

Features

Spring's artistic show

By Kay Alton
Staff Writer

Spring has begun and so has the world's greatest art show. God and Mother Nature have opened their annual art exhibit at The North Carolina Arboretum, located at 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, off Brevard Road.

Brilliant pansies, tulips, and other works of art appear in glorious new robes of the season.

The Western North Carolina Orchid Society co-sponsored a display on Sunday, March 26 that presented a banquet of color and a visual feast. The exhibit was carefully labeled and accessible to a steady stream of visitors.

These hearty tropical plants revealed their delicate velvet-textured blooms in exquisite varieties of shapes, sizes, and colors. All of the important members of the orchid family were in the show.

The *Angraecum* species from Madagascar exuded a pleasant fragrance. *Cattleya* alliance hybrids posed in miniature landscapes resembling rain forests, and the most popular orchid species, the *Phalaenopsis*, was everywhere.

Axel Graumann, secretary of the local Orchid Society, gave me some pointers about growing orchids on campus.

Graumann said the *Palaenopsis* orchid would easily accommodate a dorm room, if the light and moisture elements remain healthy. A student can buy an orchid at the local building supply store in



PHOTO BY KAY ALTON

The North Carolina Orchid Society and the North Carolina Arboretum hosted a display of orchids on March 26.

a four-inch pot.

The plant should flourish in a sunny exposure with filtered light, or under a fluorescent lamp. "It costs a lot less than a bouquet of flowers," said Graumann.

"Water it once a week, also misting the green plant but not the orchid bloom. A student may enjoy a beautiful orchid for two years with no additional attention. Of course, the roommate will have to agree to the placement of the pot," said Graumann.

The show was free and the weather was pleasant—two factors that usually interest the UNCA community.

After viewing the indoor exhibit, I spent a minute talking with Laura Johnson, the guest services coordinator for the arboretum. Johnson said students would find it both challenging and rewarding biking

and hiking the trails. There are creeks and forests and majestic mountain scenes, which UNCA students can enjoy.

"The gardens are gorgeous and in full bloom about mid-April," Johnson said.

Grassy glades and meadows are excellent picnic spots. Visitors may enjoy the solitude or bring a group and spread a feast among the blue skies and towering trees.

People-watching and listening to nature appeals to plenty of people during the spring. In fact, many were observed in different spots throughout the garden, seated on the ground, walls, or benches and bridges. Young and old visitors to the arboretum enjoyed solitude and conversation on Sunday afternoon. I strolled through the gardens without interruption from loud conversation or traffic noise.

One thing remains true—the beauty of an awakening spring may best be appreciated by taking a drive down the road to the arboretum one of these days when you must flee the campus for a while and reclaim your life.

Music by band US is vessel for message

By Melissa Starnes
Staff Writer

A band called US played at the Battle of the Bands Feb. 15 at UNCA. The band consists of Seth Gronquist, a junior multi-media arts and sciences major, and Cortes Cuthbertson, a junior political science major.

Their music is primarily for themselves, according to Cuthbertson.

"It's for ourselves to the point where it is personal to us," said Cuthbertson, who writes the lyrics. "I learned a long time ago that if you write music and it's personal to you, it becomes personal to everyone because they can relate to it."

"The music is not just 'let's get up there and have a great time.' The music is a vessel for something more important, and that's the message," said Gronquist, who writes the music.

US incorporates their opinions and their past struggles into their album, *If Not Us*.

"Everything we see, everything we do, every little element of our lives transcends into our music—the good, the bad, the ugly. We put it out there for everybody to look at as a piece of artwork," Cuthbertson said.

The title for this album comes from an "inspirational speech" where the speaker said, "If not now, when? If not here, where? If not us, then who?"

The title and songs represent

changes that need to take place, according to Gronquist. This includes physical, mental, and spiritual changes.

"We're basically saying that we know there are problems," said Gronquist. "Who's going to take care of it if it's not us?"

US tries not to project a positive or negative message in their lyrics. "You always hear that; it's either positive or negative, it's good or bad. The world is made up of a mixture of positive and negative," said Gronquist.

In comparison to some music today, US wants their music to stand out in the people's minds.

"We're trying to change the industry, change the world. We're trying to be superheroes, I guess, to the point where we're making this music and everybody's listening. Then, they go back home and listen to all this other

stuff, and they're like, 'Man, I've been listening to this all this time,'" said Cuthbertson.

US has a different way of making their music. They use a variety of keyboard instruments, but "most of the rhythm is computer based," Gronquist said.

He uses loop-based computer software for the drumbeats.

"Everything that goes onto the computer is his (Gronquist's) creation," said Cuthbertson. "He's coming up with this stuff on the keyboards and feeding it into the computer."

Gronquist and Cuthbertson, who are both from Charlotte, have



IMAGE COURTESY OF US

The album *If Not Us* is produced by US, a two-person student band.

known each other since middle school and live made music together since 11th grade. In an earlier, more hip-hop band, Gronquist played the guitar and Cuthbertson rapped. When they went to college, they were the only two who remained together.

Their music evolved from "the necessity to do more," Gronquist said.

In high school Gronquist and Cuthbertson wanted to eventually get a record deal and be famous.

Now they are "working on our skills, our music, our sound and becoming comfortable with ourselves, and everything will come us, instead of us chasing this team," said Cuthbertson.

This is also what led their music. "We're not out there to chase something," Cuthbertson said. "We're out there to have people come to us."

US has performed at the Patton Avenue Pub and StellaBlue. They will also play at the Live Party on campus in April.

Review

Profile

People Are a Lot Like You.

The UNCA Department of Music presents

"THE WELL-TRAVELED ITALIANS"

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In Concert

"One of the most exciting and expressive classical guitarists of his generation."

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This is an ARTS 310 Cultural Event
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April 7th - 9th at UNCA Lipinsky Hall, Asheville, NC
April 14th - 15th at The Performing Arts Center, Waynesville, NC
Advance tickets: 1-800-965-9324; online: www.christianappennings.com
By mail: Send check to Jericho Productions, 56 Central Ave., Suite 205, Asheville 28801
All tickets will be held at box office for pick-up the day of performance
For information call us in Asheville @ 255-8440; or online @ jerichoproductions.org

There will be a short film and a teaching about the human and environmental effects of funding by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund with a representative from the Direct Action Network on March 30 at 7 p.m. in Highsmith room 37.

Halsted Street, USA
David Simpson
in person

Asheville Art Museum
UNC-Asheville Cultural & Special Events Committee
Mass Communications Department with support from the Fine Arts Theatre
Lipinsky Auditorium, UNC-Asheville

Time: 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 30, 2000
(828) 253-3227

Admission: \$5 general, \$3.50 Museum members & students; free to UNCA students

The YMI Cultural Center presents
AFRICAN AMERICAN DANCE ENSEMBLE

featuring **Chuck Davis**

Diana Wortham Theatre
Pack Place
April 9th 4:00 pm

Tickets available at:
Highsmith Student Center
\$5.00 for UNCA Students
\$12.00 for UNCA Faculty and Staff

Sponsored by The YMI Cultural Center
This event is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency