

The Veldt: Diverse members produce harmonious sound

By CLARK BENBOW
Staff Writer

The term "band" implies a group of musicians with similar interests and backgrounds who have combined to produce music that appeals to a fairly limited audience. Not so with The Veldt. Making good music is all that binds the young members of this two-year-old group together. Otherwise The Veldt is a mishmash of musical backgrounds, styles and appearances. Even the two identical-twin band members are

different ingredients in the band's multifaceted recipe of success. What distinguishes The Veldt from other local bands, says guitarist twin Danny Chavis, is the fact that they "have a lot of things coming from different people." The origins of the chords Danny strikes on his guitar are found in gospel music and in the influence of Jimi Hendrix, while bass player Joe Boyle finds his roots in a traditional rhythm and blues sound.

Drummer Marvin Levi, who is

beginning to be a driving force behind the band, provides the heavy, almost tribal rhythm that gives the music its power. More recent influences on the band are the Cocteau Twins and New Order. All of that, plus Daniel Chavis' vivid stage presence and the twins' original lyrics, makes it nearly impossible to categorize The Veldt.

The various influences acting on the band render the group not only amazingly versatile — nouvelle rock, alternative R&B, hard rap and even

jazz could describe songs of The Veldt — but also make the group as a whole interesting and fun to watch and listen to. The combination of new and old, of dark and lively, and of the different backgrounds of the members has an appealing continuity.

Identical twins Danny and Daniel Chavis, formerly of The Armory, are the core of The Veldt and have been playing together the longest. Other band members, especially drummers, have come and gone in the band's short career. Raised in Raleigh, the charismatic lead vocalist/guitarist and lead guitarist also write the songs for the band. The twins began writing

early. "I began writing poetry in high school," says guitarist Danny. But his brother Daniel wrote the band's first song, "Marshmallow Skies."

Only rarely does The Veldt perform non-original songs. According to Lane Wurster, an ally of The Veldt, "song writing is really the strength of the band." Composing the songs helps to bring the members together and also makes their performance a little more heartfelt than if their songs were only remakes.

Their original songs add to "the human element in the music of The Veldt" that gives them an edge over many of their contemporaries,

according to Wurster. Songs in the band's repertoire include "Girl In a Mirror," "Chanteuse," "Deisy Chain" and "Aurora Borealis."

The band's name connotes Africa, mystery and a dream-like feeling, as Danny and Daniel read the word in a science fiction story.

"We want to play obscure music in a way that everyone will understand," Danny says.

The Veldt will appear tonight at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro at 10 p.m. General admission is \$5; tickets for ArtsCenter Friends and for students with I.D. will be \$4.

Are you a future Shakespeare? Theater offers writing contest

By RANDY BASINGER
Staff Writer

It's time to warm up those typewriters and reboot your word processors, because Thompson Theatre, on North Carolina State University's campus, is accepting entries for its Fourth Annual Playwright Award.

The award was created to stimulate artistic growth among educational and professional playwrights in the Southeastern area. The competition will present cash awards, supplied by a grant from Glaxo Inc. in Research Triangle Park, in two categories: professional for \$1,000 and student for \$500.

To qualify for the professional

category, the playwright must be a legal resident of the region covered by the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) for at least one year. The region includes West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

To enter the student category, the playwright must be a full-time student at a university, college or high school in one of those states.

The rules of the contest include: an entry's theme or genre is not restricted; the playwright may submit only one play in one category;

submission is limited to plays not previously produced or published; Thompson Theatre reserves the right to accept or reject any entry; entries must be received no later than Feb. 1, 1989; and a synopsis of the script must be included.

Each play will be read by a screening committee, and finalists will be judged by a committee of one theater student, one theater staff member and two at-large readers. When a play is selected as a winner, it becomes the property of Thompson Theatre until Sept. 1, 1989, which reserves the right to reproduce the script for performances during the summer of 1989 or to not produce the play if unable to do so.

For a complete set of competition guidelines and an entry form, write to: Thompson Theatre, NCSU Box 7305, Raleigh, N.C., 27695-7305 or call (919) 737-2405.

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday, before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of interest listing ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

Wednesday

- 10 a.m. **Kappa Alpha Psi** fraternity will sponsor a Bloodmobile in Great Hall, Union, until 3:30 p.m.
- 3:30 p.m. **A Video Communications Seminar** will be held until 5 p.m. in 14 Sitterson. Such topics as video transmission methods and new technological developments in video will be addressed. An overview of campus video services will also be discussed. Sponsored by the Office of the Associate Provost.
- 4:30 p.m. **The Volunteer Action Committee (VAC)** will meet in the Campus Y Lounge to discuss decorating the Senior Center and to plan for next semester.
- 5 p.m. **The Lab Theatre** will hold a general meeting in 06 Graham Memorial. David Hammond, Artistic Director at PRC, will discuss the Lab's casting policy. Attendance is encouraged. **The Student Abroad Office** will hold an informational meeting in the base-

Campus Calendar

ment of Caldwell Hall about UNC exchange programs to Germany.

