

# An Original Myrtle Beach Rocks with Wilmington bands:

by KRISTI SINGER

## The Scene

Local bands Moe Black, the Booty Wallbangers and Seeds and Stems performed at the House of Blues in North Myrtle Beach April 8.

"Honestly I've always thought we had the potential to play venues like the House of Blues, but I'm just glad we've been given these opportunities," Moe Black drummer Joe Crohn said.

Moe Black played first. They performed songs from their latest CD, *Life's Eternal Groove*. "It felt better than anything I've ever done before. Every time we play the feeling keeps getting better and better," Crohn said.

Lead vocalist/guitarist Keith Kusterer, timbales/keyboardist Pepe Calvar, bassist Adam Bernard, conga player J.T. Jacobs and drummer Joe Crohn had a wonderful response from the dancing audience and the other bands.

"I love 'em [Moe Black]. They're great, awesome. Those guys are so young and so talented. They're gonna go a long way," Seeds and Stems drummer Bryan Bolick said.

At roughly 10 p.m. the Booty Wallbangers took the stage to perform their signature sound of rock with a little rock-a-billy. Lead vocalist/guitarist/violinist Adrian Varnam added a unique twist to their performance with his violin interludes. Varnam, along with drummer Steve Teckmyer, cello/bassist Scott Russ and guitarist/bassist Ted Crenshaw opened for Gran Torino and Will Hoge on the Azalea Festival main stage on Friday.

"It was so much fun. We played well, the crowd was into it, it was a blast. Everybody on the stage tonight were talented musicians. It was an honor to play with them and an honor to play at House of Blues," Varnam said.

Playing last, headliners Seeds and Stems performed songs from their latest album, *Devil on My Shoulder*. Lead vocalist/guitarist Lee Foy, drummer Bryan Bolick, sax/flute/backing vocalist Michael Ozzo, bassist Jack Boyd and percussionist Todd Miller performed nothing less than a pure rock n' roll experience.

"Getting to play on a stage where you come to see shows from Van Halen to Widespread Panic and to sit on the same chairs they sat in...it's awesome," Bolick said.



Moe Black



## Music preview/ review section of

## Wilmington

### Sexy '70s on WLOZ

By KRISTI SINGER

#### The Scene

On Fridays from noon until 2 p.m., Meredith Banks hosts "The Sexy '70s Shakedown" on WLOZ.

"When I typically stick to format, I play funk and disco and anything from the '70s to the

early '80s," Banks said.

UNCW can turn the dial to Banks on Fridays to catch concert listings and other entertainment information. She also has fun loosening up her format to include some Lenny Kravitz and Yo La Tengo.

"Yo La Tengo is the ultimate love band because the singer and his wife are in the band and they write the songs together," Banks said.

Some of Banks' favorite artists are Bob Dylan and Lenny Kravitz. Her favorite song is Billie Holliday's "Lover Man."

This is the third semester for Banks at WLOZ and she plans on being a DJ at there until she graduates.

Banks is junior with a major in communications studies and a minor in women studies. In the future she plans to go into public relations and wants to work for herself doing band public relations or setting up and promoting banquets.

Banks said the best thing about working in radio is getting to see new artists and meeting the staff of WLOZ.

## Azalea Festival Main stage featuring Gran Torino with guests Will Hoge and The Booty Wallbangers

by KRISTI SINGER

#### The Scene

On Friday, April 7, a taste of Tennessee came to the Azalea Festival's Main Stage. Knoxville's 9-man funk-band, Gran Torino and Nashville rockers, Will Hoge, put on a free show for a crowd of dancing, screaming Azalea Festival goers. Opening act the Booty Wallbangers got the crowd in music mode.

Before the show, Surf 107 brought in Gran Torino, Will Hoge and the Emies, who played at Otter's after the Gran Torino show, for live interviews. DJ Renn said he was excited about the Gran Torino performance.

"Gran Torino is going to be awesome. Every time they come to town they have a good show. We'll be adding a new song as soon as they release the next one, it could be one of two songs: "Are You Livin" or "Phyllis." Gran Torino requested that I play those two. One of those two will be the next hit," Renn said.



