

Arsonists, Swollen Members and DJ Swamp play Fall Fest

TARA OWNEY

STAFF WRITER

The hip-hop sounds of Swollen Members, the Arsonists and DJ Swamp filled the Warwick Center Ballroom last night as part of the Fall Fest lineup.

This week's trio of bands will hit venues from North Carolina to Massachusetts and back to New York City. The Arsonists and Swollen

Members are both rising underground hip-hop groups released by Batcave Records. DJ Swamp usually works alone, but he has toured with Beck for the past four years.

Swollen Members is on tour promoting their new CD, *Bad Dreams*, which will be released Nov. 13. The CD offers a variety of hip-hop vibes. Some songs have an edgy gangster-rap style with powerful, in-your-face lyrics, while others boast a bounce-with-it-kind of groove that shows the

band's diverse nature.

"They are very cutting edge in the beats they put together and the lyrics they use," said Tracey Henry, a publicist for the band.

Swollen Members' latest single "Fuel Injected," produced by Kemo, is a hard-hitting proclamation of their arrival onto the music scene and illustrates their determination to stay afloat in the music world. It's a funky, beat-laden, bob-your-head song that is a worthy representation of the CD. They have also collaborated with numerous hip-hop artists.

"We're both very passionate about what we do and I think it shows through in our music," band member Prevall said.

The Arsonists are widely known for their charisma and elaborate stage shows. They have a creative style that adds to their immense following. The Arsonists have played at venues around the world with artists such as Public Enemy, the Roots and Pharoshe Monch. Their debut album, *As the World Burns*, received critical acclaim and is in stores now. The Arsonists are currently working on their second album.

DJ Swamp has just released his debut album *Never is Now*. He recently finished touring with Beck and is now out and about promoting his solo



Swollen Members played for Fall Fest.

album. He has recorded on studio tracks with Beck, Kid Rock, Crystal Method, Hanson, The Bloodhound Gang and the Dady Warhols. He has also been featured on the "Grammy Awards," "American Music Awards," "The Tonight Show," "The Late Show" and "The Late Late Show." *Rolling Stone* and *Spin* magazines have done features on his unique style and insane performances. He's been known to abuse his records in various ways while performing.

The trio of groups performed last night in the Warwick Center Ballroom at 8 p.m. For more information about any of these bands, visit their Web sites: www.hiphop-elements.com, www.arsonists.net and www.DJswamp.com.

Screen Gems receives award

KATIE TRAPP

STAFF WRITER

Screen Gems Studios was recently given the G. Lynn Nisbet Award for Outstanding Tourism Contributions. The award is given yearly by the Travel Council of North Carolina to a business or organization that has benefited or promoted tourism in North Carolina.

"Screen Gems has become involved in tourism and has brought national and international recognition to this state," said Connie Nelson, publicist for the Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau.

With television shows such as "Dawson's Creek" and numerous films shot in Wilmington, people from all over the country are exposed to the North Carolina scenery.

"When North Carolina appears on the silver screen, we are showcased in a way that our state's limited budget cannot afford," said Judith Grizzel, who presented the award to Screen Gems Studio President Frank Capra, Jr. Grizzel is a board member of the Travel Council of North Carolina and president of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Another benefit to having the largest film production facility east of Hollywood is that film-makers come to this area and spend out-of-state dollars on accommodations for themselves, actors and crew.

"Screen Gems has worked closely with Cape Fear Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, UNCW, Cape Fear Community College and the Town Council," Nelson said. "They have certainly impacted tourism on many levels."

Capra said that this is a major award in North Carolina and it was nice to be recognized through the filmmaking and tours. "[The Travel Council of NC] gave us a beautiful clock and a lovely din-



Frank Capra, Jr. receives the award.

ner that was very well attended," he said.

The Award for Outstanding Tourism Contributions is named for Gilmore Lynn Nisbet, a North Carolina journalist and charter member of the Travel Council of North Carolina. He served as its president from 1960 to 1961 and wrote a daily column about his many miles of travel throughout the state in the Raleigh Bureau of the North Carolina Association of Afternoon Dailies.

Business and organizations that have received this award in the past include The North Carolina Azalea Festival, *The State Magazine*, Southern Shows and Piedmont Airfares.

Tours of Screen Gems Studios are given every Saturday at noon. These tours begin at the front entrance of the facility, which is located on North 23rd Street. Production workers take visitors to two active "Dawson's Creek" sets and other sights of the studios.

Book Review: "Nightmare: A Schizophrenia Native"

JESSICA CHAFFIN

STAFF WRITER

Wendell Justin Williamson shot and killed two people and injured 13 others. Williamson suffers from a brain disorder called schizophrenia—often called multiple personality disorder—and he tells his true story in "Nightmare: A Schizophrenia Native."

Wendell Williamson's gruesome and shocking autobiographical tale begins with Williamson's graduation from Chapel Hill with an honorary degree in English. Williamson continues by depicting himself as a typical young adult, with friends and activities such as going to bars and joining a band.

Williamson's nightmare begins at a fraternity party where his band is performing. As Williamson strains to reach the high notes of each song he begins to feel a great physical pressure in the right side of his brain and diaphragm. "My head was spinning and my ears were ringing. It was hard to think," Williamson said after finishing the concert. Later that evening Williamson begins to hear the thoughts of others. These delusions progressively worsen over the next few years, finally leading Williamson to believe with absolute certainty that he is telepathic.

The intense account leads into Williamson's thoughts and later actions during his three years enrolled in Chapel Hill's law school. He heard voices from a variety of people including President Clinton, various war generals, Kurt Cobain and John Lennon. Williamson's experience of

hearing voices coupled with his paranoid delusion that the people around him were denying he was a telepath eventually led to his attempt at mass murder.

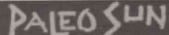
"Initially placed in North Carolina's Maximum Security Penitentiary until he was later found not guilty by reason of insanity, Williamson is now a patient at Dorothea Dix hospital in Raleigh.

Williamson's disease has symptoms of hallucinations, difficulty with speech and delusions. The Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health states that almost 3 percent of the adult population suffer from mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. The Treatment Advocacy Center claims that 1.4 million Americans are not receiving adequate treatment for their mental illnesses. Williamson went without treatment due to the supposed negligence of his therapist at Chapel Hill, who believed that his illness was due to brain damage resulting from drug use.

"Williamson wrote 'Nightmare: A Schizophrenia Native' in hopes of correcting the unfair image that he gained as a result of the media.

"Nightmare" grips the reader from the beginning. On one page the reader is led to believe that Wendell is a normal college student, someone that might be fun to hang out with on weekends. Then, on the next page, there is a completely different person who is thinking about committing suicide because of the voices in his head.

"Nightmare" is emotionally stressing, but the realities in Williamson's book can be a great asset in preventing further tragic events. The book is worth reading simply as a source of information.



Jazz, Funk, Cigars & Coffee

Oct 27	Nov 8-9
Mama	Topaz
Organix Halloween	Nov 16
	ULU

Open From 7pm-2am, 7 Days a Week
35 N Front St./Downtown Wilmington/763-7700