

The Daily Tar Heel

# Weekend

Take a peak behind the scenes at PRC's *Life on the Mississippi* on pages 6 and 7

## Local musicians headline jazz jam

By FRANK BRUNI

Distinguished jazz musicians will visit Carolina's campus on Sunday, Sept. 19, under the banner of "Jazz for the Fun of It."

The second annual Carolina Jazz Festival, sponsored by the Carolina Union, offers an entire afternoon of jazz performed by some 30 of the area's leading musicians. The free program will run from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Pit. Headlining the jazz jam are keyboardist "Brother Yusuf" Salim, vocalist and guitarist Bus Brown, and steel drum percussionist Mickey Mills. All three boast impressive experience as professional musicians and have made Durham and the Triangle Area the base for their musical endeavors.

Other performers joining Yusuf, Brown and Mills for Sunday's program are the Wilmington Three, a jazz ensemble showcasing the talents of alto saxophonist Rod Thomas, Jr.; The Moon Brothers, a group featuring the sounds of reed instruments and fleshing out the vocals of Duke divinity student Connie Prince; Ray Codrington, a trumpet player who resides in Fayetteville; Al Doctor, a Greensboro based tenor saxophonist; Earl "Goldfinger" Wilson, an acoustic guitarist who left his native Baltimore to make a home in Raleigh; and Miguel Pomier, a percussionist originally

from Cuba. All of the performers, with the exception of Pomier, appeared on campus last year for the first incarnation of this jazz jam.

These musicians will bring with them various back-up players and will each play for approximately 30 minutes. The structure and schedule of the program is flexible, said concert coordinator Larry Thomas.

Larry Thomas, a WDBS disc jockey, is one of the principal organizers of musical events connected with the Triangle Jazz Forum, a group of North Carolina jazz musicians and fans who are concerned with spreading the magic of jazz throughout the state. Musicians like Yusuf, Brown, and Mills would like to make Durham the center of jazz for North Carolina. Thomas sees no reason why this is not possible. He notes the large population of college students in the Triangle Area is conducive for jazz.

If the impressive lineup of jazz musicians for Sunday's program is any indication of the Triangle Jazz Forum's progress thus far, this group of jazz connoisseurs is taking successful strides toward accomplishing their purpose. At the core of this success lie the efforts of Sunday's three most renowned musicians—Brother Yusuf Salim, Bus Brown, and Mickey Mills.

Salim, originally from Baltimore, started the jazz

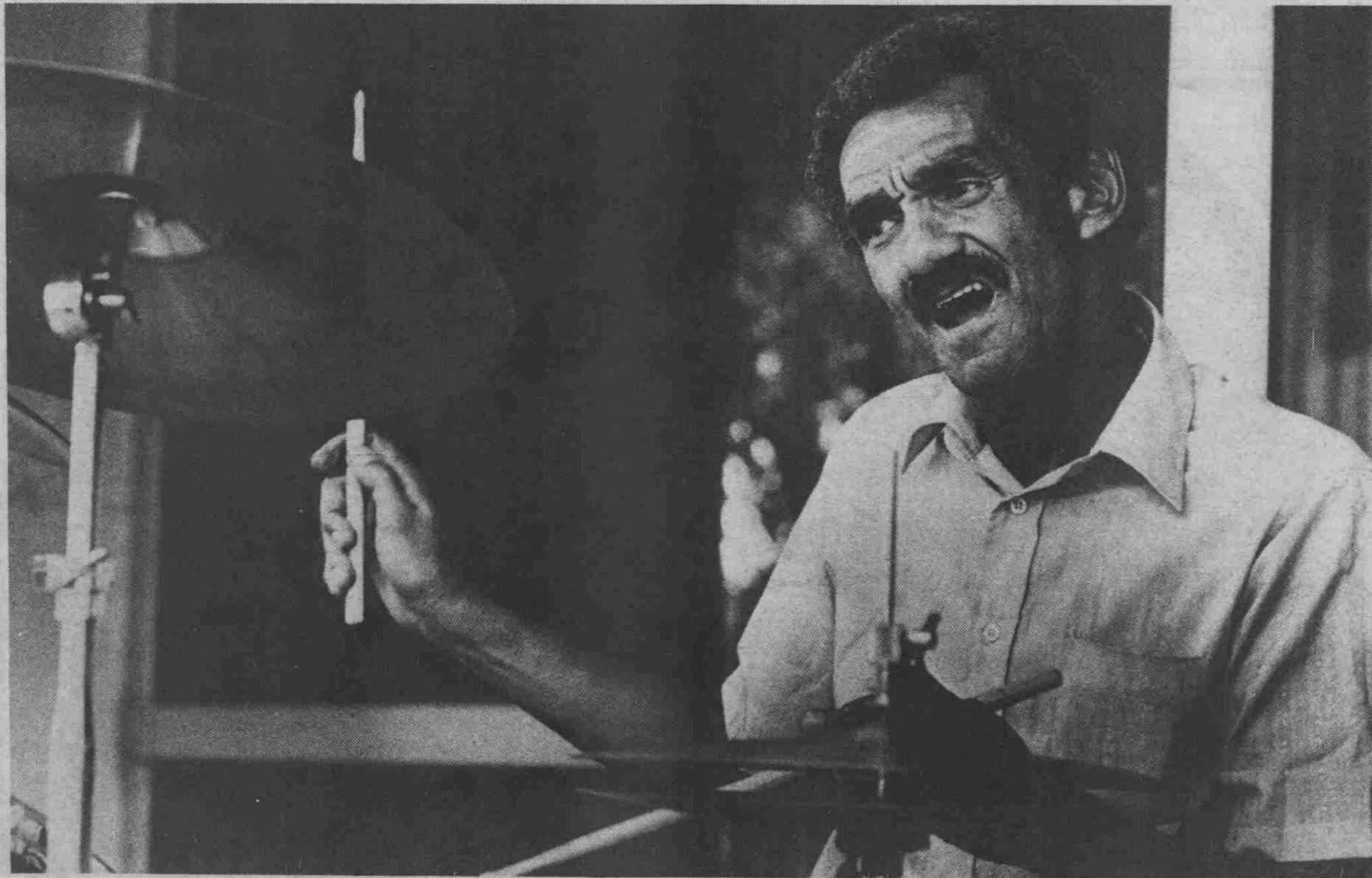
renaissance in North Carolina when he moved to Durham in 1974. By that time, the professional career he had begun at age 17 included work with such jazz greats as Charlie Parker, Sammy Davis Jr., and Johnny Mathis. His Carolina career, and the tremendous growth of area jazz which ensued, took off when WUNC-TV aired the jazz music series *Yusuf and Friends*.

Bus Brown came to Durham to collaborate with Salim on that series then decided to stay. Like Salim, the septogenarian has played guitar with many jazz greats, including Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, and Charlie Parker. He also knew Billie Holiday well, and claims the Diana Ross film of Holiday's life, *Lady Sings the Blues*, derived its title from a composition of his own.

Brown's concern for the growth of jazz and its appreciation has inspired his efforts to create both a workshop for young talent through the Sallam Cultural Center and a booking agency for jazz talents in Durham.

On Sunday, Brown will perform with singer Frankie Alexander, an alumnus of Chapel Hill and a radio announcer for WDBS radio.

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Drumming it up at Jazz Festival