

Artists design the 'thing' — a monster paper sculpture

Jerry Moses and fellow graduate student Stephen Portoghesi had an artist's dream.

Ten days ago this dream became a tangible reality. Now it has disappeared into thin air or, more truthfully, into a Dempsey dumpster.

Moses and Portoghesi constructed a gigantic air-filled paper sculpture and hung it in Hanes Art Center. It was displayed for a week, and then the men cut it down Nov. 15.

The sculpture — two huge paper pillows with cones sticking out of them connected by an umbilical cord — was mainly Moses' idea, according to Portoghesi.

But since Moses primarily enjoys

Laura Lance Campus Personality

drawing, sculpture work is a little out of the ordinary. Both the Student Union gallery and the Hanes Art Center have had shows displaying Moses' work, and he is currently displaying a collection of drawings in a Durham gallery.

Moses said he also enjoys working with paper and that he will continue to create paper sculptures, only on a much smaller scale than the project he just finished.

While Moses was an undergraduate at Washington State University, he became interested in working with

plastic to create inflatable sculptures. Someone donated him paper, so he began experimenting with creating sculptures out of it.

In the summer of 1985, he came to Chapel Hill to attend the graduate program at UNC because "the price was right and because I wanted to see a different part of the country," he said. "I chose this school pretty much without any knowledge of the atmosphere and of how the arts are viewed."

Here, he continued his interest in paper sculpture.

The "thing," as Moses and Portoghesi call their recent sculpture, was a collaborative project among 35 students in Moses' beginning drawing class and Portoghesi's basic sculpture class.

Moses' class sketched gestures on the paper used to construct the "thing." "The kids got a little wild and started writing stuff on the paper, which explains all of the graffiti," Moses said.

Portoghesi's class created the net frame for the sculpture and taped the work together, which in itself took a week to do.

They also accepted the help of anyone who walked by and was interested in helping. "By working together, we gave the work a collective identity," Portoghesi said. "This gave people a chance to work on a really big sculpture."

The finished piece was inflated and hung from the ceiling of the Hanes art gallery Nov. 9. It took 10 hours to inflate and hang. Even though the

"thing" was about 12 feet high, 35 feet long and 18 feet wide, Moses guessed it weighed only 50 pounds. "It was a very light and fragile piece," he said.

Both Moses and Portoghesi enjoyed taking the sculpture down almost as much as they enjoyed putting it up. "We climbed inside of the bags and played around," Moses said. "They were sort of like big toys."

"It was a temporary thing, and we knew that when we first started the project," Portoghesi said. "So it wasn't sad to see it go."

While it hung, the sculpture elicited many comments from its lofty place. "I've heard lots of people talking about it in the Student Store and their comments were positive,"

Joe Chino, a graduate art student, said. "I think it's appropriate, exciting and invigorating to any art department."

Senior Jennifer Anderson, a psychology major, had a different opinion. "It's weird. I don't like something if I can't figure out what it's supposed to be."

Senior English major Beth Sisel was neutral. "It's okay," she said. "I think it's pretty interesting."

Portoghesi, 25, critiqued the work. "We're not working with aesthetics here," he said. "The aesthetics involved were much more in the line of getting a community effort together to create a really big sculpture. It's kind of like the work of Christo, the guy who goes around and wraps islands, bridges and stuff."

Scruffy The Cat to bring a 'high octane revival' to the Cradle

By ALEXANDRA MANN
Staff Writer

So you say you want to have fun. You say you want to dance. You say you want to hear some good rock 'n' roll. Then look no farther than Cat's Cradle tonight when Boston's latest underground sensation, Scruffy The Cat, takes the stage for the first time in Chapel Hill.

This five-man band, armed with their first record on a New York independent label, has recently embarked on its first real tour of the eastern half of the United States. Not only that, but the record, *High Octane Revival*, almost immediately occupied the number one spot on the "Rockpool" independent record

chart when it came out two months ago. *Octane* has also received its fair share of airplay on both college and commercial radio stations.

"At this point, I think they're ready to break out of the small club scene," says Michael Krumper, head of publicity for Relativity Records, Scruffy's label. "But they still want to take things one step at a time. The most important thing to them is to play a lot, as much as they can, and that's what they're doing."

As for what Scruffy The Cat sounds like, it's not so easy to say. This, of course, means it does not very easily fall into any category, and it does indeed exhibit a certain amount of innovation and original-

ity. In addition to the regular lead guitar/rhythm guitar/bass/drums lineup, the band sports one or more of the following on any given song: harmonica, electric banjo, organ and accordion. Such instrument combinations add up to an interesting and danceable sound.

"I see them as a country-Creedence band," Krumper said, "but they're really tough to describe. They're a good rock 'n' roll band, and people dance when they hear them."

The band members themselves, however, who managed to fit their entire history on three sheets of paper for the purpose of a little publicity, prefer not to think of their

music as country rock. The term apparently makes them "think of trailer homes, inbreeding and loud drunken arguments in the middle of the night, culminating in gunshots." So banjos and harmonicas aside, the country rock label should be taken rather lightly.

What should not be taken lightly is the fact that Scruffy The Cat is worth listening to. Songs to take note of on *High Octane Revival* include "Tiger, Tiger" and "Land of 1,000 Girls." The album has a sound almost guaranteed to uplift any spirit.

Plans for another album are already in the works, this one to be

produced by Chris Butler. Until then, Scruffy will continue to make appearances in major cities like Chicago and Madison, Wis., as well as a number of college towns, Chapel Hill being just one.

Finally there's the band's name, which is unique, at the very least.

It simply comes from bass player MacPaul Stanfield's cat. A lot of people, it seems, greet the name with a laugh, but, the group says, "After you remember that two of the best bands of all time were named after bugs and rocks, then it doesn't seem so silly, does it now?"



Great American Smokeout - Nov. 20



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- b) About a week before your birthday.
- c) When you just want to tell them you miss them, and that you ate the last of Grandma's chocolate-chip cookies this morning.

There's nothing grandparents like better than a call from a grandchild in college. But if you do accidentally happen to interrupt Lawrence, you ought to have something worth telling them.

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And that you can count on AT&T for clear long distance connections.

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