

# Arts

## Loverboy, Joan Jett dazzle Greensboro crowd



By Lisa Conklin

As the lights went down in the Greensboro Coliseum last Friday night, a nearly sold-out crowd rose to cheer two of the most popular groups in rock today — Joan Jett and the Blackhearts and Loverboy.

Exploding onto the stage at 8 p.m. sharp, 24-year-old Joan Jett blasted onto the scene and played to rock fans for an hour.

Jett and the Blackhearts performed with high energy, running across the stage encouraging fans to sing along performing such hits as *Shout*, *Crimson and Clover*, and *Do You Wanna Touch*. Jett had the crowd on its feet singing to her biggest hit, which held the country's No. 1 single for eight weeks in 1981, *I Love Rock 'n' Roll*.

### Loverboy Dazzles Audience

After a short intermission, the Canadian band Loverboy came

on stage performing from their new album *Keep it Up* the song *Queen of the Broken Hearts*.

Fans, ecstatic at seeing the main event, wildly cheered on lead singer Mike Reno as he dazzled the crowd. Running, jumping and dancing, Reno's appeal to the crowd sent many fans (especially female) into frenzied fits of loud screaming.

Guitarist Paul Dean entertained everyone with a solo which brought out the presence of several air guitarists among the crowd.

### Laser Effects

The 1983 Loverboy tour included a spectacular light show which included the latest in concert fads — laser lights. At one point, Reno stood on the darkened stage as smoke rolled out, and laser lights shot from behind his body into the darkened arena.

This action packed show included such songs as, *Working for the Weekend*, *The Kid is*

*Hot Tonite*, *Hot Girls in Love* and *Take Me to the Top*.

Leaving the stage, Loverboy reappeared for a final encore which included their top hit, *Take Me to the Top*.

Then Loverboy disappeared into the darkness leaving the fans hungry for more music and proclaiming to come back next year.

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## Simpson attributes success to luck

By Kami Brooks  
Staff Writer

"I guess being lucky is the prerequisite for success," said Bland Simpson, novelist and creative writing teacher at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Simpson was referring to his success as a musician when he received a Columbia recording contract when he was only 21.

Simpson is also a playwright, composer and journalist. He displayed some of his many talents last Wednesday in Mooney Theater as he sang original songs and read from his works.

He read excerpts from his novel *Heart of the Country*, which is about the history of country music as he sees it. The book's main purpose is to reflect changes in the styles of country music and Southern culture.

Simpson said he was encouraged to write the book by a publisher, whose only other advice was to include a female character.

Simpson sang a song entitled, *These Southern States That I Love*, which he co-wrote with Jim Wann for *Diamond Studs*, a musical about the Southern outlaw Jesse James.

"We're professional liars," said Simpson, explaining that he and Wann did not sing about the true outcome of the outlaws' lives. "The truth was too grim to sing about," Simpson said.

Simpson also co-wrote a musical with Wann called *Hot Grog*, which was a story of the North Carolina coastal pirates,

including Anne Bonney and Edward "Blackbeard" Teach.

Blackbeard was made to look like a "buffoon and was used for comic relief," said Simpson. The musicians were actors who used their instruments for mock weapons. From *Hot Grog*, Simpson sang, *Restless Bones*, a song about pirates when they die.

Simpson used Mark Twain's memoir about his *Life on the Mississippi* and made it into a musical. Simpson sang a song entitled "*Learn This River By Heart*," which he emphasized that in order to be a successful river boat pilot one has to know the river by heart.

On request, Simpson sang *Catfish* which he wrote for the musical *Pump Boys and Dinettes*.

Simpson said his creative writing students at UNC-CH "work on dialogue exercises between people." They study different elements of fiction by separating them into parts such as setting, scenery and the author's tone of voice.

Simpson said he gets his ideas for his songs, musicals and books "from meeting various people and reading a lot of different authors. "Authors teach you a lot about writing," Simpson said.

## Snow Ball Dance

Dec. 3, 9:15 p.m. in Jordan Gym



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