

Features

Racism forum begins

By Sherida Frizsell
Staff Writer

A returning program that encourages individuals to discuss their experiences with racism, "Opening Doors: A Dialogue on Race in the Institution," held its first fall session Sept. 22. The program does not attempt to find solutions to racism, but rather aims to make the participants more aware of others' experiences with racism.

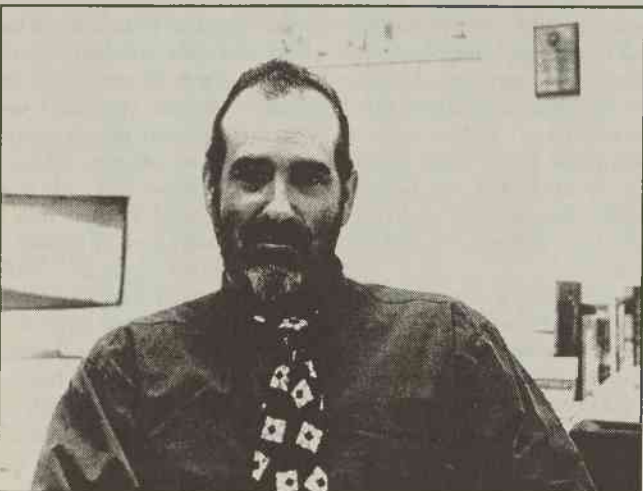


PHOTO BY SARAH HARNIDEN

Edward Katz, assistant professor of literature and director of Opening Doors.

"I think that desire to solve racism are really an evasion of the need to really understand people and what has happened to them," said Edward Katz, UNCA assistant professor of literature and director of Opening Doors. "This is probably one of the most fundamental problems in our country."

Opening Doors encourages UNCA students, faculty, and staff, along with Asheville professionals,

to explore their personal experiences with racism, said Katz. The sessions use a combination of readings, videos, and guest speakers to facilitate discussion.

Opening Doors does not try to target a specific group of people to participate. "We have no specific person in mind. The people that participate in the program typically come from all levels in every institution," said Katz.

One of those participants, Sharon Baggett, a UNCA sophomore history major, took part in the program last fall to find out about race

to it is one of the more important aspects of the program, said Baggett.

"It doesn't focus so much on solutions, as making people aware," said Baggett, who returned to the program this semester as a group facilitator.

"It has the general aim of offering people the opportunity to share their experiences and stories having to do with race in the places they spend most of their lives, such as the workplace or some other institutional setting," said Katz.

Opening Doors emphasizes communication rather than the alteration of views or opinions, said Katz.

"It doesn't seek to change or reshape anybody's attitude, certainly not against their will," said Katz. "It seeks to open them up to hearing what other people have experienced, and what they think about it when that experience is coming from someone whose attitudes and perspectives may be far different from their own."

UNCA students may take the seven-session program for one hour of class credit in interdisciplinary studies for a pass/fail grade, but students are usually in the program for more than just credit, said Katz.

"Diversity and race will be a big challenge for all sorts of institutions in the coming decade, and the students really want to give something back to the place where they're getting their education," said Katz.

The participants in Opening Doors are as diverse as the different institutions they represent, said Katz. Participants include employees from the Memorial Mission and St. Joseph's Health System and the Mountain Area Health Education Center.

relations in Asheville. Originally from Charlotte, she wanted to see how the cities differed in their racial issues.

"Lots of white people tend to be unaware of racism," said Baggett. "By becoming more aware of subtle forms of racism, it's easier to react against them."

Opening Doors' emphasis on being aware of the problem of racism rather than trying to find solutions

Live Difranco at her finest

By Andrew Hart
Staff Writer

Ani Difranco's latest release, "Living in Clip," showcases her songwriting and performing abilities unlike any of her previous albums have. This newest musical offering from Difranco, drummer Andy Stochansky, and bassist Sara Lee is a live double CD recorded during their 1995-96 tour.

The 31 songs on Difranco's ninth album are loaded with her heart-heavy lyrics and gunshot guitar picking. Songs from all of her previous albums appear here in their truest form, live and unadulterated, improvised and enhanced by the energy of the audience and Difranco's spastic, unpredictable personality.

