

Drivin' music with an urban-folk sound

By ALLISON PIKE
Staff Writer

The Atlanta-based trio drivin' n' cryin' will be rocking through Chapel Hill this weekend, supporting *Whisper Tames the Lion*, their latest Island Records release. The band will stop at Cat's Cradle for Friday and Saturday night concerts.

Drivin' n' cryin' has been dubbed an "urban-folk" band by music critics because of the band members' interest in bringing their music to the public. They have played everywhere from street corners to large concert halls. The band's lyrics (written by vocalist/guitarist Kevn Kinney) deal with everyday life. These factors have combined to give drivin' n' cryin' the image of a down-to-earth band functioning in a large city.

Another distinguishing element of drivin' n' cryin's music is its diverse style. The band's music incorporates rock, heavy metal, punk, country, and mandolin ballads. The members are proud of what they call their no-formula

approach to their music. Bassist Tim Neilsen says the band's goals are "to do what we want without worrying about what it is that we do."

The trio's diverse music stems from the different musical backgrounds of the band members. "It's a band that's like a record collection," Kinney says.

Before he hooked up with drivin' n' cryin', Kinney played with a band called The Prosecutors, which he described as a "psychedelic-Gene Vincent-Ramones" band. During that time, Kinney also had a solo act as a folksinger.

In 1985, Kinney met bassist Tim Neilsen. Neilsen spent most of his high school days listening to the Clash, the Dead Kennedys, and the Jam. Today, Led Zeppelin is one of his favorite bands.

Neilsen and Kinney added a drummer to their lineup and recorded their first LP, *Scarred But Smarter*, in 1986. Last year, drivin' n' cryin' replaced the drummer with Mr. Crow's Garden drummer Jeff Sullivan. At the time, Sullivan



Drivin' n' cryin' will perform at Cat's Cradle this weekend

was also working as a roadie for drivin' n' cryin' and was, he says, their "number one fan." Sullivan says he spent his teenage years banging away on his drum set to release tension. His favorite artists were Flipper, the Dead Kennedys,

and Gary Numan.

Drivin' n' cryin's down-home attitude extends not only to their own music, but also to music in general. After meeting his guitar hero, Johnny Ramone, Kinney said he admired Ramone more for his

personality than his musicianship. Kinney says the two of them sat around after a show and compared baseball cards. "He drinks milk and eats cookies," said Kinney. "I hate rock stars — there's nothing appealing about 'em."

Hey soldier! What's Fayetteville got to offer?

By JENNY LIVINGSTON
Assistant Omnibus Editor

Ah, Fayetteville, the home of putt-putt and 62,000 G.I.'s. Fayetteville, that seething metropolis of eastern North Carolina, the only town that has more pawn shops and tattoo parlors than citizens, is celebrating itself this weekend.

From April 1-10, the city will be engaged in its annual Dogwood Festival, a city-wide celebration of the more than 100,000 dogwood trees now in bloom there.

And why not? It's spring! The flowers are blooming and the sap is rising. Winter is finally gone and the suffocating heat of summertime has not yet arrived. There's plenty to celebrate, especially in Fayetteville, where hundreds of soldiers have just returned from Honduras.

Fayetteville is only a couple of hours away from Chapel Hill — close enough for a day trip, far enough to feel like you're really going somewhere. So get out, get moving, get in the car and go east for the Dogwood Festival this

weekend.

All the events are either free or cheap, so, for the cost of a tank of gas, you can catch some rays and some culture at the same time. It's even on the way to the beach.

The festivities start Friday morning with Breakfast With the Easter Bunny at Belk's in Cross Creek Mall. You can meet the big furry guy and maybe take in some of the mall sights while you're there.

After that, take a ride through the Dogwood Trail, a driving tour that starts at the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Center on Ramsey Street and winds around the city's most scenic spots. Some only know Fayetteville for the used car lots on Bragg Boulevard or the red-light scene that used to thrive on Hay Street, but the town has some genuinely nice areas, even in the heart of downtown.

For lunch, stop by the Crime Stopper Bar-b-que in Bordeaux Shopping center. For only \$5, you

can enjoy all the eastern "que" you can eat. Then Friday night you'll be stoked for shagging at the Dance Under the Dogwoods in the same shopping center. The Entertainers will play and Fayetteville's Z-93 will broadcast the event.

If shagging's not your style, check out the club scene. Porkey's Honky Tonk (if you like enlisted men); Bennigan's (if you prefer officers and yuppies for company). Or you can cruise Bragg Boulevard, play a couple rounds of putt-putt and get a tattoo.

Saturday morning is the highlight of the festival with the opening ceremonies and a big

parade through downtown. Who can resist a parade? Shriners, clowns, floats and 17-year-olds in polyester band uniforms — American culture at its finest.

After the parade, Fayetteville Parks and Recreation will sponsor an Easter egg hunt in Rowan park. Drop by for a hand-dyed souvenir of your trip, but go early because that Fayetteville sun can rot an egg in under an hour.

Saturday afternoon, the Cumberland County Firefighters will host the Firefighters Olympics at the Cape Fear Fairgrounds. It sounds like fun — and it's free.

If you're feeling formal after that, you can check out the

Dogwood Festival Ball at the Bordeaux Inn and Convention Center. It's \$25 a head, and it's black tie to get through the door.

Easter Sunday is the day to rest in Fayetteville. There are sunrise services at O'Hanlon Amphitheatre at Methodist College and at Cross Creek Park, but few other planned activities. So take another swing through the Dogwood Trail and head back to Chapel Hill.

If you want more information on this weekend's events, or what the festival has in store for next week, call Paul Comer at the Fayetteville Convention and Visitor's Bureau, (919) 483-5311 or 1-800-255-8217.

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