

Bands, beer and benevolence: Burnout has it all and more

By ANNE-RENEE RICE
Staff Writer

BEER.
BIKINIS.
BANDS.
These three words stand alone, void of superlatives, modifiers or grammatical jargon.

For any UNC partygoer, these words represent institutions in themselves, institutions synonymous with a mass party called

BURNOUT. What better way to welcome in spring?

Tomorrow students will gather at the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house on Finley Golf Course Rd. to usher in the rites of spring — Burnout style, that is.

The party kicks off at 1 p.m. Friday afternoon. The Waxing Poetics, a popular and quite successful collegiate band, will play. At

4:30 p.m., The Pursuit of Happiness will play.

"These are 'big' bands," said Mike Novak, chairman of Burnout for Pi Kappa Phi.

The Pursuit of Happiness is a progressive-style band. It particularly caters to and appeals to the collegiate crowd.

"What we play is basically rock, oriented to college students," said Moe Berg, the band's leader.

For a band that formed just three years ago, they have seen quick results of their popularity.

MTV ranks the Toronto-based band as no. 15 on college charts. A few months ago, "Rolling Stone" magazine listed one of its singles among their top 10 singles.

Band leader Berg says that "the idea of true romance and 'happily ever after' is mostly just love junk," — hence the name of their debut album, "Love Junk."

How does one describe the sound of this non-conventional band? Well, it's a combination of sorts. Metal textures bang up against folk-rock harmonies; Buddy Holly's simple tunefulness, the Replacements' good humor and the Rolling Stones' driving chord attack are all accorded equal measure.

That's what they sound like, but what do their lyrics address? Songwriter Berg views all situations in life as either "angst" (anxiety of surroundings) or cynicism-inducing. (Is this the ideology that structures our twenties?)

"If I'm going to write about a situation that is disturbing, I'm going to try to make it funny or unusual so that more people might get it," says Berg.

And so is the philosophy of the three-man (Moe Berg, Dave Gilby

and Johnny Sinclair), two-woman (Kris Abbott and Leslie Stanwyk) band.

Their first single, "I'm an Adult Now," concerns the horrors of growing up.

"Adult sex is either boring or dirty," concludes Berg in this single. "Looking for Love" gives Berg's philosophy of love.

"I don't care if she's skinny/I don't care if she's fat/As long as she goes for boys like me/Cause I like them like that."

All right. In "Ten Fingers" Berg seems to lament some sort of relationship. "Sometimes I wish I'd never heard your name/I wish I'd never felt your legs/Wrapped around me."

Speaking of legs, the annual Burnout Bikini contest, sponsored by Hawaiian Tropic, is scheduled between the two bands' performances.

"The contest is a good distraction measure for the crowd," said Craig Ward, organizer of the contest. "During this time the Waxing Poetics will pack up and The Pursuit of Happiness will prepare to go on stage."

What better way to tide over a crowd of 6,000 partying college students? Seems reminiscent of Spring Break.

"Girls in the contest either volunteer themselves or are volunteered by someone else," said Ward. "We've advertised by flyers in tanning salons and spas, places where you'd find tan girls."

Hawaiian Tropic offers all contestants a \$25 package of sun care products. The second- and third-place winners receive \$50 in cash and a package of free tanning sessions at the Finesse Salon.

"What's in it for the winner? It can be pretty lucrative for the winner," said Ward.

Besides being considered as "Miss Hawaiian Tropic UNC," the winner will receive an array of prizes and opportunities as well.

One hundred dollars in cash will be awarded in addition to a free modeling portfolio, free tanning sessions and, most importantly, an interview with Hawaiian Tropic International. The winner will then be eligible for the next level of competition.

A judging panel composed of local semi-celebrities and organizers from the fraternity will select the winners.

"We're not looking at specifics in judging, but rather the whole package," said Ward.

In return for the advertising exposure, Hawaiian Tropic will contribute money to benefit the

N.C. Memorial Hospital Jaycees Burn Center.