Whether the situation is a romantic breakdown, a depiction of brutality against women, an outcry for women who do not fit society's mold, or a ballad, Difranco's voice penetrates like bullets, her words ironic and poignant.

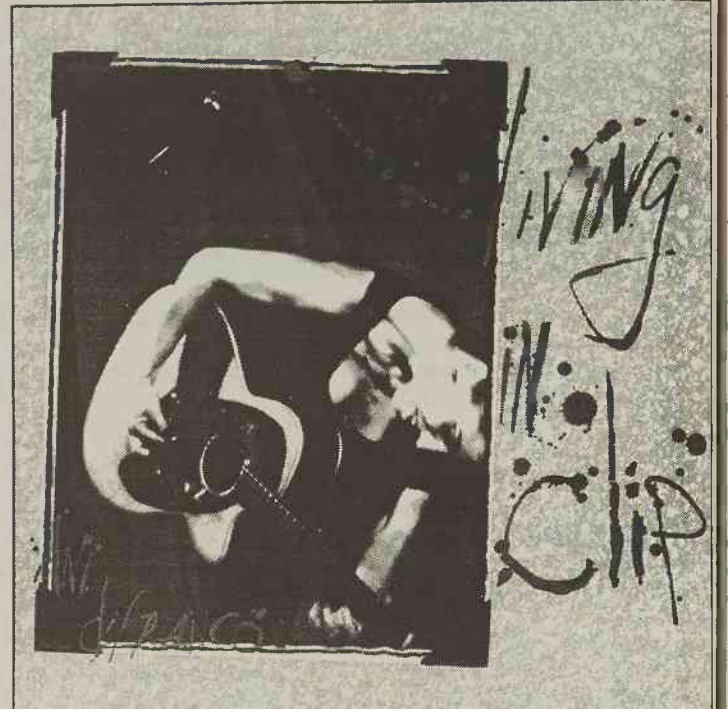


PHOTO COURTESY OF RIGHTEOUS BABE RECORDS

to the sad-eyed, woeful mourn of "Joyful Girl," Difranco threads the needles that prick our emotions.

In her song "Anticipate," Difranco sings "You're as subtle as a window pane standing in my view/ I'll wait for it to rain so that I can see you/ you call me up at night when there's no light passing through/ And you think I don't understand, but I do."

Difranco's guitar playing is like none ever heard before. She anxiously hammers the chords during moments of rage, grit, and harshness, plucking the notes to tickle the senses, and somehow doing both simultaneously in either a flurried hustle, mellow stroll, or slow

crawl. Stochansky and Lee follow Difranco into musical oblivion along with the crowd.

The audience's participation compliments "Living in Clip" like a fourth member of the band. Difranco relates and communicates to her audience like a best friend. Prodding them to laugh, to shut up, to listen, Difranco acts as if they were all in her living room joking and chatting.

