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# R.E.M. hyped-up for concert

R.E.M.'s concert at Duke Saturday night in front of a sold-out crowd of 5,300 disproved Rolling Stone's suggestion that the band is becoming unmotivated. Lead singer Michael Stipe was out of control the entire night, as his band, along with longtime friend Mitch Easter's band, celebrated a birthday and a return to the South.

Easter and his band Let's Active were warmly received when they opened the show. The group played numerous songs off Big Plans for Everybody including "Talking to Myself" and "Writing the Book of Last Pages." Towards the end of the set, R.E.M.ers Peter Buck, with his guitar, and Mike Mills, with a tambourine, came on to play a couple of songs. Let's Active, Buck and Mills returned to play an encore, but the crowd was disappointed they did not appear for a second.

The Let's Active set was good, but the shows at Cat's Cradle in early October were more personal and enjoyable.

When the black curtains were pulled and R.E.M. appeared on

### **James Burrus** Concert

stage and cranked into "These Days," everyone knew the show would be hot. Stipe, dressed in allblack garb, staggered all over the stage clutching his microphone.

The band played most of the songs on Life's Rich Pageant and tossed in a healthy dose of songs from Fables of the Reconstruction and Reckoning.

Stipe was really revved for the show. He stumbled about the stage, shadow boxed and even got a little patriotic. At the end of "Little America," Stipe shouted out "One nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Without a doubt, though, the best song of the night was not even sung by Stipe. When bass guitarist Mills moved to the center of the stage, everyone knew it was time for "Superman." The crowd gladly joined in to provide backing vocals.

The momentum did not stop, however, as the band kicked through the first encore with three songs off the new L.P.: "Fall on Me," "Cuyahoga" and "Begin the Begin."

For the second encore, R.E.M. brought Easter onstage to sing "Happy Birthday" to him. Stipe, obviously feeling the recent resurgence of Boss mania, slung his guitar over his shoulder and sang "Born to Run."

The concert ended when Stipe dove into a sea of people. Retrieved by a couple of roadies, he broke free and jumped once more headfirst into the crowd. Finally surfacing with a ripped T-shirt, he staggered off stage with the help of a roadie.

The band has already received lots of press for their unusual stage and light show. Walls behind the band had windows from which lights shone. Images were projected on the wall directly behind the band during the concert. Most of time the images were fuzzy and hard to distinguish from the side balconies, but it was still an innovative idea.

The Athens, Ga., band also played

some new material. "Firehouse" was not very exciting, but "This Goes Out to the One I Love" was a unique twist, since Stipe has generally avoided the love theme.

The environmental organization Greenpeace, which R.E.M. has supported for years, was at the concert selling posters and memberships at the light control console.

After the Duke concert, Buck, Mills and drummer Bill Berry made an appearance at Cat's Cradle to hear another Athens band, Dreams So Real. Buck produced the group's album and came on stage to play four songs with the band, said Richard Fox, part owner of the music club.

Even though R.E.M. has reached new heights of success, it still remains sincere in terms of loyalty to its fans and to its music. Though some have said these supermen have sold themselves out, all they were really doing was selling out college venues across the country by reaching for heights even gravity cannot pull down.



R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe sings Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run"

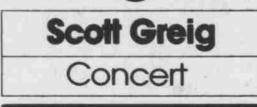
### Travis takes magic back home

"It's great to be back!"

With those five words, Country Music Association (CMA) Horizon Award winner Randy Travis took the stage in Charlotte Saturday for the first time in five years.

Family, friends and fans packed a sold-out Charlotte Coliseum, on what Mayor Harvey Gantt officially proclaimed to be "Randy Travis Day," to hear their hometown hero work his "traditional country" magic. Even though he wasn't the headline act, he was treated like it.

A Marshville native, Travis returned to Charlotte as part of a three-act concert including Kathy Matea and George Jones.



stage presence left something to be desired, Travis's selection of songs didn't disappoint anyone.

His debut album, Storms of Life, is full of songs written for singing in small places, the kind of spots where Travis says he truly loves to perform. His control of the crowd was 100 percent better when he played at Plato's Crash Landing in Greensboro this summer. Involving over 10,000 concert-goers in an act is much more difficult than involving 150 fans, the size of crowd Travis is used to. But, if he continues to tour with big name performers like Jones, his work should improve in no time at all. He did have the crowd completely wrapped in his performance when he sang his hit single, "On the Other Hand," which was voted Song of the Year by the CMA. Every female in the house screamed during most of the song, and Travis's boyish appearance and ever-present grin brought only more approval.

210 Hanes.

All Travis has to do to make anyone realize he's all country is sing. A 27-year-old with the voice of a 50year-old, he is just the sort of deepvoiced crooner that pervades juke boxes everywhere. Travis tunes like "Reasons I Cheat" and recently released single "No Place Like Home" smack of classic Jones, Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Sr. His carefully controlled baritone voice quietly reveals the emotions he sings about without overdoing it.

With only one album out, his pool of material is small, so Travis departed from his own stuff and sang a medley of Williams Sr. tunes along with country concert standard "An

## Clefs weave fun fantasy

Friday night's Clef Hangers concert in Memorial Hall was silly, light-spirited and full of fantasy - everything that makes you think of being a child again.

