

Scruffy the Cat to prowl in for performance at the Cradle

By JAMES BURRUS
Staff Writer

It's 8 p.m. Your history honors thesis is one-day overdue and you have a mid-term in ancient Israeli history worth 50 percent of your final grade tomorrow.

"It's just not important," said Charlie Chesterman, lead singer for Scruffy the Cat, a Boston band that will be appearing tonight at Cat's Cradle. "Everybody should drink a beer, roll up their pants legs and come out and enjoy themselves, instead of staying in the dorm and crying over papers they're all gonna fail anyway. So what if you drop a point in your grade point average?"

Obviously, Scruffy the Cat doesn't take many things seriously. In August, Chesterman and the other band members — lead guitarist Stephen Fredette, bassist MacPaul Stanfield and drummer Randall Gibson IV — modeled clothes for a fashion feature in Rolling Stone's 100 Best Albums feature.

Chesterman wore a \$270 brown leather jacket by Foreza and a \$75 pair of Poco Loco blue denim jeans with reversible cuffs. Gibson's garb made him look like a nerd from the '50s. All the band members,

except Gibson, posed with little stuffed toy cats. "It was silly as hell," Chesterman said. "It's the goofiest thing we've ever done."

All the band got out of the photo shoot was a free lunch, he said. The band members were offered discounts on the clothes, but even that was too high for their budget, Chesterman said.

There will not be any Scruffy the Cat designer label jeans in stores this Christmas shopping season, but the band does plan to release a lot of new music early next year.

Boom Boom Bingo, a five-song EP on Relativity Records, should be out in January, Chesterman said. The record includes new songs as well as a cover of a song by another Boston band, The Oysters. It also includes three live tracks recorded in a Boston club.

The band is also planning to go into the studio in January to record an album that should be released around March, Chesterman said. Scruffy the Cat's new material, which it is playing in its live sets, is a "little more coherent and less countrified," Chesterman said.

Part of that less countrified sound is probably because of the departure of Stona Fitch, who left

shortly after the release of the band's debut LP. Fitch played banjo, accordion and organ and also helped Chesterman with some of the songwriting.

Besides *Tiny Days*, Scruffy the Cat has also released the EP *High Octane Revival*. Both releases were critically acclaimed. The video for "MyBabyShe'sAllRight," off *Tiny Days*, was shown quite extensively on "120 Minutes," MTV's peek-a-boo look into the future of rock.

Currently the band is wrapping up the last dates of its 10-week cross-country tour that saw it open shows for The Balancing Act and Alex Chilton.

The band is trying to cover the same area that it covered on the summer tour, Chesterman said. The reception from the crowd has been a little bit better on the current tour, he said.

Playing a rousing energetic set of rock 'n' roll, Scruffy the Cat had one of the best area shows of the summer at Cat's Cradle last June.

As Chesterman said, "There's no reason to study for exams."

Scruffy the Cat will perform tonight with The Veldt at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for ticket information.

Musicians' group celebrates the compositions of Gershwin

By KELLY RHODES
Staff Writer

Leon Bates can sit back in his easy chair and even look carefree, but his words show the real man inside — a very serious musician.

"I want to break the stereotypes of classical musicians," Bates said in a recent interview. "Especially in the area of programming. Every one else

focuses on the 17th century composers. I want to focus on the 18th, 19th, 20th century composers, or maybe on works written last week."

Bates is touring presently with a group known as Gershwin by Request, celebrating the great American pianist's music on the 50th anniversary of his death. Soprano Eddy Pierce Young and bass-baritone Benjamin Matthews will be performing with Bates tonight in Memorial Hall.

The Gershwin tour came about after he and Matthews began performing Gershwin's works together in Rome in 1984. "I was able to create my own solo version on 'Rhapsody in Blue,' and arranged several of Gershwin's pieces into recital works," he explained.

"Concerto in F" is his favorite Gershwin number. "I get a real kick out of performing that piece," Bates said. "It also typifies the fusion musician that Gershwin really was. It's marvelously romantic and brash."

Bates has received much praise for his music, both in the United States and in Europe. He said he actually prefers to perform in Europe because of the people's dedication to classical music. "We even had a concert scheduled for a Sunday at 11 a.m. For Americans, that is a really strange time for a concert. But there were thousands of people there. The hall was full."

He made a video in Switzerland of his "Concerto in F," performing with the Basal Symphony. "Classical musicians do not make videos," he said, which is precisely why he did it. "We poked fun at the audiences at classical music concerts. People don't attend concerts the way we expect them to. Enjoyment doesn't seem to have anything to do with it."

The video is shown on the U.S. cable channel, Bravo, and in much of Europe. "It's done really well," he said.

Tonight's Gershwin by Request recital will be the second time Bates has appeared at UNC. He played a recital here two years ago in Memorial Hall.

Gershwin by Request, featuring Leon Bates, Eddy Pierce Young and Benjamin Matthews will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

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Crum

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day at Virginia, 20-17. The setbacks have left UNC with an overall record of 5-5 and a conference mark of 3-3, good for a third-place tie.

Wide receiver Eric Lewis, who met with members of the media prior to Crum's press conference, said the players would feel somewhat responsible if a coaching change were made.

