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Future sounds promising for musician McCafferty

By CHERYL ALLEN
 Staff Writer

He sleeps in a room crowded with instruments and recording equipment. These pieces of equipment provide his livelihood and may secure his future. Despite complaints of neighbors, he uses them to record his next tape.

Matt McCafferty is happy to be back in Chapel Hill after his two-year respite from UNC. He said Chapel Hill was a better place to perform.

"Here people really listen," McCafferty said. "Audiences here are so much more attentive than in Philadelphia."

McCafferty left UNC after his freshman year to pursue a more serious music career. He spent the last two years working, attending the University of Delaware and playing with a band in the Philadelphia area.

"The band was moving up on the club circuit; I had to decide if I wanted to be a professional musician or go on screwing around as an amateur," he said. "I decided to get my degree."

McCafferty returned to Chapel Hill to finish his senior year and take a breather from the music scene in Philadelphia.

"I woke up one morning and decided I'd become too involved too early in being a professional musician. That's when I got the idea to come back here," he said.

He described a visit to UNC last spring which planted the seed. On a sunny and clear spring day, he and his three best friends were playing frisbee near Silent Sam.

"I wondered why I'd ever left here," he said.

"It's more important for me to be a whole person and not neglect other parts of my personality that college can help me develop, than to quickly succeed," he said.

McCafferty said becoming famous wasn't his motivation for performing, but he had already seen many opportunities for success.

His band in Philadelphia played under the name Matthew Sevier, chosen because a painting of McCafferty's great-great uncle, General John Sevier, bore a striking resemblance to McCafferty. John Sevier was a Union Civil War hero.

When his band first started, the Hooters, another band from the Philadelphia area, had just hit the national scene.

"The area was getting a lot of attention," McCafferty said. "We got in at a

good time." As a result, they secured spots opening for nationally known artists such as A&M's John Hiatt, who was voted best songwriter two years running by Rolling Stone magazine.

"Musically, there was a gap we could fill," he said. "Philadelphia is a pop town. We were, at least by their standards, left of center." McCafferty said they were a bit more progressive than many of the other local bands.

"It was a good place to be out of the mainstream," he said.

Matthew Sevier played regularly at clubs in Philadelphia, Delaware, and southern New Jersey, but McCafferty saw a future beyond being a popular club band.

"It started out fun, but as the stakes got higher it had to become harder work and the level of commitment had to increase or else we'd stop progressing," he said. "I felt we'd stopped progressing."

Since the band broke up in March, McCafferty has been working alone.

According to McCafferty, his next band will probably be called Dolphin Train and include musicians from the Philadelphia area.

While in Philadelphia, McCafferty also worked as an assistant manager at a recording studio, OHM Studios. There he engineered and produced demos, building his desire to record his own music.

This summer he recorded and produced a five-song demo. Three major recording labels, Island and Atlantic records among them, await the release of his next tape.

"I really won't know what I'm doing until I get this tape done," he said.

McCafferty said his family influenced his musical pursuits.

"My brother and sister were instrumental in getting me to take music seriously," he said. "They are two of my biggest supporters."

Everyone in his family plays an instrument, and McCafferty described his father as a brilliant pianist, once a year.

"Once a year, at Christmastime, he sits down at the piano and plays the most inspired rendition of 'When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain' you've ever heard. To hear that you'd think he was a professional," he said.

McCafferty never studied piano however, and his formal guitar training included a few lessons at the YMCA and a couple of jazz guitar lessons.

He gained his most valuable musical experience with the Indonesian

Gamelan Ensemble, a 20-piece percussion group, McCafferty said. The unique music still infiltrates the things he writes and performs.

"It's a completely different form of art," he said.

The foreign instruments have no western counterparts. McCafferty described playing a hanging set of tuned pots. Two musicians sat in the lotus position, across from each other, and used mallets to perform an interlocking musical pattern.

"It was really a fascinating experience," he said. "It taught me how to concentrate."

McCafferty said he wrote country music for a while, culminating in a trip to Nashville, where he had a couple of songs published. Country music got him involved in the craft of writing music, he said.

"For the last year I've been involved in trying to make it more of an artistic pursuit," he said.

The starting point, where creating music is almost involuntary, is the artistic element; the craft comes in with finishing or recording the song, he said.

"The question of art or craft is a never-ending dilemma — I've finally decided it's not that important," he said. "But after doing it a while, the craft gets easier and the art gets a little harder."

McCafferty said he could not put a blanket label on the type of music he played. He said he could only describe what he was playing at the time. Currently, his songs most closely resemble some of the Talking Heads' music.

He said the important thing about music was not what form it took. In songwriting, people are labeled by the type of music they play and it becomes a matter of fashion, he said.

"Style isn't important — it's the artist's purpose. If something isn't worthwhile next year, it's not worth doing today."

McCafferty plans to open a recording studio outside Philadelphia when he graduates. He is only short \$2,000 worth of equipment of being able to take in clients.

