

'Public' to perform concert

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Arts Editor

Once upon a time, there were some guys from the English industrial town of Birmingham who formed a band known as the English Beat (or, to their countrymen, simply the Beat). Their messages were political, and their sound fell somewhere between ska, reggae, and mainstream English dance music. They enjoyed success both in their homeland and, to a lesser extent, across the Atlantic.

However, all good things must come to an end, and the Beat was no exception. After the band's breakup, Beat frontmen Dave Wakeling and Ranking Roger formed General Public, a group which will make its first Chapel Hill appearance Saturday night in a concert sponsored by the Carolina Union and Cellar Door.

The English Beat grew out of the British "two tone" movement, and General Public has preserved this heritage by remaining a multi-racial band. Music by both groups incorporates elements of reggae and the unique Jamaican brand of rapping known as toast-

ing. Not content to merely rap about birds in coconut trees, toastmaster Roger raps about things such as the insanity of jingoism and the inadequacies of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's conservative government.

In addition to Wakeling and Roger, General Public includes keyboardist Mickey Billingham and bassist Horace Panter. New to the group on this tour are guitarist Gianni Minardi and drummer Mario Minardi. The addition of these two Californians makes General Public one-third American, a nationality difference that should change the group's flavor.

General Public introduced itself to the general public in 1984 with its debut album "... all the rage" and the single "Tenderness." Like the Beat albums — the debut "I Just Can't Stop It," the blatantly political "Wha'ppen?," and the sophisticated "Special Beat Service" — "... all the rage" has a quirkiness enhanced by a Caribbean sound. The group's second album, "Hand to Mouth," has

just been released this month.

Political statements have not disappeared from Wakeling and Roger's music; they have just become more subtle. General Public's material lacks the boldness of such Beat songs as the bitter "Stand Down Margaret" (an open attack on Thatcher which was eventually banned by the BBC) and the sarcastic "Get a Job," which was released to a British public plagued by extremely high unemployment. "... all the rage" does contain tunes like "Burning Bright," which lashes out at political persecution, but many of the songs deal instead with sexual and interpersonal politics.

"Hand to Mouth" was recorded this past summer in Birmingham after a brief U.S. tour last December. General Public's current American tour will continue through this Christmas.

General Public will perform Saturday at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

Greek groups parade spirit

By MARIA HAREN
Staff Writer

What's a homecoming parade without floats? You know the ones — decorated with banners, colorful flowers, pretty girls, streamers and wolves.

Wolves? Well, when the homecoming game at UNC is against N.C. State, the wolves are bound to come out. And they will on the float of Zeta Tau Epsilon sorority and Kappa Sigma fraternity, two of four Greek organizations submitting floats for Friday's Homecoming parade.

Their float, a trailer truck covered with chicken wire, wood, banners, colored tissue paper and paper flowers, will form a dart board and a ram, said Barbara Booe, ZTA float coordinator.

The 8-foot dart board will have a wolf's head for the bull's-eye, she said, and the ram will aim a dart at it.

The Kappa Sigmas made the frame for the dart board and the ram. Booe said. Zeta sorority members decorated the board with red and white paper flowers, while the fraternity members decorated the 7-foot ram.

Mitch Fuller, Kappa Sigma float coordinator, said the ram was definitely the hardest of the two wood and wire constructions to build. "It took six to seven hours to make it," he said. "We stayed up a whole Saturday night."

Booe said the sorority and fraternity decorated the ram and board separately and then surprised each other. "I think this is what fraternities and sororities are all about," she said. "It really brings them closer together."

Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity are also submitting a float for the Homecoming parade.

Half of a wolf's body, surrounded by arms and legs atop their float, entitled "Dismember Them," said Stan Hardesty, of Lambda Chi Alpha.

A cardboard replica of Kenan Stadium and indoor-outdoor carpet painted as a football field will also be on the float, he said. A person dressed as a football player will be on the "field" with a chainsaw. Hardesty said.

He said he would like the traditional Homecoming to regain popularity. "This shows that the Greek



Paula Vallas works on the Zeta Tau Alpha-Kappa Sigma float

system has really gotten into the traditional-type homecoming," he said.

