

# The Boss

**Bruce Springsteen will rock 'n' roll for Carolina fans during his tour**

By GEOFFREY MOCK

**B**Y almost complete popular and critical acclaim, the event in American rock in 1980 was the nationwide tour by Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band. Tickets to the sell-out tour were snatched up as soon as they were on sale, baffling critics as to why after 2½ years of isolation from the public eye Springsteen has emerged as one of the most popular figures in American music.

After years of having his popularity limited to the urban northeast, Springsteen's most recent album, *The River*, turned the entire nation on to his fresh revival of old rock and roll themes, climbing to the top of the charts within weeks of its release.

## Profile

It took several months for Springsteen's tour to come to the North Carolina area, but Tar Heel fans are now treated to three area concerts, the closest being Saturday in Greensboro Coliseum.

Springsteen has usually avoided North Carolina in his tours and the popularity of the Greensboro show, which sold out in a day, surprised Coliseum officials.

"We really weren't expecting it," said John Bryson of Greensboro Coliseum. "He's never played here before. The line started Friday and the tickets didn't go on sale until Monday morning, but a person from Chapel Hill took it upon himself to make a list and have people sign it so Monday when they came back all was fine. We had two policemen at the door letting in 15 to 20 people at a time and everything went smoothly."

When the tickets for the Greensboro show went on sale over a month ago, some Carolina students arrived at the ticket booth days in advance to insure a good seat.

"Just to be allowed to see the show makes it worthwhile," said Jay Joyce, a junior from High Point. "I went over on Sunday. Any seat is great just to see Bruce Springsteen. It may be the best concert they'll ever have here."

"I am a Springsteen fanatic," said Eva Kambot, a junior from Springsteen's home town of Freehold, N.J. "I expect to hear four hours of really good music. I've been looking forward to it for a long time."

Ironically, the tours' success has in turn resulted in serious problems. Many fans wishing to see shows have not been able to find tickets. Springsteen's four show stint at New York's Madison Square Garden brought in over a quarter of a million ticket requests, most of which could not be filled.

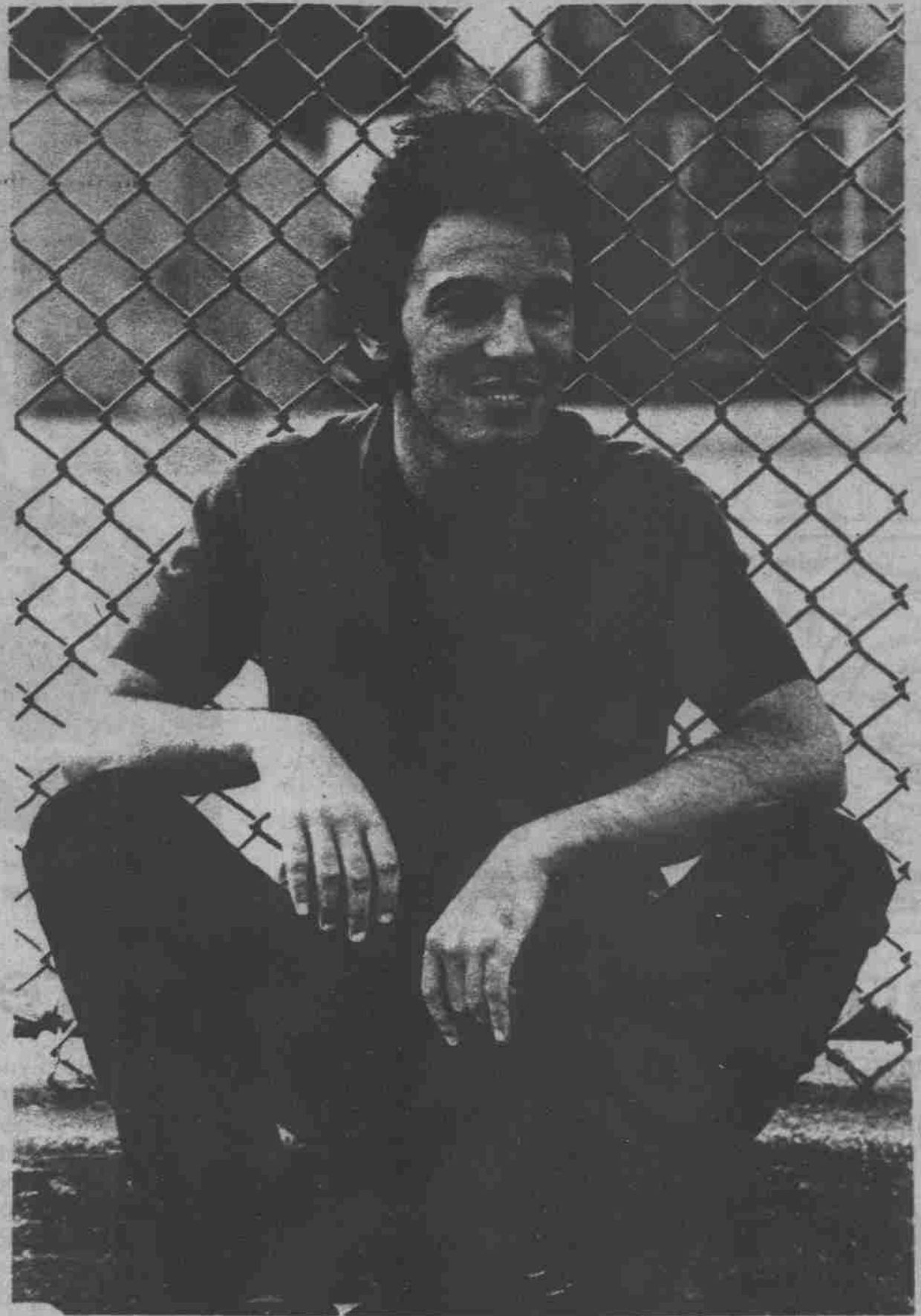
With demand far above the limited supply of tickets, the tour has become a scalper's dream. One ticket for a Los Angeles show sold for \$200.

