

LYDIA LOVELESS ROCKS THE ORANGE PEEL

AMBER MOSER

A&F Staff Writer
amoser@unca.edu

Red and violet lights illuminate a smoking stage, the people in the crowded Orange Peel cheer as the first note echoes from a guitar, signaling the beginning of the show. The note comes from a pale woman standing center stage, and the leather guitar strap across her torso reads 'Loveless.'

Lydia Loveless is only the opener for popular rock band Drive By Truckers, but the crowd shows no disappointment with this opening act. As Loveless coos her first soft note, a momentary hush seems to befall the crowd. However, once the beat picks up and the band joins in, the screaming begins and even those in the very back do their best to sing along.

"I never want people to think I'm boring, and I never want people to be uninspired by what I do," Loveless said. "I want to amp people up emotionally."

Born Lydia Ankrom, Loveless is a 27-year-old musical icon who was once known for her part in her family band, Carson Drew. However, when Carson Drew broke up in 2007, Loveless launched straight into her own solo career as Lydia Loveless and never looked back.

Loveless released her first solo album in 2010. Since then, critics have categorized her music into a number of different genres, ranging from rock to honky-tonk.

"I think it's easiest to call it rock 'n' roll with some roots influence," Loveless said about her musical style. "I just hate the term alt-country so much at this point that I don't use it anymore."

While Loveless seems to associate her music more with rock, others like new media student Ellen Smykowski disagree.

"She reminds me of a '90s or early 2000s Reba," Smykowski said. "It's not really my style, but I can dig it."

Despite the debate, Loveless does not particularly care what genre people consider her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

PHOTO BY KARRIGAN MONK