

Rainy blues festival redeemed by Rush's intense set

Was Durham's Bull City Blues Festival worth it? Two long nights in a baseball stadium — and one night in the rain at that?

Friday night started well enough, with 400 people sitting in the warm night air to hear some blues. Etta Baker delivered a brief but charming acoustic set. Next, Terrance Simien and the Mallet Playboys launched into a fun zydeco dance sound that warmed up many who came expecting a slow night.

The lyrically incomprehensible babble felt right with night air and beer. Unfortunately, the momentum was not sustained or regained that night. Big Boy Henry played a disappointing set, which included his 1985 single "Mr. President." It seemed like ages until the pleasant

Joseph Rhea Concert

but uninspired Henry was replaced by the gospel sound of Maggie Ingram and the Ingrametts.

At first the Ingrametts sounded like a welcome relief, but it quickly became apparent that she played with the form of gospel rather than its potential substance. After talking damnation and playing a monotonous uptempo set, Ingram concluded with a plug for her records, saying "Buy buy buy."

Ingram was, however, followed by the brilliant Dr. John.

Playing solo piano, Dr. John delivered his good-natured New Orleans tunes with a real sense of cool. He effortlessly won over the crowd with such songs as "When the Saints Come Marching In" and "Goodnight Irene."

Dr. John was followed by the slick sound of Big Twist and the Mellow Fellows, proving in part there is some truth in advertising: Big Twist is a big boy. Twist came waddling onto stage singing "Hoy, hoy, I'm your boy, 300 pounds of heavenly joy."

After the initial shock had passed, it became clear that Twist and company played slick Chicago dance music, and not much more. Their several references to the "legendary Dr. John," suggested perhaps they too were a little surprised at their

headliner status. In any event, a lot of people danced.

The next night things looked bleak. Rain poured or drizzled till the very end, making the field inaccessible. Still, the bleachers were almost filled with people who had come to watch bands play in shallow center field. Why the festival organizers did not move the stage forward is unclear, but the distance and the tarp over the speakers were depressing.

The show began with B.B. Coleman, who came and went with a Chicago sound that made little impression. Thomas Burt was unable to come, but his support played well. After two hours it was getting cold and ugly in the bleachers, but Little Charlie and the Nightcaps picked

things up. The Nightcaps played a fun sound reminiscent of the Fabulous Thunderbirds, tossing out a few sexist aphorisms and one memorable truth: "Everybody likes to look — women are just cooler about it."

The Nightcaps were followed by Denise LaSalle, a very different kind of musician. LaSalle began her set by promising that we would remember her, then sprinkled her performance with memorable bits of wisdom. Her description of the ideal man was instructive: "I'm talking about the kind of man that'll make you turn off General Hospital and crawl back into the middle of the king-size bed."

After all this silliness, the final act was ready — Otis Rush. A surprising number of people stayed past 11 p.m.

to see a man who personifies the blues. The gods have not been kind to Rush, and the rainy night was fitting weather for him only.

In a drenched center field, Rush played instrumentals that ranged from introspective to roaring. His singing, although almost unnecessary, was excellent, especially on the classic "I Can't Quit You Baby." The set was a bit short, but Rush compensated by playing with an intensity that was much appreciated by the soaked fans.

While the festival might have been better as a one-day deal, the atmosphere Friday night and the appearance of Otis Rush Saturday made all shortcomings pardonable. It was worth it.

Voting from page 1

County residents voting by absentee ballot can also use the board's "One-Stop Voting," beginning on Oct. 11 at the board office in Hillsborough and on Oct. 23 at the Carrboro Town Hall. Registrars will register absentee voters and collect their ballots at the same time.

Out-of-state students or students from other counties may register as Orange County voters. To vote in their home county, however, they will have to write to the Board of Elections in that county for an absentee ballot or register in person in that county.

Bobbie Strickland, supervisor of elections for Orange County, said 50,000 Orange County residents, or about 65 percent of the total population, are registered to vote. About 2,000 residents have registered since July 1.

Besides the four registration drives already scheduled for local apartment complexes, the board will sponsor at least three or four more drives in complexes in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, Hackney said.

