

# Decatur, Ga., duo plays Threshold benefit

## Indigo Girls

Threshold Benefit Concert

Saturday, Oct. 28, 9 p.m.  
Memorial Hall

Tickets available to  
Threshold participants

You know a music group is popular when your 70-year-old Anthropology teacher says: "...And color this circle on the chart indigo...indigo as in the Indigo Girls!"

That is just the type of far-reaching impact this acoustic duo from Decatur, Ga., has achieved with the successful release of their self-titled debut album and its first single, "Closer To Fine," on Epic Records. While the single and its accompanying video are topping college lists, the album is also receiving rave re-

## TIM LITTLE

### concert

views from publications like the Boston Globe and New York Times.

Amy Ray and Emily Saliers are taking that growing popularity and a large set of songs on the road and, fortunately for the residents of the Chapel Hill area, will be stopping Saturday in Memorial Hall at 9 p.m.

So far their tour has been wildly successful; at one concert in New York City not even scalpers were giving up tickets.

The Chapel Hill concert will be one of the main features in the weekend Threshold program, which is sponsored by the Student Environmental Action Coalition in hopes of bringing forth a new strengthened student environmental movement.

But why the Indigo Girls?

"They're concerned with the state-

of our environment," said Eric McAfee, the concert committee chairman and senior biology/psychology major. "And they feel that by performing this benefit concert, they can help us achieve our conference goal to support the conference cost as well as with any excess being applied towards environmental groups that support the rain forests, recycling and prevention of global warming."

The duo has also waived the normal fee of their performances, and will donate any profit made from the event to the conference. This is what promises the concert will make a fantastic show — they care more about the cause than the money.

And it helps that the music is great. The duo keeps the sound basic — no drums, bass or keyboards — just guitars and vocals. Their secret is in the mix of harmonies, melodies and lyrics that creates a hard-edged, distinctive brand of rock'n'roll.

In every song, the two display surprising wisdom that belies their

age, as both women are in their mid-twenties. The duo's music and lyrics emphasize on a particular meaning of life, from finding illumination in "Closer To Fine" to the destitution in "Kid Fears."

Although the first set of tickets have been sold out, newly-registered guests will have a chance to obtain additional tickets available for the show.

"If a person is a registered confer-

ence participant, they can get their ticket on Friday in the Union, and others can register for the conference if they haven't done so," said McAfee.

The Indigo Girls' concert promises to be a show no one will want to miss, with the cause making it even more enjoyable. One could even invite his or her Anthropology teacher to attend.

## Mixing up the music: Rock and reggae fuse

### The Amateurs

Saturday, Oct. 28, 9:30 p.m.  
Under the Street

Tickets \$5

The Amateurs don't dish out the average, laid-back style of Rasta music. The North Carolina band creates a unique version they call "rock & reggae," a fantastic blend vital to a "good skankin' workout." On Saturday, Oct. 28, The Amateurs will bring this unique fusion to Durham's Under the Street to give the Triangle a dose of danceable reggae with a driving beat.

The Greenville-based group plays original rock and reggae, as well as an extensive list of covers ranging from Santana to Motown. Both are executed with ease by a band that has only recently come to be recognized and appreciated. They were voted "Best Local Musicians" in The Greenville Times Readers' Poll in 1988. The Amateurs play all over North Carolina and Virginia, but enjoy the greatest portion of their popularity in the coastal areas.

Founding band members Bill Shepherd (percussion and vocals), Buddy Alcorn (rhythm guitar) and Mike Davis (lead guitar and vocals) have found stability and success with the addition of Mike Canaly (saxophone), Bill Lynch (keyboards), Ayinde Olaniran (drums and vocals) and Vince Stout (bass).

With an energetic and casual stage-show, The Amateurs' popularity is no surprise. Lead singer Bill "Shep" Shepherd has no problems motivating lackadaisical crowds. With bulging biceps and an eternal smile, he never sits still on stage, often mingling with the crowd before the show and between sets — a genuinely friendly guy. His "happy face" has eyes that wrinkle up with mischief when he smiles, like a cartoon Santa.

He shows that the band can have fun as well as deliver a message when he hurls around the stage doing his Frankenstein stagger to the tune of the "Munster's Theme." "O-Wee-O

## DAVIS TURNER

### concert

(She's just skanking)" is some fun-time original music and always a favorite. A nice twist to the typical reggae cover set surfaces in the group's rendition of Talking Heads' "And She Was."

The unique sound of The Amateurs comes from a combination of influences including gospel, jazz and rhythm and blues. Although the band's songlist is strongly influenced by reggae, they are not Rastafarians. In a September interview with *Spectator Magazine*, Shep said they were into the whole "idea" of it. He believes that music is a form of spirituality if it is played with real feeling.

Shep grew up in New York, next to neighbors from Trinidad. The neighbors were in a band called Calypso Mania, and they gave him his first exposure to reggae. Other early influences came from his mother, who cut a few gospel tunes, and from four of his sisters, who sang in a gospel group they called the Shepherd Sisters.

Shep contradicts the stereotypical idea that Rastas advocate smoking pot and the separation of the races. He believes "Reggae has a message of peace, and peace must blend unity and compassion." He likes to write conscious music, and finds reggae to be the proper outlet for his message.

The Amateurs have a demo tape called *Three Songs*, which includes "What Can I Say," "Lay It On The Line" and "The Ocean." Shep's political concerns are expressed in the group's original music such as "What Can I Say" and "Look At The People," a song about political leaders who create false images and dedicated the people of South Africa and China.

The Amateurs, whose name means "performing art for sheer enjoyment," strive to provide a high energy show with that special spark that will distinguish them from the next band. The competition is neverending, but they remain fresh in their performance and focused in their message.

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