In front of the auditorium packed with 1,700 people, the dozen talented men sang old favorites like "Somebody Steal My Gal" and "When I Fall in Love," rolled through '60s melodies "Blue Moon" and "I Get Around" and bolted out some Billy Joel tunes. A bit of rap, a bit of solemnity and more than a speck of humor added up to



Organized 10 years ago, the Clefs are still doing their usual thing - clowning around and putting out good music.

Ballads and serious songs are their forte. "Time After Time" (John Donne's words set to a tune written by a friend of the Clefs) and "Blue Moon" are perfect examples. Despite a few minor rhythm and tuning problems, the Clefs were thoroughly entertaining during their fast-paced songs. It was obvious that all 12 were "Hooked on a Feeling," as they clapped and grooved to the piece. Some songs, like "Somebody Steal My Gal," were funny in themselves. Others that were not intrinsically funny were made so by the Clefs' slap-stick humor. Jokes were so impromptu that sometimes the members themselves didn't know when humor

somewhat baffled audience as two other Clefs pushed food carts down the aisles and two more showed the audience how to properly exit the plane, don gas masks and use their seat cushions as flotation devices.

"Fasten your seat belts," Venable said. "Extinguish all smoking materials and crying babies, because, ladies and gentlemen, the time has come for 12 Clef Hangers to get around."

The Clefs then roared into a sparkling rendition of (guess what?) "I Get Around."

Travis is the greatest new star in a movement toward Nashville's "back-to-basics" country music that includes performers like George Strait, Ricky Skaggs and Reba McEntire.

While Travis had support from the crowd the entire evening, his inexperience on stage was apparent. This is the first big tour for Travis, who might have been nervous about performing alongside Jones, one of his heroes. Travis has spent his previous touring time in small honky-tonks and bars. Although his

10 a.m.

1 p.m.

American Trilogy." They were arguably the best songs of the evening.

Like most up-and-coming entertainers, Travis had dreams, but they weren't dreams of riches, fame and fortune. No, Travis said he just wanted an opportunity to play on the Grand Ole Opry - now that's traditional country.

Just give him time on the road to hone his act for large audiences, and the accolades for "the kid from Marshville" will pour in.

speaking about minority

involvement in their

groups. It will be in the

The Current Issues Com-

mittee is sponsoring a

lecture by Dr. Benjamin

Spock, M.D., on whether

we can "avoid nuclear

annihilation for ourselves

and our children" in

tian Athletes will meet in

Kenan Field House for

Memorial Hall.

8:30 p.m. The Fellowship of Chris-

Fellowship Night.

**Hems of Interest** 

Yackety Yack yearbooks will be on

The Yackety Yack is offering free

portrait sittings through Nov. 19. Call

962-3912 or drop by 106 Union to

sale for \$21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

through Nov. 21 in the Pit.

schedule an appointment.

South Campus Union.

8 p.m.

**Campus Calendar** 4 p.m. The Women's Lacrosse Club will practice at Finley Field. All welcome. **Granville Towers Student** 5 p.m. Monday Congress will hold a mandatory meeting of candidates for the vacant seat in N.C. Memorial Hospital the South Gallery of the voluteers, AED, and APO Union. are sponsoring a bloodmo-Career Planning and 6 p.m. bile in the Union until 3 **Placement Services** will p.m. have a presentation by The Health Sciences Irving Trust Co. in North Library is offering BRS/ Parlor of the Carolina Inn. Saunders Colleague Intro-The Order of the Bell 7 p.m. ductory Training in a two-Tower will meet. Check the hour session to introduce Union board for details. students to a menu-driven Career Planning and system that allows students Placement Services will to search national data host a presentation by bases and use Medical Lord and Taylor in the Subject Headlines. Pre-Carolina Inn Ballroom. registration required. 3:30 p.m. Career Planning and Union. **Placement Services** will

Circle K will meet in 210 The Black Student Movement will have a freshman forum with representatives from student organizations

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a concert that no one could resist loving.

The performance opened with a blank white screen, three microphones and a black curtain on stage. As the lights dimmed, the image of a closed elevator was projected onto the screen. A sexy woman's voice began singing "What's New," and, slide by slide, the elevator opened to add one more Clef Hanger getting dressed for the show. Then, amid a loud crashing sound and red flashing lights, dry ice poured over the stage, the black curtain lifted and out came the Clef Hangers in tuxedos with devilishly red ties and cumberbunds singing "Too Darn Hot."

And that they were. Through all 22 songs, the Clefs managed to blend their 12 voices nicely, barbershop style.

was coming. The Clefs introduced each song with a skit or joke, and, by the second half of the program, had the audience relaxed and ready for, well . . . just about anything. As the audience re-entered after intermission, bass David Venable stood in front of a

Vic Spangler's introduction to "Satin Doll" wasn't quite as flawless. He stumbled through a rap, as human beatbox Jeff Sluder kept pulsing mercilessly.

With a few flaws and small production problems, the Clefs may not always come across as professionals. They do, however, seem to have so much fun at doing what they do that the audience can excuse problems and laugh.

As the concert closed with Clefs and Clef alumni alike singing traditional Tar Heel favorites, including "Carolina Victory" and the Alma Mater, they didn't have to ask the audience for a standing ovation; the crowd was on its feet swaving.

What a tricky way to ask to do "Rubber Ducky" for an encore.





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