Bryson said precautions had been taken against scalping at Greensboro and that he foresaw few problems. "We abided by the promoters' wishes and set no ticket limit," he said.

But we took the address of those who bought 20 tickets or more and they might run into problems if they do scalp.

Nevertheless, tickets were immediately available on campus for prices well above the \$11.50 list. "I had a friend who bought a ticket for \$35," Kambot said. "But in New Jersey tickets were going for over a hundred dollars so \$35 isn't bad by those standards."

"Personally, I'm outraged that they



**Bruce Springsteen is coming to Greensboro ... he brings his revival of rock and roll Saturday**

didn't put a limit on tickets at Greensboro," said Bill Turner, a senior from Winston-Salem. "When someone buys over a hundred tickets you know he's not going with that many people."

Those who do have tickets are

already preparing themselves for what they expect will be one of the year's highlights and to see whether Bruce Springsteen really is the Boss.

*Geoffrey Mock is assistant sports editor for The Daily Tar Heel.*

## Mel Blanc brings his voices to UNC

By ANN PETERS

**S**ATURDAY mornings just wouldn't be the same if Mel Blanc's voice didn't breathe life into cartoon characters like Tweetie-Pie, Porky Pig and Bugs Bunny. These little animated animals all are his personal friends.

UNC will be the 108th college Blanc has spoken at in two years. "I speak on the creation of voices," Blanc said in a telephone interview last week. "I use slides to tell how each is created and how I created these crazy little voices."

"Once you create a character, you never forget it. I love my work so much, I can never retire."

In a career covering four decades, he has invented nearly 400 characters.

Blanc floats easily into his cartoon voices while explaining how they were created. "Bugs was a tough little stinker," Blanc said. Blanc decided that the voice should have either a Brooklyn or Bronx tinge to it. "So I put the two different voices together."

"What I used to do was to think how would the character talk if he could," he said.

Blanc said he would go around talking in his cartoon characters. "People would think I'm nuts," he said.

Blanc described Porky as a little timid pig, Tweetie as a little bird, and Sylvester as a big sloppy cat. His voices tend to create these images.

Among Blanc's other voices: Barney Rubble, Captain Caveman, Speed Buggy, Dino the Dinosaur, Yosemite Sam and Pepe le Pew.

"I always loved dialects and comedy," Blanc said.

In his early days, Blanc said, he went back to one studio quite often looking for a job. He finally got his break after 2½ years.

Blanc's first cartoon creation was the voice of a drunken bull. Porky Pig, created in 1937, was Blanc's first major characterization for Warner Brothers' Looney tunes. Bugs Bunny followed in 1938.

"Many times children and adults will come up and say, 'Hey, say something,'" Blanc said. "I love to meet people. I love my work."

Since his early days, Blanc has progressed further than just creating voices for animated cartoons. Blanc Communications Corporation, for example, creates radio instructions for the armed forces, using the voices of the cartoon characters, as well as voices of stars, such as Kirk Douglas.

Also Blanc and his son, Noel, have an antique watch collection. "I have a German watch dating back to 1510. It is possibly the first watch ever made. Mine is more of an evolutionary collection while Noel's is of unusual watches."

I asked Blanc what advice he could give to a novice who wanted to follow in his path.

"You have to be creative," Blanc said. "Think of some voice that is unusual. I like to create instead of imitate. 'I'm always doing one thing or another. I'm kept busy night and day.'"

Blanc will be at Memorial Hall tonight at 8. Tickets are \$1 for students and \$2 for the general public.

*Ann Peters is editor of the Weekender.*



Mel Blanc's numerous voice creations