

features

Seeger makes good case for 'old time rock and roll'

by Debra Taylor
Staff Writer

The sold-out crowd was beginning to get restless. It was 9:10 p.m. last Friday night. Five minutes later, the lights in the Greensboro Coliseum went out, and the crowd became alive. The coliseum began to tremble, and Bob Seeger and the Silver Bullet Band appeared on stage. The crowd that once sat in their seats, waiting impatiently, were now on their feet, whistling and yelling at the top of their

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lungs. And it was only the beginning.

The grinning Bob Seeger, dressed casually in a pair of jeans, a black shirt and white canvas shoes, started off what was to be a 22-song show with his hit "Feel Like a Number."

The Silver Bullet Band, with its two new band members — drummer Don Brewer previously in Grand Funk Railroad, and a new guitarist who looked all of the age of 17 — did an equally fantastic job.

Saxophonist Alto Reed dressed in skin tight red pants, with a white shirt that was unbuttoned to his navel, and a pair of dark sunglasses, was excellent. He played several different types of saxophones and even played the flute. He was "as good as the guy from Bruce Springsteen's band if not better," one of the fans commented, referring to Clarence Clemmons of the E. Street Band.

Standing behind Seeger and his band,

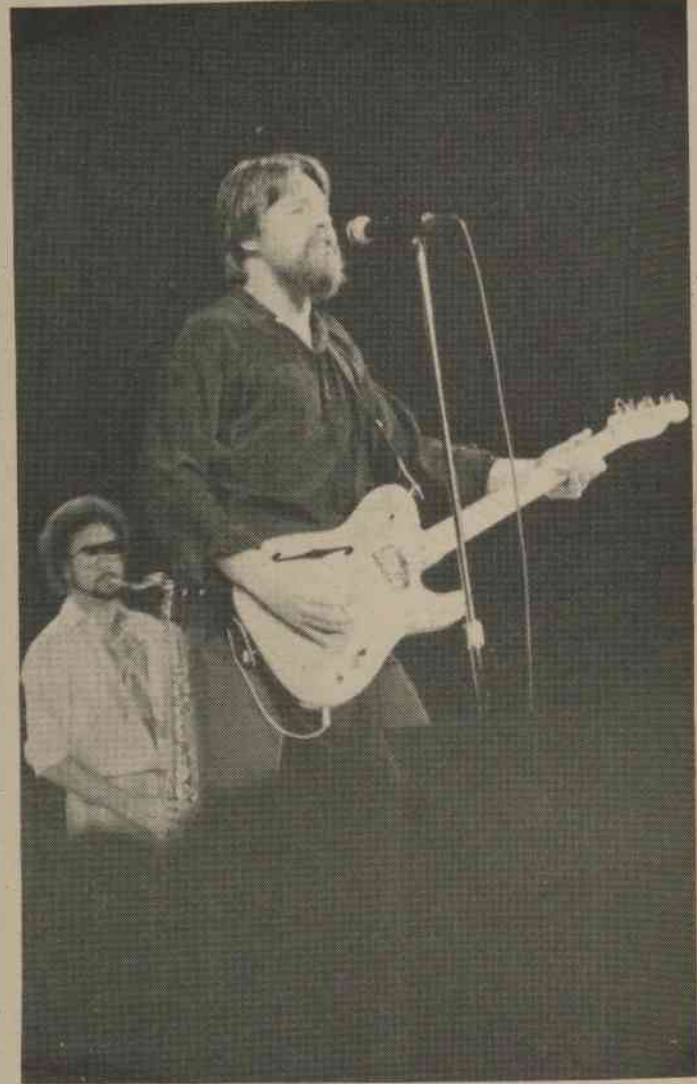
stood three female singers all dressed in red against the black background.

Seeger, with his hair cut a lot shorter than usual, but still with his mustache and beard, played five songs off of his new album, "The Distance." His hit single "Shame on the Moon," along with "Roll Me Away," "Boomtown Blues," "Even Now," and "Making Thunderbirds" were all big crowd pleasers.