"I learned enough from working in one that I could make a living doing that," he said.

On the larger scale, McCafferty said he knew if he really wanted to help people, there were things besides music he could be doing.

"I know music isn't the most important thing in the world, but to me it's something."

Black authors' works honored

By HEATHER SMITH
 Staff Writer

It's a tribute to the literature, the lives and the achievements of Afro-American authors.

Six female faculty members from UNC will perform a mixture of poetry and prose by black authors Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

The women said their performance, "Strong Women Survive Hurricanes," would contain an energy and excitement that emanates from their strong desire to celebrate the works of the authors.

"We just all got together and decided that we wanted to do something to share with the students so they could get an idea of the literature and aspects of Afro-American life," said Soyini Madison, a professor in the speech communication department, who will be performing.

"It's something that I have been wanting to do for quite some time. I've been thinking about it — doing something with other black women faculty on this campus."

"The women were all enthusiastic about doing it. I think it might have

been something that we all had in the back of our minds."

The poetry and prose they will present holds special, individual meaning for each of the professors, Madison said.

"There are various reasons why each one of us chose our own piece. (We) chose our own kind of favorite literature, pieces that spoke to us for a particular reason, or a particular way of styling, or a message that we wanted to get across to this audience at this time."

Literature selections range from Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "A Slave Mother at Pilgrims Point" to Lorraine Hansberry's "To Be Young, Gifted and Black," said Rosalind Fuse-Hall, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I think what all of us are trying to do is expose different literature to the students to give them a more expanded understanding of the kind of literature that celebrates African-American women," Madison said.

In addition to sharing great literature, the professors said they hoped to send a message about Afro-American women.

"We're also trying to share with them (the students and audience) the messages — each one of our pieces speaks to different levels of the life and history of African-American women," Madison said.

Each piece has a theme, Fuse-Hall said. "My particular piece demonstrates an 18th century black woman's struggle for love and peace and freedom."

"I am very much looking forward to the performance," said performer Sonja Stone, a professor in the Afro-American studies department.

In addition to performances by Fuse-Hall, Madison and Stone, audience members will be entertained by Jacqueline Bobo, a professor in the Radio, Television and Motion Pictures Department; Margo Crawford, director of the Black Cultural Center; and Thadious Davis, a professor in the English Department.

"(The audience will enjoy the performance), because I think they'll see a variety of moods and creativity about black women emerging from the text."

"This performance is one of the few times that professors get to entertain the students," Fuse-Hall said.

Pyewacket atmosphere in casual taste

By MARC WALTON
 Staff Writer

Couches in a bar? Signs sayin "Serve yourself from the bar"? A restaurant offering live music without a cover

charge? Where's the beef? What kind of place is this, anyway?

Pyewacket Restaurant, located at 431 W. Franklin St., offers a unique dining experience that includes free entertainment three nights a week at 10 p.m.

"What I wanted to create was a sense of coziness or warmth," Pyewacket owner David Bacon said. "I think a formal atmosphere is more uptight."

Pyewacket began rather humbly 12 years ago as a "counter-culture, hippie restaurant," he said.

"We started out with a small restaurant — we wanted to provide good value with casual but professional service," Bacon said. "We try to create a festive, fun environment."

Pam Patterson, a waitress at Pyewacket, said, "One of the most attractive things is the selection of prices for something like a middle-of-the-week lunch with friends."

"It's also a good place to bring a date. It can have a romantic atmosphere or a casual, relaxed atmosphere depending on the customer."

Students can enjoy local musicians playing the blues on Mondays, jazz on Wednesdays and contemporary and traditional acoustic music on Thursdays. "We have three nights set up for specific styles so people will know basically what to expect," Bacon said.

"Just last night (Feb. 8) we had Pinky Wyoming here," he said. "They're a local band, great musicians and have a large local following. They play great music and are very entertaining."

Bacon, a practicing vegetarian, began Pyewacket with a strictly vegetarian-focused menu. "When we moved here we decided we needed to broaden our menu," he said.

"Some people wouldn't come to such an esoteric restaurant. We wanted to broaden our appeal," he said. "We're not strictly vegetarian anymore, at least half of our entrees are of a seafood nature now."

"Because of our menu, we're unique. I still believe greatly in the attributes of a heavily vegetarian diet."

Jack Waters, a junior computer science major from New Bern, said, "It was a little expensive (\$7-\$14), but it had a distinctive selection of food, which was well worth the price — if it suits your tastes."

Bacon said he would soon be opening a takeout counter which he said he hoped would attract students on a more regular basis. Takeout is available Sunday through Thursday for dinner and also Monday through Friday for lunch.

"We get students mostly in the evenings and on the weekends. Most of them come here with their dates," Bacon said.

Leslye Jackson, a graduate student in English, said, "Sometimes I come just to eat. Even on nights without music I come to talk with my friends because it's conducive to conversation."

Pyewacket is open Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. The bar is open until 1 a.m. during the week.

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