

Grinding out original trash and treasure

the jody grind

Friday, September 14, 10 p.m.

Cat's Cradle
Tickets, \$5

A catchy name, a Georgia background, and a pit bull named Chainsaw — what more could you ask from a band?

And yet, even this wasn't enough for Chapel Hill last year. Those who went to see the jody grind's Cat's Cradle show, the Brewery show with Southern Culture on the Skids or Durham Centerfest know that while their performance was no less than astounding, the number of people in attendance was disappointing.

This means a lot of people are missing out on one of the best up-and-coming bands the South has produced.

The jody grind is not so much original as unforgettable. Combining jazz, country and folk is nothing new, but the jody grind delivers a unique performance. With a devious, sensual twist the band manages to cover Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Frank Sinatra and Dusty Springfield. Those who wrinkle their noses at this list, hear it done before you judge. Those who smile appreciatively, it will fulfill your expectations and then some.

AMANDA GRAVES

Concert

The jody grind line-up consists of haunting vocalist Kelly Hogan Murray, Bill Taft on guitar and banjo, Robert Hayes on upright bass and Walter Brewer on drums. It doesn't sound too odd on paper, but it's amazing on stage. Brewer's drums consist only of a snare drum, a floor tom and a few cymbals, which is hard to believe considering the complexity, not to mention the noise, of the percussion he creates. An unusual twist to the norm is Hayes' upright bass, which in no way limits his abilities and creates an image of jazz band gone bad — or good, in this case. Taft ties the melody together with a style often compared to Django Reinhart, while Murray croons her way, powerfully and seductively, into our hearts.

Their debut album, *One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure*, released this spring on DB Records, achieved notoriety along with releases by such bands as World Party, Public Enemy and the Cowboy Junkies as one of the top albums of the first part of 1990. With unlikely cover songs like the theme from "Peter Gunn," "Mood Indigo," "It Ain't Necessarily So," and "Wishin' and Hopin'," the



The jody grind people: (l-r) Kelly Hogan Murray, Bill Taft, Robert Hayes and Walter Brewer (oops, forgot the dog)

jody grind manages to bring originality to the unoriginal act of singing other people's songs.

And this is only the beginning of their talents. In their original material, they like to try to grasp the truths of life. When asked about their songwriting style they said: "We're never happy unless we're depressed. We love to write songs about murder, death, and isolation."

Murray says the jody grind's eclecticism comes naturally. "Bill, the gui-

tar player, is a big blues guy," she says, "but he also played in a band called the Chowder Shouters, who played garbage cans and wrenches and would set up in Starvin' Marvin parking lots. Walter, the drummer, is into jazz, although he played in blues bands, too. Robert, the bass player, was in thrash bands. Then I used to sing in a band that did jazz standards and ballads."

Through the summer and into fall, the jody grind will be touring with Poi-

Dog Pondering and Robyn Hitchcock. They're stopping here in the Triangle area for a Friday show at the Cradle and to appear, as last year, at Durham Centerfest, along with Southern Culture on the Skids and Dillon Fence.

So check out the jody grind tomorrow night. Be ready for the unexpected, especially from lead singer Kelly Hogan Murray. And if all this still doesn't appeal to you, go to hear about Chainsaw, Murray's pit bull terrier.

Omnibus in no way endorses either candidate

Three of the Triangle's most prominent bands, Johnny Quest, Dillon Fence and the Veldt, will be performing Wednesday, Sept. 19 in a benefit concert for Harvey Gantt at the Cat's Cradle.

Greg Humphreys, lead guitarist and singer for Dillon Fence, has helped to spearhead a coalition called MOVE, or Musicians Organized for Voter Education. MOVE has received support from recent shows across North Carolina in encouraging registration and in reminding those who haven't registered that it's an easy process.

"Unfortunately many people don't realize how easy it is to vote," said Humphreys. "Many times the process becomes a stumbling block for voters whose opinions are essential."

The coalition intends to stress the importance of this issue next Wednesday at the benefit.

Colin Soloway, co-ordinator of the event, said, "Kids need to realize that the individual action of buying the ticket or registering to vote is having an effect on society. That they as an individual can change things ..."

"I hope people get in touch with the political event," he said. "I think students see politics as being controlled by old people."

Dillon Fence's Humphreys came to Heath with the benefit idea. While some other area bands were interested in playing, the final billing is a compromise for the benefit.

"The campaign was concerned about using the Sex Police," Soloway said. "They felt they had to be cautious in light of Helms' tactics."

Jody Maxwell of the Sex Police commented, "I understood the reasoning, but it was kind of silly. They were afraid it might be bad publicity. We still support Gantt."

Jessica Mallet, President of the UNC Young Democrats, said: "We've been selling tickets (for the show) like crazy. It will help the campaign because Gantt needs the money going against Helms. It's also great name recognition."

In speaking of Jesse Helms,

Humphreys said, "His stance against the autonomy of the NEA is a slap in the face to artistic freedom, and his views are an insult to the freedom of speech and freedom of expression."

When asked why there wasn't a parallel local Helms' benefit or rally, Humphreys replied, "If you can find three bands in this galaxy that would play 'Happy Birthday' for Jesse Helms,

I'll give them all a nickel."

Young Republicans President Charlton Allen said of the benefit, "They definitely have a right to express their opinion and do anything they want to raise money for their candidate."

As for the event itself, it should prove to be a legendary show. Since the billing incorporates all three of

these "highly esteemed bands," a sell-out can be expected.

—Jonathan Poole and Randy Basinger

Rock for Gantt will take place Sept. 19 at 9 pm at Cat's Cradle. Tickets (\$7 advance, \$8 day of the show) are available at Cat's Cradle, Schoolkids' or Young Democrats in the Pit.

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