

Tar Heel/Steve Matteson

### Stepping out

Highlighting the 2-day Project Uplift program for visiting high school students, members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity perform in a stepshow last Friday night in the Great Hall.

## 'Mob' mixes funk with rock 'n' roll

By ALECIA HOLLAND  
Staff Writer

Royal Crescent Mob recently released their first LP on the Celluloid label, a funk/rap album entitled "Omerta." This Columbus, Ohio, band plays tough funk tunes to a rock 'n' roll beat.

The Mob's music is not unlike that of the rowdy Beastie Boys or Run-D.M.C. However, Royal Crescent Mob is not just another rap band with breaks supplied by a DJ to back the rap. The Mob's music isn't lean with a few token metal solos either, like that of some Def Jam rap artists. Instead, the Mob's steady guitar rhythms and heavy bassline recalls the style of '70s funksters Wild Cherry.

"Omerta" contains a couple of funk standards, such as James Brown's "Payback" and the Ohio Players' "Fire," and upbeat funk originals with driving guitar and a garage rock feel. Guitarist "B" provides a heavy, sometimes Van Halen-like, chiming guitar sound on the uptempo rock tune "Get on the Bus."

Oddly enough, the mix of an '80s guitar sound with vocalist David Ellison's soul brother number one vocal style works well together. The guitarwork on both "Red Guitar" and "Two Sisters" moves toward more conventional funk rhythms. Carlton Smith rounds out the Mob's sound on drums with a rock beat, not the disco beat of pop funk bands.

"Mob's Revenge" and "Love and Tunafish" are two of the hottest cuts on the album. "Mob's Revenge," and its "you're funky" lyrics is a tough jam which has the potential to hit the pop charts. Bassist Harold Chichester not only plays hot funk bass, but he supplies incredible falsetto backing vocals for "Love and Tunafish" as well. Ellison pays homage once again to James Brown in "Tunafish," with a couple of "good gods" thrown in for good measure. Ellison proves also that he is a wicked harmonica player in "Poor Box" and "Blow One Off."

Royal Crescent Mob performed with the Dead Milkmen at Cat's

Cradle last week to a crowd of more than 200 people. The Mob played a variety of funk, all of it danceable, including material from their original EP and a convincing cover of "Love Roller Coaster" by the Ohio Players.

The Mob's music is not necessarily a new sound, but a sound which has been sorely missing on the local club scene. Royal Crescent Mob is the new answer to the '70s funk sound.

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## Revenue

from page 4

sweatshirts.

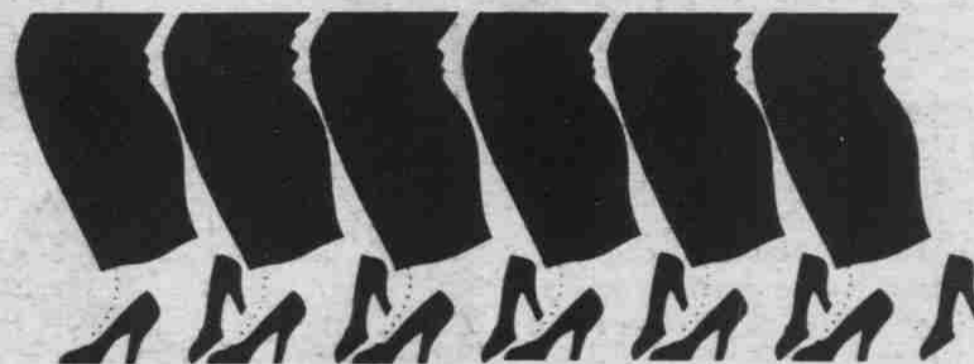
At He's Not Here, manager Mark Burnett said the bar would sell T-shirts and would beef up security to handle the large crowds.

The only problems Powell foresees for the Festival are parking and hotel accommodations. Although the Olympic Festival

contracted with the University and N.C. Memorial Hospital to reserve parking lots for Festival workers and spectators, the average visitor who wants to park in the vicinity will have problems finding a space, she said.

Staff writer Ed Gilgor contributed to this story.

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