl said he hoped the diverse musi-

cal content of the show would encourage people to come. He said that Johnny Quest had been scheduled as the original headline band but that the band would not be playing because they had been in a car accident. Tickets will be on sale in the Pit today and Friday. A T-shirt and ticket cost \$10 in the Pit, and tickets will be \$3 (but no T-shirt) at the door. Berl said 300 of the 500 tickets had already been sold, so get them quick. Call the Cat's Cradle, located at 206 W. Franklin St., at 967-9053 for details.

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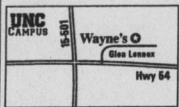


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## Pridgen

were made on Pridgen's life before he arrived, and several callers threatened him on the air, he said. "Jacksonville is a bigot town," he said. "People attacked the advertisers on the show. This man slapped this woman who was working (at a Jiffy Lube) because her company had this commercial. That's just stupid." Pridgen said he thought the hostility he had experienced was based on misconceptions. "Every straight man thinks there's a gay man after him," he said. "There are too many cute gay men in the world. I just don't understand. We do have careers. We do have interests. We aren't in the sack 24 hours a day. It's time for us all to come together without judging. I don't ask for approval of my lifestyle, I just ask for acceptance." Pridgen compared his beating to the Tailhook scandal, in which naval officers were accused of sexually harassing and assaulting women at a weekend convention. "This Tailhook's not going to go away. I'm going to do everything in my power to make sure that they no

longer wear our country's uniform." Pridgen said the three Marines who attacked him were angry about President Bill Clinton's policy of lifting the military ban on homosexuals. The men were shouting, "Clinton will pay. All you faggots will die," he said. "There was a sense of helplessness," he said. "There was a point where I thought I was gone. Where the fear stopped was when I decided to stand up and say 'I'm not going to take it.'" "I've received letters from hundreds of people across the country asking me to stand up for their rights because they can't, because they're afraid of losing their jobs or of ridicule," he said. "When we look back at 1963, what the blacks were going through is what we're going through." Pridgen made a trip to Washington shortly after his beating to meet with representatives and other federal offi-

cers, including Pentagon officers. He said he had been denied meetings with U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and U.S. Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C. "We've got to push in North Carolina to make sure that Senator Helms and Senator Faircloth are no longer in office," he said. "Helms' day has come, and it's going to be the next election. It's not going to be just North Carolina. It's going to be 49 states of gay people down here campaigning." Pridgen also said homosexual-rights advocates should present their grievances to representatives who had not yet taken a stance on the issue. "There are a lot of people in Congress who don't know which way they're going to be swaying on this," he said. "Those are the people we need to be working on. People who have already made up their minds, we're just wasting time on." Pridgen said that although some ho-

mosexuals were upset with Clinton for the six-month waiting period he imposed on efforts to lift the military ban, he felt the president was supportive of gay and lesbian rights. "He could have very easily... signed an executive order on the ban," Pridgen said. "Congress could have turned it down and he could have said 'Well, I tried.'" Although Pridgen said he had not met with Clinton, the president arranged for his Pentagon meeting, the first such meeting to involve homosexual issues. He also said he had received a letter from Clinton. "He said that... he was going to stand behind us 100 percent." He said his family had been supportive, though they had faced attempts by his attackers' lawyers to "dig up" information to use against him. "Nobody can take away the love I and my family have for each other," he said. "They can try, but we're going to stay together."

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## Meeting

bers' questions, Manning said she was happy with the outcome of the meeting. "I think overall, it was general approval, but they had a lot of questions we hadn't considered at all," Manning

said. "I still think it's a mandate for the proposal to go forward." The same resolution went before Student Congress at their Wednesday night meeting. Student Congress members

voted 13 to 6 Wednesday night to endorse an amended version of the resolution. Manning said the coalition was not responding to the case of UNC track star Reggie Harris who pleaded no contest and was convicted of second-degree attempted rape last month. Harris was removed from the track team but was allowed to remain enrolled at the University.

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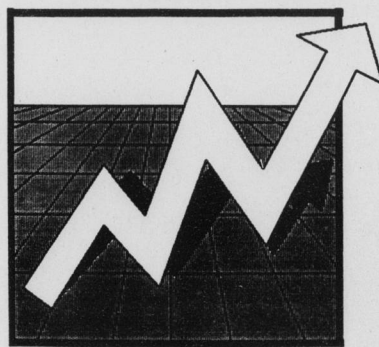
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