Gran Torino

Gran Torino is currently touring in support of their latest release, *Gran Torino Two*. Saxophonist Jason Thompson gave some insight into the future of the band during an interview before their performance.

"The next two (singles), I think "Are you Livin" is gonna be in there. Look out for that one...I think then either "Phyllis" or "Melody Maker." We really like "Phyllis" a lot," Thompson said.

A new version of Gran Torino's first single, "Moments With You" may also be on the airwaves soon.

"We just had the guy who's a producer for Matchbox 20 redo our single. He remixed "Moments with You," made the vocals come up and it sounded beautiful. They don't play it yet (on the radio). In two weeks we're going to release it to all the radio stations," Thompson said.

Vocalist Chris Ford, guitarist Stephen Decker, bassist Todd Overstreet, keyboardist/trombonist Dexter Murphy, trumpet player Pee Jay Alexander, trumpet player/saxophonist Scott Penderson, saxophonist Jason Thompson, drummer Whit Pfohl and drummer David Heyer of Gran Torino are making a name for themselves across the country.

"We've retained publicists in L.A., publicists in New York. We've retained a lawyer, Kid Rock's lawyer, Tommy Valentino, awesome lawyer in New York. He knows a lot about the music business. He's got everybody fired up about us. This thing's gonna drop in the next six months," Thompson said.

For more up-dates on Gran Torino check out [www.grantorino.com](http://www.grantorino.com)

## CD Pick of the Week

By KRISTI SINGER

#### The Scene

Collapsis released their debut Cherry Entertainment/Universal Records CD on February 15, 2000. *Dirty Wake*, is a successful display of vocalist Mike Garrigan's musical and lyrical talent. Collapsis originated in Chapel Hill with Garrigan and drummer Scott Carle. The band was completed with the additions of bassist Chris Holloway and guitarist Ryan Pickett. Collapsis has been on tour in support of their release and passed through Wilmington in February for a show at Otter's.

The main point to recognize about Collapsis is every song they play, every word that Garrigan sings, all have beauty and meaning. Even their name, Collapsis, is a Latin derivation meaning to fall from grace and be redeemed.

This album is one of the few that have stayed in my stereo since I bought it. It fits any mood I'm in, but mostly the times when I'm relaxing and ready for some music with meaning behind it, although their first single, "Automatic" that can get you ready for a night out.

"Automatic," with its pop influence, has received continuous radio play on Surf 107. This song combines intense chords with a poetic story of the overwhelming feelings involved in relationships. Using complicated words such as "apophatic" (meaning to describe something in terms of what it is not), and "cataphatic" (meaning to describe something in terms of what it is), works to complete the message in the song. "I'm talking about how it's automatic: I never had found love. It's what it is; it's what it's not," Garrigan said.

Other favorites include "Tell Me Everything," "October" and "Wonderland," although I could list all 12 tracks as favorites. This album is that good.

"Tell Me Everything" is a sweet song about how Garrigan can't reach his girlfriend emotionally until she tells him everything. "October" is a song about everything falling apart around you. "Looking at a tree with the leaves falling off, it's about to die and how does it feel...that's where "October" came from," Garrigan said.

"Wonderland" could definitely bring tears to the listener's eyes. Garrigan wrote this song to his girlfriend that compares the falling of snow to their feelings for each other in terms of how it falls. "How even though we are...separated right now by a great distance...there's still a great amount of passion," Garrigan said.

*Dirty Wake* proves that Garrigan is not only a talented musician, but also a mastered poet and vocalist. This personal album is for an audience who wants to feel a deep connection with the artist.

## Student Voice

"In my opinion there's a separation between mid-town, uptown and downtown. The UNCW scene is uptown and there's also the beach scene, which is a totally different thing. It mocks what downtown does, only slower, a month or two later. Mid-town is between downtown and UNCW. It's weird how this town separates itself trend-wise. Downtown is more conservative as far as their getting bands and not DJ's. Uptown is more liberal, that's why they're getting DJ's and not bands. Downtown there's more the '20s scene. You find there's a 22 to 28 range of people who really know each other and hang out a lot. The good band scene is downtown completely," junior Jonathan Zellers said.