After the Pi Kappa Phi house burned down in 1976, the brothers decided to start Burnout as a fundraiser to help burn victims. This marks the 13th annual Burnout party.

"We're shooting to give \$10,000 to The Burn Center this year," said Tim Donahue, president of Pi Kappa Phi.

However, T-shirt sales constitute most of the donation given to The Burn Center. Total proceeds from sales go to the Center.

Pi Kappa Phi members have been selling the T-shirts door to door and on campus in the Pit. The shirt sports a burning house with a menacing fire-breathing dragon behind it. Laura Bjurstrom designed the shirt on the request of the fraternity.

To help meet its goal of \$10,000, Pi Kappa Phi will be taking donations during Burnout at the driveway entrance. Donors will receive a raffle ticket to win a \$150 gift certificate from Slug's At The Pines.

Some may question the need for expensive bands at a charity event. The two bands are costing the fraternity \$7,000.

"A big band is imperative to initially get people interested in

the party so we will ultimately raise more money in the end," stressed Donahue. "It's necessary for a good turnout."

What kind of turnout will there be at Burnout this year? A crowd of 6,000 is expected at the party.

Parking will not be available to anyone anywhere on Finley Golf Course Rd. Highway 54 will be barricaded from Harris-Teeter to the Durham County line Friday afternoon.

"We highly encourage partygoers to use the buses which are free and paid for by the Pi Kappa

Phi," said Ward.

Seven buses will run continuously between 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday. Stops are at Morehead Planetarium, Big Fraternity Court, Chase Hall area and the Student Union.

"Using the buses will alleviate parking congestion and especially drunk driving," said Ward.

During Burnout, Chick Fil-A will sell sandwiches to soak up all the alcohol that you'll probably be consuming. A large portion of sandwich sales will be donated to

The Burn Center.

As for beverages, no alcohol will be served by the fraternity or sold elsewhere on the grounds.

"Partygoers of age may bring beer to the event, but no beer will be served," said Novak.

The Pi Kappa Phis are ready to party. They've worked out all the details for your partying pleasure. The only gloom that looms before them is the weather: the forecast predicts a rainy Friday.

"In case of rain, tents will be set up to cover the stage — just remember to bring an umbrella," said Ward. "The party will go on!"



Norfolk originals band Waxing Poetics will kick off this year's Burnout at 1 p.m. Friday.

Waxing Poetics to perform at party

By BILLY STOCKARD
Staff Writer

Bruce Hornsby isn't the only musician to find his roots in the Virginia Tidewater. The Waxing Poetics, an originals group from Norfolk, has become increasingly successful over the past five years and will be part of this weekend's Burnout festivities. The Poetics include David Middleton (lead vocals, guitar); Paul Tiers (lead vocals, guitar); Sean Hennessy (bass, vocals); and Bill Sherin (drums).

While the Poetics don't claim similarity to R.E.M., they did get help from that band's bassist, Mike Mills. Mills saw promise in the Poetics and steered them on the path to their first album with R.E.M.'s producer, Mitch Easter. Entitled "Hermitage," the LP was recorded in Winston-Salem in 1986 and was released by Emergo Records in January 1987. They've been touring ever since, with solid support from college radio and the press, including the raves of "Rolling Stone" magazine. And no sooner did the first record find a

following than a second one came close behind.

