

ARTS and FEATURES

Transactors rely on spontaneity to produce uproarious comedy

By **BRYAN TUCKER**
Staff Writer

So what exactly are the Transactors going to do when they perform at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro on Friday night? The truth is, no one knows, not even them.

The Transactors Improv Company is a group of four comic actors who perform impromptu skits based entirely on suggestions from the audience. The audience may provide a certain situation or setting, but then it is up to the actors to enhance it with distinct characters, plot twists and especially humor. What follows is a form of entertainment based entirely on imagination, and the group uses it with awe-inspiring results.

Tim Johnston, Allison Heartinger, Greg Hohn and Dan Sipp have been working together in the Triangle for years to create a polished technique that always seems to take the action where

it's funniest. Audience members are unsure whether to laugh at their routines or to sit fascinated at their rapid spontaneity.

The Transactors started seven years ago in the ArtsCenter as a theater group doing one-act plays for children. The actors and the style have changed over the years, and now the group is led by Heartinger and by artistic director Johnston, both of whom have been with the group for three years. Sipp is a two-year veteran, and Hohn joined the group one year ago. All members are graduates of UNC except Johnston, who attended Duke University.

The group's elected status as "Best Local Comedian in the Triangle" in Spectator magazine illustrates local audiences' familiarity with the Transactors' talent. However, the company also has done many nationally recognized shows, such as "Heat," a radio

show out of New York, and has opened for Dionne Warwick and Leon Redbone.

The Transactors have been chosen to attend the Performing Arts Showcase in Atlanta this October. This festival spans nine states and could be a potential break for the group.

Fortunately, these professionals have already made their mark in the area doing gigs about twice a week, but be warned. If you see them, come armed with creative ideas and a readiness to give them a challenge. The most bizarre beginnings produce the most captivating and hilarious results.

The Transactors Improv Company will perform at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro tonight at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for the public and \$5.50 for students with ID.

N.C. bands deliver at SEAC benefit

By **BRIAN SPRINGER**
Staff Writer

Wednesday night's Student Environmental Action Coalition benefit concert brought nearly 400 fans to the Cat's Cradle for a show of solid local rock 'n' roll. While the club was only one-third full, the concert still raised more than \$2,000 for SEAC projects.

Queen Sarah Saturday led off the four-band bill with a brand of tuneful, guitar-driven rock akin to the Connells'. A powerful rhythm section, with a relentlessly pulsating bass, gave Queen Sarah Saturday a highly danceable sound. Songs like "Wasted Time," "The Waves" and "Starting" won over even the partisan Veldt crowd.

Satellite Boyfriend was up next, playing a mixture of its older material, including "Alicia in the Black Dress" and "Let Me Stand On Your Shoulders," both from *Yes Ma'am*, along with newer material. Lead singer/guitarist Phillip Collins copped a move from almost every guitar god on vinyl, while Sam Dennis, John David Eliason and Andy Ware supplied a powerful instrumental backdrop. It became evident that the newer Boyfriend tunes are nearly carbon copies of the older ones, like the Kinks, but that didn't detract from a strong, straightforward rock set.

The Veldt delivered 12 songs in a mere 40 minutes, bringing the Cradle to hot, sweaty life. Vocalist Daniel Chavis danced, pranced and roamed the stage like an animal. Guitarist Danny Chavis, bassist Joe Boyle and drummer Marvin Levi crashed through hard funk rhythms, occasional reggae touches and pure power rock as they put the audience in Veldt-style motion. A guest appearance by Dillon Fence's singer/guitarist Greg Humphreys treated the audience to a duel by arguably the best two sets of pipes in local rock. Songs included "The Way I Feel" and "Don't Treat Me Like a Steppchild," and the band gave a short-set showing of the reason why it's being pegged as the Connells' replacement as THE NEXT BIG THING in area rock.

Most of the audience left with the Veldt, leaving Raleigh's four-year-old band the Insurgence a mostly empty club. Those who left early missed an outstanding show by a band no less danceable than the Veldt and perhaps a bit more inspired. During the course of 12 songs, the Insurgence augmented a basic power 4/4 rock sound with touches of rockabilly, U2-ish anthems and dance-pop, often calling up comparisons to Big Country. After the show, the band admitted they had been given a raw deal having to follow the Veldt, but the members' dedication to SEAC and to the fine art of having fun made them a wonderful surprise.

While one could hope for a better turnout at a concert of this caliber, all the bands involved made sure those in attendance got their money's worth. The fact that all proceeds went to SEAC made the show all the more worthwhile. Thanks go out to the Cradle, all the bands and SEAC for a great show. Maybe next time we can try this on a Friday.

