

FEATURES

'Thirsty Thursday' brings crowd to baseball game

Diana Kostigen
Features Reporter

A handful of Asheville Tourists' baseball fans probably go to the ballgames because of their enduring love of the sport. Even more may go just to see really hot men in skin-tight pants. But let's be honest, most fans brave the crowds, fight over parking spaces and wait in excruciatingly long lines for one main reason—dollar beers. The cold, cheap beer has become the foundation for what could be the biggest social events of the season, "Thirsty Thursday."

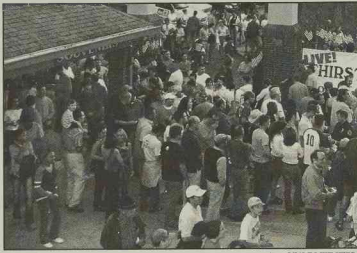
"I like 'Thirsty Thursday' because you get to see everyone," said Melissa Doyle, an undrafted senior.

"Everyone in town comes out, and it's the first game of the year. And more people are going to come out than not come out because it's dollar-beer night."

Fans had to arrive early; tickets sold out quick.

A crowd totaling approximately 4,392 piled into McCormick Field for the Tourists' first game of the season, and breaking all previous opening day records. An overwhelming feeling of excitement permeated throughout the stadium with the seifout crowd cheering on the home team, ensuring the ultimate 2-1 win over the visiting Capital City Bombers.

Even with reduced beer prices, the ballpark must have made impressive profits on the first "Thirsty Thursday" of the year. General admission tickets sold for \$6 and



Thousands of people attend "Thirsty Thursday" to see the Asheville Tourists home opener and to drink cheap beer.

funnel cakes to satisfy fans. With over six types of domestic beers on tap to choose from and a plethora of snacks and treats, "Thirsty Thursday" could very well be the cheapest date in history.

Fans barely noticed the 38-minute game delay because of a malfunctioning public address system on the first "Thirsty Thursday." Heck, just one trip through the beer line took twice that long. The opening ceremony ended up being worth the wait.

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Review

Besides the normal food like pizza and popcorn, the ballpark offers chocolate dipped cheesecake and

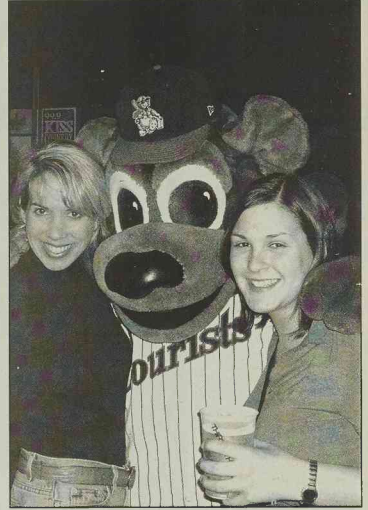
The moving ceremony started with a prayer for our troops overseas and ended with a magnificent fireworks display.

The fans started out pumped up, and a combined 17 total strikeouts throughout the game, and only two hits from the Tourists proved that unwavering support and loud cheers may not be enough to bring it home. But, at least they won, even if it didn't constantly entertain. What could be better than this on this opening game? Plus, with only three returning players on this year's roster, it may take a few games to get their groove back.

To a sports novice, the game felt pretty standard. The crowd savored the night, rather than the game. UNCA students sat scattered among the crowd, proving that college students and beer drinking go hand in hand.

UNCA college students got the party going before the game, and kept it strong well into the night. The fun didn't just stop at the game. Students even have parties that last all day around "Thirsty Thursday" games, visiting one or more popular local bars such as Rio Bravo, Magnolia, The Bier Garden and Hannah Flannagan's Irish Pub.

Bands kept the "Thirsty Thursday" crowd dancing until closing at bars like Magnolia and Rio Bravo. The Caribbean Cowboys started off their first set at 8 p.m. at Rio, giving plenty of time to warm up before large crowds trickled in following the game. Many fans even cut out of the game early to move on to bigger and better party



Banner reporters Diana Kostigen and Caroline Soesbee cozy up to Ted E. Tourist at this season's inaugural "Thirsty Thursday" Apr. 3.

prospects. For that handful of fans that actually did watch the game, moments of suspense occurred as the

drama unfolded. Tourists' starting pitcher Ben Crockett proved his ability by pitching six innings of three-hit baseball.