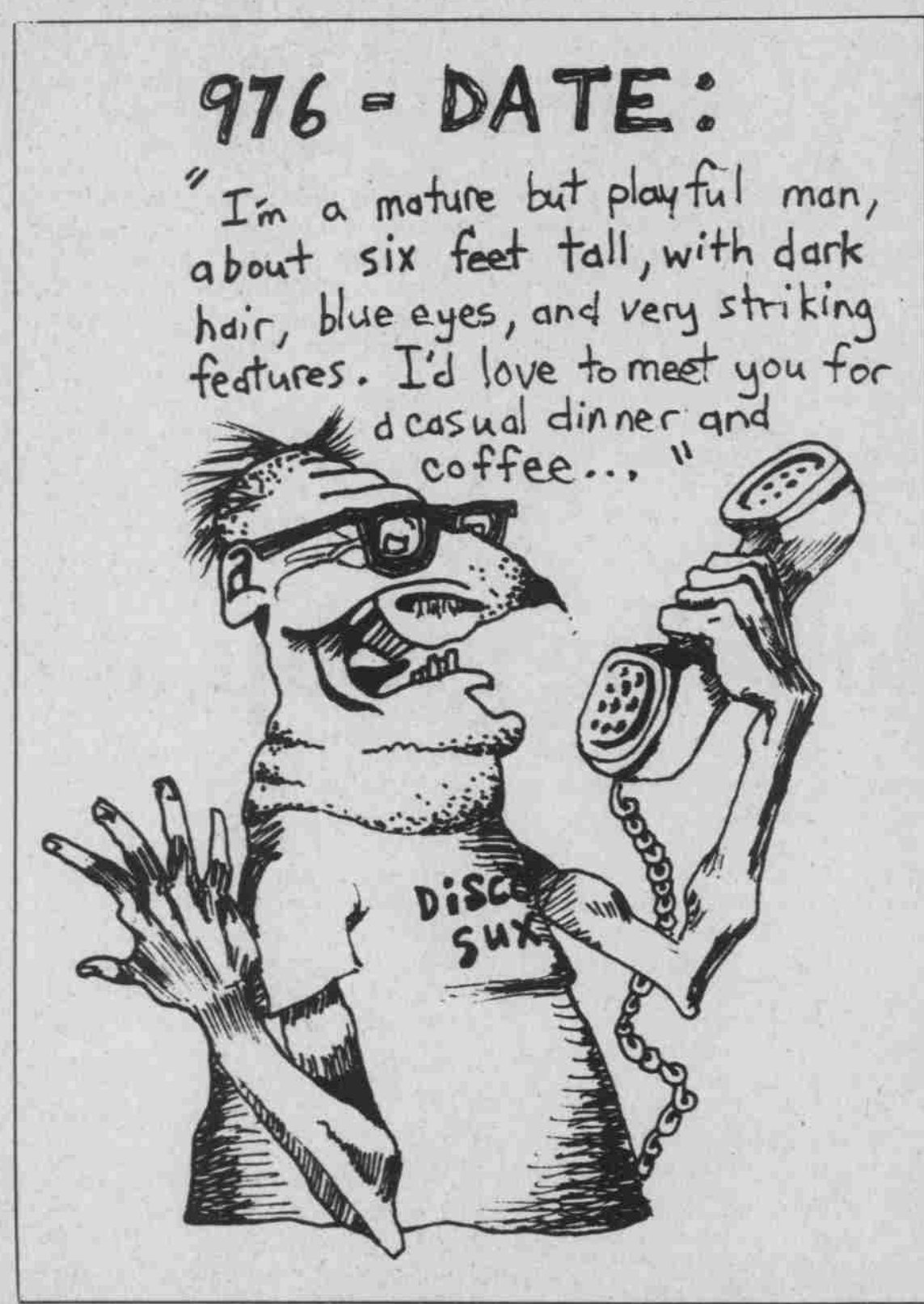
The easiest place for most UNC students to register will be in the Pit at the Student Government registration drive from Sept. 26 to Oct. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Angela Sigmon, member of the Student Government committee on voter registration, said the government hoped to register about 3,000 students during the drive.

Student Government will be sponsoring voter education efforts after the registration drive is over. "We want people to vote, but we want people to be educated when they vote," Sigmon said.

Modern matchmakers help people find Mr./Ms. Right

By JACKIE DOUGLAS
Staff Writer



With today's fast-paced living style, it's no wonder that more and more people are beginning to experiment with dating services. As people have less time to spend on the social scene, dating services have become an attractive option in meeting new and interesting people.

Dating services became extremely popular around 1979, said Angie (who asked that her last name not be revealed) of Platime International, a dating bureau located in Market York, Pa. This bureau covers the entire United States, Mexico and Canada.

"The concept of finding a date through a dating service has not always been accepted socially," she said, "but since 1979, dating bureaus have received a lot of publicity and people are no longer afraid to use them."

People who want to join Platime International must pay a \$45 one-time registration fee. Each new introduction costs \$135, and introductions can be replaced if the customer isn't satisfied.

When matching people up, Platime International tries to meet the customer's specific criteria for what they want in a date. The bureau asks questions such as a person's eye color, hair color, height and weight. Other questions include hobbies and special interests, whether they smoke or drink, their level of education and how far they are willing to travel in order to meet their date.

"We try to be as discreet as possi-

ble when making introductions," Angie said. "We have to be open-minded because we cover many different types of lifestyles. The typical users of dating services are career-oriented people who don't have enough time to go out and meet people and are tired of the bar scene."

"Men certainly outnumber women in using our service, probably because women tend to be embarrassed to say they met their date through a dating service," she said.

Another less-expensive route to meeting new people is by using the 976-DATE number. This dating service is owned and operated by Continental Communications, an advertising and communications agency that is based in Charlotte.

"This 976-DATE service is a viable alternative to singles bars and expensive video-dating services," said Tim Johnson, president of the agency.

The phone call, which is a recorded message that tells more about the dating service, costs \$3. At the end of the message, the caller has a chance to listen to the messages of either five females or five males. The messages include the person's name, age, occupation, special interests and phone number. After listening, callers are given a chance to record their own message for other callers to hear.

Kirk (last name withheld because the service uses first names only), who has called the 976-DATE

number, said he used the service out of curiosity. "I called the number just to see what would happen," he said. "So far, I have met a few girls through the service. I think it's been worth the \$3."

Yet another dating service is Dateline, the nation's largest low-cost dating service, according to Arthur Goldberg, Dateline's owner and manager. This service, which has over 20,000 active members, is based in New York. When people call Dateline's toll-free number, 1-800-727-3300, an operator takes their name and address and sends them literature and an application.

If the person joins the Dateline club, they must pay \$25 for a three-month membership, \$37 for 6 months, \$49 for 9 months and \$60 for a one-year membership.

Matchmaking is done in two stages. The first stage deals with the basics such as age, occupation, location, height, weight, and religion. The second stage goes into much deeper detail; compatibility referral specialists scrutinize the applications carefully and then match up the people. These specialists have degrees and experience in the social sciences, Goldberg said.

By helping along 1,000 known marriages and engagements, Dateline has proven to be a successful dating service, Goldberg said.

So, when you're all alone on a Saturday night, don't hesitate to give a dating service a call. Who knows? You just might find your future spouse.

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