Law school symposium to address legal problems, issues confronting women

By **DAWN WILSON**
Staff Writer

Legal practice and theory will come together at the UNC School of Law on Saturday in an effort to shed light on problems confronting women today.

Welfare, equality, legal reform and domestic violence make up only part of the agenda for the symposium "Women and the Law: Putting Theory into

Practice." The subjects were chosen not only because they are issues relevant to women in law, but because the subjects create an interplay between legal theory and practice, said Sally Sharp, UNC professor of law.

Discussions on the best approach to resolving women's issues prompted the creation of the symposium. "Instead of

leaving the discussions with the faculty and students, we want to combine with those who are legal practitioners and community advocates to learn the best way to address these issues," said Ann McColl, symposium coordinator.

One of the unique aspects of the symposium is that it brings together those who specialize in theory and those who specialize in practice to share information. Sharp said this was "done in hope that each can enrich the other. Those in social fields or litigation can learn from those (who specialize) in writing."

"This is a unique effort to draw together litigating lawyers as well as those

working in welfare or domestic violence," she said.

Among the distinguished panelists are featured speakers Christine Littleton and Alison Wetherfield.

Littleton is a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern California Women's Law Center. She was the managing editor of Harvard Women's Law Journal as well as serving on the Harvard Law Review. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she clerked for Judge Warren Ferguson of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Littleton then became a professor in the University of California-Los Angeles'

women's studies program. She has written several articles about feminist legal concerns.

Wetherfield is director of the National Organization for Women Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York. As protector of women's constitutional interests against abortion clinic blockaders, she co-counseled the precedent-setting case NOW-NYS vs. Operation Rescue. Wetherfield spoke before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services case, and in 1987 she challenged AFDC regulations which adversely affect poor women before the Supreme Court in Bowen vs. Gilliard. Wetherfield teaches

at the City University of New York.

The symposium is open to any student who wishes to attend. "These (issues) have bearing not just on students or faculty teaching, but on people practicing in the humanities. We hope to bring talents together to make a difference in these areas," said Judith Wegner, dean of the UNC School of Law.

The program is sponsored by the UNC School of Law, Women In Law Student Organization, North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys and the Orange County Women's Center. The symposium will begin at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow at the UNC School of Law. For more information, call 942-6809.

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Campus Y's Project Literacy opens new worlds with service

By **BETH TATUM**
Staff Writer

Last year, a University housekeeper stopped me in the hall.

"Do you know how to write good?" she asked.

"Well, yes," I said, unsure of why she would want to know.

"Could you write me a letter? My boss is retiring and I want to put something in the paper for her. My daughter's busy so she won't have time to come over and write for me tonight," she said.

I told her I would, and later that afternoon she dictated the letter to me.

But there's an alternative to depending on others for reading and

writing. Campus Y's Project Literacy gives UNC personnel who can't write a letter or read a book the chance to become literate.

Between 10 and 12 University employees use the on-campus literacy training provided by the Campus Y. These programs serve people ranging from those who know their alphabet to those who know nothing at all, said Jim Justice, co-chairman of Project Literacy. If their inability to read and write forces them to depend on others, they are good candidates for the program, he said.

The Campus Y has recruitment drives and goes through supervisors to find personnel who may need to use the program, said Shelle Wheelless, co-

chairman of Project Literacy.

"All adults we serve on campus are UNC personnel," Justice said. "We don't know the exact percentages of those who need these programs, but there are a lot."

Jack Stone, associate personnel director of the University's employee division, said he was unaware of a large illiteracy problem with employees, though the problem exists. All employees are required to fill out a job application, he said.

Being able to read and write is important to any job, Stone said. "It is important for personal safety such as if a housekeeper is working in a lab. It's also important for self-esteem," he said.

Herbert Paul, director of the Physical Plant, encourages employees to use the literacy programs by giving them an extra hour before lunch to go for personal tutoring.

"We give them one hour of state time (11 a.m. to noon) if they will use one

hour of their time (noon to 1 p.m.)," Paul said.

"The equipment has gotten more sophisticated and the staff need to understand what they are working with," he said. "We also want to give them the opportunity to enlarge their abilities and be more productive."

Paul said that encouraging personnel to use the literacy programs occurred primarily in the physical plant, but after seeing how well it has worked, the University may expand on it.

Employees participate voluntarily, and each year the Campus Y sets up a meeting with the staff to explain their purpose and determine if employees are interested. This year a former student of the program will share how the literacy program has helped her.

"There are probably hundreds that need to use this program, but it's a little late in life for most to say they have a problem," Paul said.

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