Campus art exhibit explores aging process

Rhiannon Richard
Features Reporter

Skip Rohde's recent Owen gallery exhibit looks at aging in the modern world. Rohde, a senior art major, used the gallery to display his larger-than-life paintings of senior citizens.

"It was about life, not death," said Rohde. "Once I realized this, I decided to tackle the subject of being old in a more direct manner. So I started this series, focusing on older people and aging."

The series, titled "Old Times" came as a progression from works that he had already produced. "I had been working on a series of landscape paintings. I was trying to make a landscape that was more than just a field and barn," said Rohde. "I wound up doing a number of paintings of the Forks of Ivy, which is a wide spot in the road at the Madison-Buncombe line."

He eventually realized that his paintings focused on the older things in life, objects that still had some life left in them, but that obviously looked aged.

Four of the paintings have their roots in paintings by Titian, Michelangelo, Manet and Renoir.

"The old masters had depicted idealized young people," said Rohde. "I turned that around. An attractive young person in the prime of life is certainly a fine thing to see, but older people are, in many respects, far more interesting and far more worthy of being idealized."

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Skip Rohde, senior art major

He hasn't won them all, but he's still standing and still proud."

Manet's "Olympia," Titian's "Venus of Urbino" and Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party" each



Skip Rohde, a senior art student, painted vibrant images of the elderly.

"Michelangelo's 'David' still holds the stone that will kill Goliath," said Rohde. "So, he's just a good-looking guy who hasn't done anything yet. My 'David' is an older man who's already fought a lot of battles.

show their older faces in Rohde's depictions of aging. "Each of my paintings, I think, can be appreciated on their own terms, but if you're familiar with the original version you'll get a deeper meaning out of them," said Rohde.

J.P. Ammons, a senior multimedia arts and science major described the paintings as "simple people doing simple things."

"They are new expressions of an older painting with the artist's own twist on it," said Ammons. "I would really like to know the order in which they were all painted, and have them shown in that order to show time in another fashion."

Rohde based his painting "David" on Michelangelo's sculpture of the same name.

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When asked which painting he likes best, Rohde said, "My favorite. All of them. They're all my offspring, and I like them all for very different reasons."

The gallery show helps Rohde come one step closer to achieving his degree in fine arts.

"One of the requirements for a degree in fine arts is to produce enough work for a one-person show in the university gallery or equivalent space," said Rohde. "That's a big job. I've been working on this series for over a year."

Rohde's view on getting older shows hopefulness. "Barring illness, accident or war, most of us will live to become senior citizens," said Rohde on his Web site <http://www.skprohde.com>. "Society, however, teaches us to dread old age. Media floods us with images of the young. Older people, when depicted at all, are often ill, grumpy."

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COLLEEN HOBESTAFF PHOTOGRAPHER.

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Artists and speakers express views at Teach-In for Peace

Mary Wyatt
Features Reporter

UNCA's chapter of Amnesty International hosted a low-attended Teach-In for Peace in Iraq Saturday, Mar. 29.

"Everybody's bending over backwards to show both sides, which is commendable," said Amnesty member Katie Morris, an undrafted freshman, at the event. "But today we're going to go ahead and state a position. That position is peace."

The day started off with music, poetry and art. Later, speakers encouraged peace through education and discussions on issues such as U.S.-Iraqi relations, the inspection system in Iraq and the role of the U.N. in the conflict and post-conflict in Iraq.

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"War is such a dehumanizing force. Art gives us an insight on who our neighbors are."

Sid Jordan, president of International Board of Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team

video on Iraq.

The video, "Journey to Iraq," showed clips of Iraqi people to the tune of an anti-war song by Bob Dylan.

One photo showed people carrying a banner saying "Inspections yes, invasion no."

Following the movie, Anunura related the history of Iraq from past to present. Then, Jordan proposed a multi-layer approach to understanding foreign policy.

Meanwhile, Dot Sulock led a discussion on the inspection system in Iraq.