Ray Fields, of Lambda Chi, said making the float would be an all-night project. "It's a good way to show spirit for the campus," Fields said.

Shawn Keller, of Kappa Alpha Theta, said the Homecoming parade gave her sorority a chance to get involved and show their spirit.

Some fraternities and sororities are showing their Homecoming spirit in other ways, although they have not submitted floats.

Delta Upsilon fraternity will sponsor Jeff Taylor, Mr. UNC, and several cheerleaders riding in the parade, said a fraternity member.

Pi Beta Phi sorority will be represented by a golf cart which they

decorated, a sorority member said.

Other Greeks are not represented in the parade for a variety of reasons. One Kappa Delta sorority member said her sorority just did not seem to have any enthusiasm about building a float.

"There was just not enough interest," she said. "If we said we'd do it, we were afraid no one would show up to help out."

Fuller said many people did not participate in the parade because of apathy. "A lot of people don't have the time, and they have an apathetic attitude," he said. "It's really more fun than it seems."

A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority said her sisters did not have time to construct a float, while a Pi Kappa Phi fraternity member said he never knew about submitting floats for the parade.

"We've just never done one before," he said.

Producers to play at Delta Upsilon

By ALEXANDRA MANN
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill has never been very good at slowing down, and to add to everything going on this Homecoming weekend, the Producers will be at the Delta Upsilon house Friday night with everything we have come to expect from them and more.

"The shows we're doing now have a lot of material from the third album 'Run For Your Life,'" says Tim Smith, bass player and youngest member of the band. "We've also started putting in four or five songs at the end that are really new, stuff we've just written, some of which may still be in the working-out stage."

The band has recently entered a stage of pretty serious writing, primarily to get new material

together for an album in the near future, but also to get them off the road, says Smith.

Other new developments include the fact that one of the Producers' songs from the last album ("Can't Cry Anymore") is being re-mixed by Kansas for their next album.

"We're pretty happy about that," Smith says, "because it might open some doors for us as far as our credibility as song writers goes."

The responsibility of writing songs for the band does not fall upon just one member. It's more of a collective effort, usually starting with a melody and adding the lyrics. Smith notes, however, that a large part of the music comes from Van Temple, lead vocalist and guitarist.

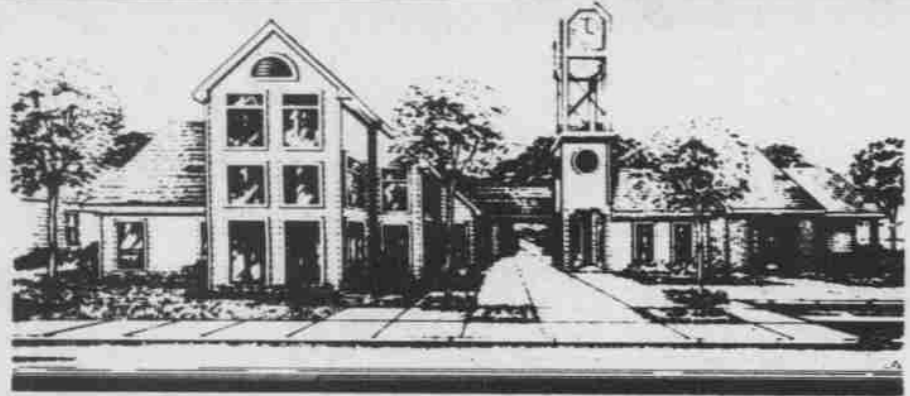
"We just wrote a new song the other day that's pretty XTC-influenced, and we're all really

excited about going in that direction," Smith says. "We do, however, want our stuff to be accessible enough so that it will get on popular radio."

Up until now, though, radio hasn't done the Producers the justice they deserve because, really, they are good. When "Run For Your Life" came out last year, the single "Depending On You" was released to over 100 stations across the country, and they even had a video in rotation on MTV for two months. So with all this exposure and talent, why are they still playing fraternity parties?

"In a lot of ways it's more exciting because, now that the drinking age has gone up, the people in clubs are a lot older, and this gives us the opportunity to play to a younger crowd," Smith says. "If people want us, we'll go."

The Producers and Sparkplugs will perform tonight at 8 p.m. at the Delta Upsilon house.



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