With his hands in his jeans pockets, grinning at the crowd, Seeger joked around with the crowd about how hot it was on stage. He often pulled at his drenched, sticky shirt. But he did not seem to mind at all. It looked as if he enjoyed putting on the show just as much as the crowd enjoyed watching it.

Seeger also sang many of his older songs, such as "Old-Time Rock and Roll," "Still The Same," "Her Strut," and "We've Got Tonight." After singing his hit "Katmandu," he and the Silver Bullet Band, left the stage, only to return a few minutes later to screaming fans to sing "Night Moves" and "Hollywood Nights." He then left the stage again, but the crowd wouldn't let him stay gone long. He soon returned to sing his final song "Turn The Page."

Bob Seeger didn't have many bright lights or outrageous costumes. His concert was nothing fancy; it was just plain good. For the hundreds of people who spent a cold night at the Greensboro Coliseum to get tickets early in February, it was well worth the wait.



BOB SEGER played in a sold-out Greensboro Coliseum last Friday night. Those fans who waited so long for Seeger tickets were rewarded with his performance. Photo by Debra Taylor.

Southern rock and blues energized crowd

by Walter Wintermute
Staff Writer

Little feet and larger feet pounded the floor of the Ramada Inn Friday night

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demanding more from "Paul Barrere and Friends" after an encore performance of "All That You Dream."

How ya'll doing?" said

the slightly balding former Little Feat member, Paul Barrere, to an enthusiastic audience of Elon students and devoted fans.

Dressed in a flowered shirt with a "Dracula Sucks" bumper sticker plastered onto his black Fender guitar, Barrere mixed some old Little Feat tunes with two or three cuts off of his newly released solo album, "On

My Own Two Feet."

"After Lowell (Lowell George the late leader of Little Feat) died, I was very depressed," said Barrere in an interview after the concert. "I also couldn't get a record deal, and that made me even more depressed."

"Finally, my agent and I got up the money for the album ourselves," he said. "I recruited these guys

(some members of the group The Dregs) and some of the chorus people I knew in Hollywood, and we cut on album."

Joining Barrere in concert Friday night were three members of The Dregs, a critically acclaimed jazz-rock fusion band formerly called the "Dixie Dregs."

"We dropped 'Dixie,' because everyone thought we were a Southern Rock band, which we aren't," said T. Lavitz, keyboardist for the Dregs. "All our close friends just referred to us as The Dregs so we dropped the name."

Mike Wheeler, a slide guitar player from Cincinnati, joined the other four band members in a 20-minute jam session on a new song by Barrere called "Sweet Coquette" that got people sitting at the back tables of the Ramada standing up and pushing closer and closer towards the front of the stage.

"The Underdogs," a local Southern rock group was the opening band for Barrere.

They played songs by Lynyrd Skynyrd and other Southern rock artists.

A group of roadies and Student Union Board members assisted in lifting amps and adjusting the lights after the Underdogs performed.

About 9:30, "Barrere and Friends" jumped up on stage and played one and a half hours of the kind of hard, riveting Southern rock and blues that had propelled Little Feat to stardom.

Barrere started off the set with "Old Folks Boogie," a satirical song about getting old that Barrere says he wrote for his daddy, on Little Feat's "Waiting for Columbus" album.

"Don't you know that you're over the hill, when your mind makes a promise that your body can't fill?" Barrere wailed out the lyrics in a Southern drawl.

"Love Sweet Love," and "She Lays Down The Beat," were other songs Barrere played off of his first solo album.

The concert peaked with a marathon jam session led by Rod Morgenstein, drummer for the Dregs. Andy West of the Dregs hammered out an impressive bass line on a black, rectangular instrument that resembled a cigar box with strings more than a bass guitar.

When T. Lavitz broke into the set with a piano solo, the performance became pure Dregs, a blend of jazz and rock that got the audience stomping and hol-

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PAUL BARRERE, former lead guitarist for the now-defunct band Little Feat, performed with The Dregs last Saturday night at Rumors in Burlington's Ramada Inn. The S.U.B.-sponsored concert was a mixture of old classics from Little Feat and new music from Barrere's recently released album. Photo by Ken Lipstein.