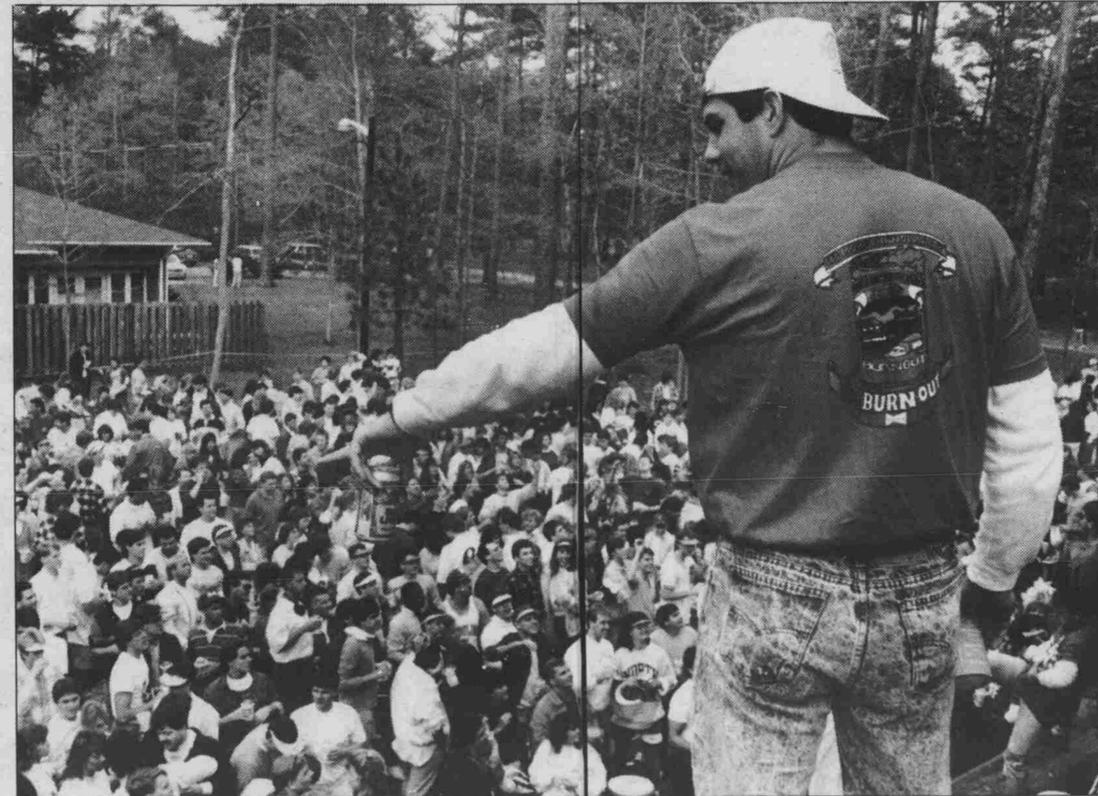
"Manakin Moon" expects to find a bigger audience because of wider release by MCA Records. The Poetics' pop sensibilities have been combined with a hard-edged bluesy-garage funk style with diverse melodies and strong vocals. But they really haven't changed. They still have their uniquely soul-tinged sound and they can still thrill an audience with the energy they put into their performances. David Middleton confesses, "We're not sure why people would like us. Most of our songs are about people feeling out of place, about a nightmare going on in your own heart. And that gets us thinking: why would people like these songs that are so depressing?"

As for the album's title, "Manakin" is really the name of a small town in northern Virginia. Apparently the Poetics still take some of their roots with them even in their lyrics. According to Middleton, "It's the title of a song

that didn't even make it to the record, but the song's about feeling unwelcome in your own town, and that emotion seemed to fit the songs on the album."

"Writing sad songs can be a positive thing; the idea is that I'm not experiencing something about it," Middleton goes on. The newer songs are going even further in that direction. My father passed away this year, and that left me feeling very empty and angry, so that inspired lots of songs that the band hasn't heard yet. So the next album should be even more of a purge — I mean, I hate to be Mr. Depression all the time, but sometimes it's impossible not to be."

Nevertheless, the success of the band is anything but depressing. In a few years, the stylish band from Norfolk has built up both its reputation and its popularity. Chapel Hill will get a taste of the Waxing Poetics this weekend. With final exams not too far away, the band's depressing songs might seem all too appropriate for burned-out college students.



Yackety Yack Staff Photo

About 6,000 students are expected Friday at the thirteenth annual Burnout, sponsored by the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.



Yackety Yack Staff Photo

Students may bring beer, but none will be served by the fraternity and Burnout staff will check for underage drinkers at the party site.