

# Band's music reaches beyond home ground

By SHELLEY BLOCK

Chapel Hill is home for approximately 20,000 UNC students, 15,000 residents and five talented musicians.

Better known collectively as "Steps," Tony Bowman — keyboard player, Jeff Campbell — guitarist and vocalist, Greg Darden — bass player and vocalist, Morgan Davis — drummer, and Carter Minor — lead singer and harmonica player, were all born and raised in Chapel Hill.

After graduating from Chapel Hill High School, the five scattered themselves across the country pursuing college degrees. After returning in May, 1980, they combined their talents to form "Steps."

"Steps" is mainly a regional band, playing mostly in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. They have appeared in North Carolina at Elliot's Nest and Jasper's in Chapel Hill, 2001 V.I.P. in Charlotte and Yawl's Tavern in Beaufort.

Members of the band said their careers had been helped by Steve Gronback, owner of TGS Studios in Chapel Hill, Tim Hildebrandt, assistant manager at TGS and sound technician and part-time manager for "Steps," and Tom Merkel, lighting technician and road manager for the band.

"Steps" is currently finishing their first recording project at TGS. After this, they are going to concentrate on expanding their scope of performances to more states along the eastern seaboard and possibly other places across the country.

"I'm very excited about the band's future. We are headed for good things," Darden said. "There's really good chemistry between us."

But for now, "Steps" is enjoying playing in and around Chapel Hill. They just recently appeared at a party sponsored by Morrison,

Granville and Hinton-James dorms at The Tin Can and, along with "The Drifters," performed at the Phi Delta Chi fraternity house to help raise money for Cystic Fibrosis.

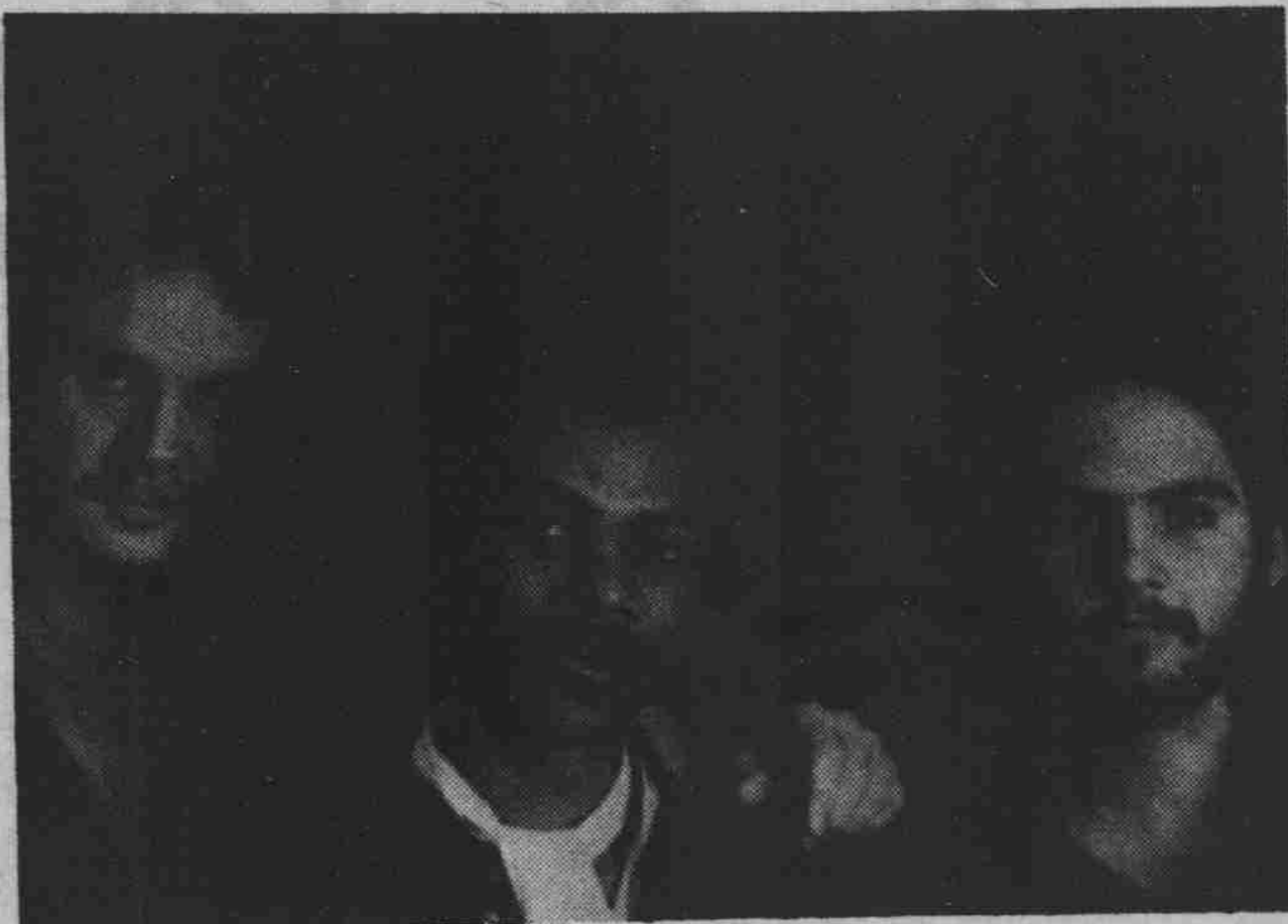
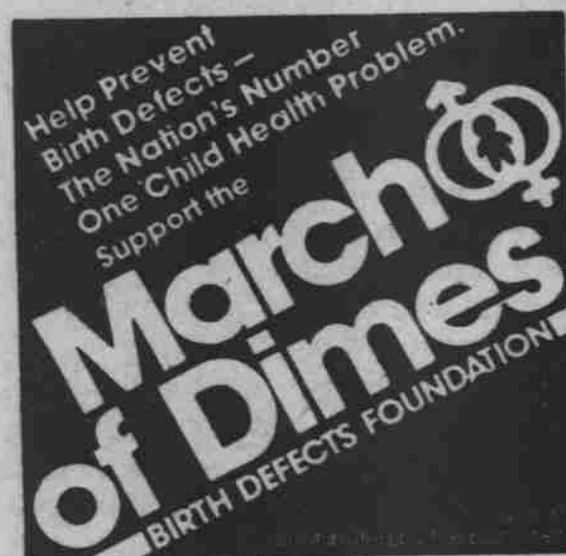
"Steps" enjoys playing in Chapel Hill. "This is our stomping ground. We've grown up playing for UNC students," said Bowman.

"Steps" plays what it's members consider just plain dancing music, music that makes people feel good. They are especially proud of their original music which they hope their audiences have begun to appreciate. They want to touch as many people as they possibly can with their music.

The members of "Steps" have set many goals for themselves. These goals seem to center around one dream; "We want to make a significant contribution to commercial music and not just pass through unnoticed," Bowman said.

They will be appearing at Purdy's on Franklin Street on Wednesday, September 16 at 9:00. S

Shelley Block is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



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Spotlight, September 10, 1981