5:30 p.m. **The Black Business Students Alliance** will sponsor an interviewing skills workshop in 02 Carroll. Allen Younger Sr., director of Personnel for IBM, will be the featured speaker.

6 p.m. **Wesley Foundation** will meet for dinner and a Christmas tree decorating party.

7 p.m. **AIDS Awareness Committee** will sponsor "An Overview of AIDS Research and Treatment," a program by Dr. S. Shaunak, in 101 Greenlaw. The talk will focus on advances in AIDS technology. **Carmichael Living and Learning Programs** will host an Open House in the Carmichael ballroom.

All interested in the UNITAS, Health Sciences, French, Spanish or German Houses are encouraged to attend.

7:30 p.m. **Alpha Phi Omega** will sponsor the annual UNC Christmas tree lighting in the Pit. The event will feature the Ciel Hangers, the Loreis and Chancellor Paul Hardin. Refreshments will also be served.

11 p.m. **WXCY FM 89.3** will play the new album from The Waterboys, "Fisherman's Blues," in its entirety with no interruptions.

Items of Interest

Student Environmental Action Coalition will be collecting old phone books throughout campus until Dec. 8. Bring yours by!

Sports

Texas still trading; Murphy to Mets?

From Associated Press reports

ATLANTA — The Texas Rangers kept trading faces at baseball's winter meetings by getting Julio Franco from Cleveland on Tuesday, while the California Angels raised the already high stakes for free agents Bruce Hurst and Nolan Ryan.

Philadelphia and Montreal also did business, exchanging pitchers Kevin Gross and Floyd Youmans, and more teams courted Atlanta about outfielder Dale Murphy. The Rangers, who had not made a trade at the winter meetings since 1983, continued to be the main attraction. This time, they sent Pete O'Brien, Oddibe McDowell and Jerry Browne to the Indians for Franco, who led all major league second basemen with a .303 average.

A day earlier, Texas got Rafael Palmeiro — the second-leading hitter in the National League — in a nine-player trade with the Chicago Cubs and made another minor swap with

the New York Yankees.

"You don't come down here expecting to do anything. But we hoped to improve our offense, and we have," Texas general manager Tom Grieve said.

Franco, 27, has batted over .300 for three straight seasons. He hit a career-high 10 home runs, drove in 54 runs and stole 25 bases. The Rangers platooned at second base last season, and Franco, who had been a shortstop his entire career, made the transition well this year.

The Indians had long been weak at first base and lost this year's starter when Willie Upshaw agreed to a two-year contract in Japan.

Murphy attracted more attention, with the New York Mets and San Diego Padres intensifying their efforts to work a deal with Atlanta. Among the Mets who interest the Braves are Len Dykstra, Howard Johnson, Keith Miller and rookie pitcher David West.

AP Top 20

- Duke (47) 4-0 1,266
- Michigan (9) 5-0 1,214
- Syracuse (1) 7-0 1,131
- Georgetown (1) 2-0 1,075
- Iowa (1) 4-0 990
- Oklahoma 2-1 961
- Illinois 3-0 917
- North Carolina 6-1 859
- UNLV 2-1 781
- Arizona 2-1 619
- Missouri 5-2 596
- Georgia Tech 3-0 585
- Florida State 3-0 571
- Ohio State 3-1 468
- Louisville 1-2 301
- Tennessee 3-0 285
- Villanova 3-1 252
- Connecticut 2-0 107
- N.C. State 2-1 101
- Seton Hall 5-0 90

Others receiving votes: UCLA 51, Memphis St. 45, Notre Dame 39, Florida 36, Loyola Marymount 35, Temple 33, Wichita St. 32, UNC-Charlotte 29, SMU 27, Stanford 26.

AP Top 20

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Notre Dame (49) 11-0-0 1,055 | 2. Miami, Fla. (1) 10-1-0 994 |
| 3. West Virginia (3) 11-0-0 950 | 4. Florida State 10-1-0 900 |
| 5. Southern Cal 10-1-0 839 | 6. Nebraska 11-1-0 775 |
| 7. Auburn 10-1-0 767 | 8. Arkansas 10-1-0 647 |
| 9. UCLA 9-2-0 643 | 10. Oklahoma 9-2-0 567 |
| 11. Michigan 8-2-1 534 | 12. Oklahoma St. 9-2-0 476 |
| 13. Clemson 9-2-0 426 | 14. Houston 9-2-0 340 |
| 15. Wyoming 11-1-0 245 | 16. LSU 8-3-0 225 |
| 17. Syracuse 9-2-0 195 | 18. Washington St. 8-3-0 174 |
| 19. Georgia 8-3-0 122 | 20. Alabama 8-3-0 118 |

Others receiving votes: Colorado 66, Michigan State 26, Southern Mississippi 14, Texas-El Paso 12, Army 8, Arizona 5, Hawaii 4, Fresno State 4.

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17. Villanova 3-1 252

18. Connecticut 2-0 107

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