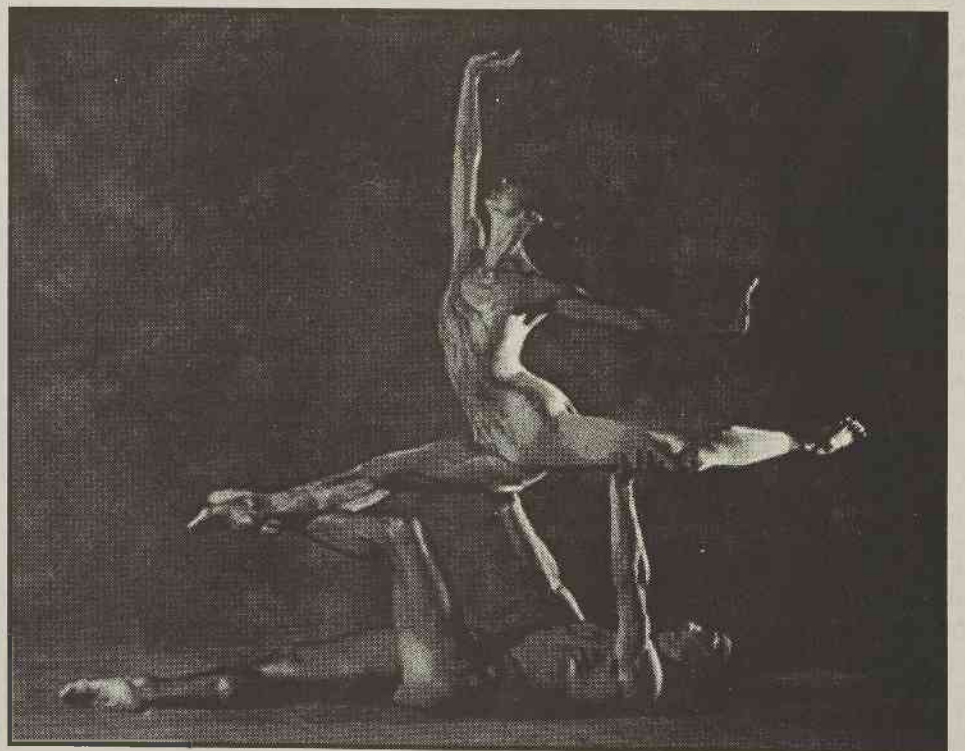
Difranco's sincere, naked honesty in both her music and her person strips away popular music's clichés. All her albums are produced and distributed by her own independent label, Righteous Babe Records.

Review

Difranco's tone and theme ricochet from one extreme to another without any loss of accuracy, inventiveness, or originality. From the frustration fueled "Shameless"

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

Jack of the Wood disappoints

By Trish Parker
Staff Writer

Jack of the Wood, a new pub located downtown at 95 Patton Ave., is a bar with little more to interest its patrons than its clever name, despite a few positive attributes.

Review

The pub is home to The Green Man Brewery, and serves a limited selection of its own house-brewed beer. It also serves Guinness on tap and a few other brands of bottled beer, but not much more.

The few beers made in the brewery were good, especially for those who appreciate European-style beers.

Ordering mixed drinks proved challenging, however the selection of mixers consisted of the bare basics, but do not plan to drink screwdrivers. They serve vodka, but not orange juice. The pub does serve a very stiff whiskey and 7-Up, though.

The menu from the kitchen, like the beverage menu, was very limited. Chips and salsa tasted more like chips and ketchup.

Patrons could also order vegetarian chili and hummus with pita bread. One got the impression that the pub was trying to combine a health food restaurant with a bar, and the result felt strange. The food needed Snapple for a beverage, not beer. The beer needed peanuts and pretzels, not hummus.

Jack of the Wood does know how to keep a clean bar. The dark green floor was spotless and the white walls gleamed. The windows were beautiful creations with stained glass accents. The owners paid careful attention to detail when trying to create a replica of an Irish pub.

The place radiated charm until Creedence Clearwater Revival squallied "Born on a Bayou" for the second time in one hour. No amount of effort could salvage the "I'm in Ireland" fantasy at that point.

The lighting was too bright for a bar and the music too loud for a pub. Night clubs are loud places where patrons must shout to be heard above the music. The expectation for a pub is that patrons can sit and converse with friends without screaming.

There was a dart board near the restrooms. The positioning of this dart board added adventure to a trip to the ladies' room. Fortunately for the ladies, the dart players were gentle-

men and did not throw darts when people walked past them to the restrooms. The restroom was also very clean, especially for a bar.

One point of interest was the brewery itself. The pub has large windows in the hallway leading to the ladies' room where people can look at the equipment used to brew the beer. They looked like giant metal cows.

For those who want to check out Jack of the Wood personally, get there early on weekend nights. There were no vacant tables by 10 p.m. on a Friday. The pub was loud, but the crowd was well-behaved.

The pub prohibits smoking indoors. Smokers are banished to an outdoor area to indulge in their tobacco, where there are large benches with ash cans bolted to the walls.

Prices at Jack of the Wood are reasonable. The bill for two house beers, an order of chips and salsa, and one mixed drink came to around \$12, plus tip.



PHOTO BY TRISH JOHNSON

Jack of the Wood is the home of The Green Man brewery. Patrons can witness the brewing process inside the pub while enjoying one of Jack's house-brewed beers.