"We would feel like we've let him down," said Lewis, a fifth-year senior. "I've been here five years and I'm sure the other guys would feel the same thing — that they have had something to do with his not being successful at Carolina. It would be a feeling of guilt amongst us."

"I hope it's not true. He's a great guy. It's a shame that bad things happen to good people. I just feel that if we had given more effort this year, with us being a senior-dominated team, we should have won more ball games. We should be at least 8-2."

Many expected the Tar Heels, with 17 seniors, to make a strong bid for the ACC crown this season. The team got off to a 3-1 start, losing only to



Dick Crum

top-ranked Oklahoma 28-0 in its second game.

But back-to-back home losses to highly ranked Auburn and then-undefeated Wake Forest dropped

North Carolina to 3-3.

It was after the Wake Forest game that Crum decided to scrap UNC's wide-open offense and return to the power running game that worked so well in the early '80s. The Tar Heels responded with road wins over N.C. State (17-14) and Maryland (27-14) to set the stage for a Kenan Stadium showdown with Clemson on Nov. 7.

But North Carolina lost that game on a late field goal and the rumors concerning Crum's job status began to fly.

Among the coaches who have been mentioned as possible successors to Crum are former Wake Forest and Kansas City Chiefs head coach John Mackovic, former Wake Forest head coach Al Groh, Air Force head coach Fisher DeBerry, Oklahoma assistant coach Jim Donnan, Tulane head coach Mack Brown and former Philadelphia Eagles and UCLA head coach Dick Vermile.

Crum's name has been linked of late with the coaching job at Ohio State, vacated Monday when Earle Bruce was fired.

Toronto's Bell captures MVP

From Associated Press reports

NEW YORK — George Bell of the Toronto Blue Jays became the first member of a Canadian team to win the American League Most Valuable Player award Tuesday, beating Alan Trammell of the Detroit Tigers in the voting.

Bell, also the first Dominican to be named MVP, beat the Tigers' shortstop by 21 points, getting 332 points to Trammell's 311 in voting by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

For winning, Bell will receive a \$50,000 bonus from the Blue Jays. The outfielder's base salary for 1987

was \$1,285,000.

Two association members in each of the 14 AL cities were eligible to vote. Bell received 16 first-place votes and Trammell 12.

Minnesota outfielder Kirby Puckett was third in the voting with 201 points, followed by Boston's Dwight Evans and Milwaukee's Paul Molitor.

"I'm very happy," Bell said by telephone from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. "Because when you win the MVP everything shows that you've worked hard. That you're a winner. It's one of the greatest things that's happened to me in the last three years."

Bell's outstanding season was somewhat tarnished by a damaging slump in the final weeks of the season as Toronto battled Detroit for first place in the AL East.

Bell struggled through a 2-for-26 finish as the Tigers swept the Blue Jays in the final three games to win the division. Toronto actually ended up losing its last seven games of the season, with their remarkable collapse being a fine year.

Bell, who is not always cooperative with the media, hit .308 with 47 home runs and a league-leading 134 runs batted in and 111 runs scored, the latter three setting club records.

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King

nearly double that of whites. "I'm hopeful that we can put an end to it (inequality) through creative, nonviolent action," King said.

At an international level, the most important human rights goal is putting an end to the apartheid regime in South Africa, King said.

"Action against apartheid by the U.S. government is long overdue," she said. "At the cutting edge of nonviolence is economic withdrawal from South Africa."

Corporations must withdraw hold-

ings from South Africa and people must lobby Congress for stronger boycotts, King said. Most of the black South African leaders, including Bishop Desmond Tutu and Winnie and Nelson Mandela, support stronger sanctions, she said.

"We have a moral obligation not to profit from brutal, racist dictatorships," she said.

The greatest challenge in human rights faced by the world is the nuclear arms race, King said. Never before in history has the world had

such destructive capabilities, she said. "We can no longer wait for our leaders to initiate world peace," she said. "We must create an international coalition of peace-loving people."

King said the Martin Luther King Holiday should be a day for the progress of human rights.

"It can't be a day for resting on the laurels of our achievements," she said. "It must be a day of peaceful nonviolence."

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Speaker

of good, especially for the poor whites, who thought they were superior simply because they were white.

He cited some instances today where racism remains an obvious problem.

In professional sports, McKissick said, there were no black quarterbacks until last year, and only two blacks have been baseball managers.

He also cited instances where companies pretended to practice integration, but made only token efforts. Sometimes a company will hire one black secretary to work in

the front office for the sake of appearances, he said.

McKissick also said he was baffled by the amount of time it took for UNC Board of Trustees to divest from South Africa.

While he said he believes in the integration of races, McKissick expressed a desire to retain his heritage. "I want to preserve my integrity," he said. "I don't want to be ashamed of Africa."

Following his speech, McKissick answered several questions from the floor about the future of education for blacks.

"Educational institutions are in bad shape," McKissick said. "So many of the doors which were once opened have been shut."

He suggested recruiting more black students and teachers to college campuses. "We can learn a great deal from each other, and the only way to do that is to be together," he said.

"The greatness of America is going to be when all citizens can be fully utilized and there is no more racism," McKissick said. "I pray for the day when for all men and women respect each other for who they are."

The Daily Tar Heel

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