

S&Mers Star in TV Production

by Becke white

This year's "Under Construction" is...under construction, no pun intended.

For those unfortunate souls who are unfamiliar, UC is NCSSM's salute to the sit com. Not just any old sit com, though, it is created by and for NCSSM students to depict student life in all its glory. As Peggy Manning, executive producer along with Barbara Ward, said, "The biggest part of UC is that students run it...THEIR ideas come out."

Indeed, UC is student-run. In front of the camera and behind, from checking sound to editing tapes to writing dialogues, dozens of students' blood, sweat, and tears go into the making of an episode.

This year's episodes will be directed by Zac Smith, Becke White, and Camisha Covington. Mitch Davis and Phoebe Juel are head and assistant technical directors, respectively. Shannon Oliver will be production coordinator, while Chris Lands will oversee art and props

direction. The first semester video production class will be running the cameras, and Sam Mullis and Carey Cates, student editors, will be slaving in the media center.

You'll be seeing on your T.V. actors and actresses Lakisha Farrow, Michelle Fordham, Brent Goff, Kenneth Harrell, Derrick Hines, Megan Jackson, Gene Ko, Arisa Kusumi, Jonathan Magid, Zac Smith, Becke White, Tyler Buckner, Faisal Bukhari, Sasha Clapper, Tracy Fitch, and Susannah Paletz.

Lydia Coulter, script coordinator, and her army of writers have been hard at work. She said, "Script-writing is like cafeteria grit; you keep having to add salt to it." Though story lines have not completely evolved, Lydia promised that there are "lots of weird characters."

Even the music is student-made! Reuben Cox and Jason Kapp, student composers, described the coming soundtrack as "a delicious blend of electrifying ear

candy."

"Under Construction"-1989 is aiming for a new level of quality. Cutting the number of episodes to two--from three last year--UC has high hopes that by taking the first episode to Channel 4, it can make the long-awaited move from cable to public television.

To make a successful production, it is necessary to be more than a collection of directors, writers, actors, and techies. It is necessary to work as a production company...as a team. As a first step toward achieving this, on October 5th, everyone involved in UC attended a workshop run by Linda Belans, a professional actress.

Actors and non-actors alike engaged in acting and improvisational exercises. Linda considered the workshop a success: "Non-actors can now see from the side of the actors."

Stay tuned, for soon "Under Construction" will be coming to an REP program near you...

NCSSM Art



Greg Abbas's "Myvernachy" hanging in The Art of Science exhibit.

NCSSM Hosts Art Exhibit

by Robert Easterling

The North Carolina School of Science and Math is currently hosting The Art of Science exhibit presented by the Dow Chemical Corporation, and three NCSSM students are part of the exhibit.

This art exhibit isn't quite like those on display in an art museum. The Art of Science exhibit is very unique in that the artworks showcased are the creations of high school students. The purpose of the exhibit is to link scientific subjects and original works of art.

These two criteria combine to produce artworks of a different nature. Popular art media, such as airbrush, watercolor, and pen and ink, were used by some finalists. However, some of the competitors used computer graphics and circuitry--media that are not seen in wide distribution.

The exhibit was the

culmination of a competition under the same name. The competition is held in conjunction with National Science and Technology Week in the spring.

Fifty finalists were chosen from the entries by a panel of eight judges. Awards were then given for first place, special merit, and honorable mention. Three NCSSM students were commended for their outstanding pieces of art. Gregory Abbas, class of '89, won a special merit award. Ross Little won an honorable mention. Reuben Cox was chosen as a finalist. The first place winner was Melissa Thorne of South Aiken High School who did an etching on evolution.

The upcoming year's competition should be as thrilling as ever as new ideas are expressed by students. If you are interested in participating, contact Joe Liles in the Phillip Morris Art Studio for more information.

Performance "Cures" Boredom

by Kasi Jackson

Lights darkened...then flashed! Smoke poured through Cameron Indoor Stadium and, with a sudden burst of sound, the Cure appeared.

Unquestionably, one of the major assets of the show was the light display. Brilliant purples, greens, reds, and oranges danced in front of the cheering, swaying crowd. The lights sometimes illuminated the band, and sometimes obscured them. The characteristic make-up, poufed hair, black clothing and Robert Smith's melancholy voice contributed to the aura of depression and weirdness that often surrounds the band.

The stage backdrop

provided another interesting counterpart to the music. During some songs it resembled a cave, during others, a forest, and during "Killing an Arab" it was bathed in blood-red lighting. At one point purple, orange, and green fish and seahorses swam across it to entertain the crowd.

The Cure played many songs from their newest album Disintegration but also featured tunes from previous albums. Particular favorites of the crowd were "Lovesong", "Boys Don't Cry" and "A Forest"--which featured a particularly exciting instrumental piece at its end. The band ended the show after the third encore with the controversial "Killing an

Arab." Compared to the startling quality of the Cure's music, the set performed by opening band Shelleyann Orphan seemed bland. Music and lyrics were often unclear due to the sound system. One of the reasons for the ineffectiveness of their act could have been that the lights were kept on during their performance so that people could find their seats. To the dismay of many fans, Smith has proclaimed this to be the Cure's last tour in a recent Rolling Stone interview. However, he has threatened this before, so perhaps residents of the Triangle will have the opportunity to see this truly unique band in the future.

---Motley Crue: Dr. Feelgood

The long awaited Motley Crue album, Dr. Feelgood has finally hit the stores and its already making big moves on the music charts. The first single off the album is the title track, "Dr. Feelgood", and is doing extremely well on the radio and on MTV countdowns.

The album continues the Crue's reputation for hard-driving, heavy metal music with some added, unpredictable twists. It features songs with good potential to make this one of the Crue's best yet.

Hard-rocking songs like

"Rattlesnake Shake" and "Kickstart My Heart" and rock ballads like "Without You" and "Don't Go Away Mad" add some variety that was perhaps lacking in past albums. There's also a "duet" with Skid Row called "Time For Change" which deals with the group's current view of the world.

However, this album is not for everybody. The Crue's style tends to be repetitive at times and usually carries the label "for heavy metal fans only." Even though there are some differences from their previous albums, if you didn't like them before you

probably won't now either.

Motley Crue's Dr. Feelgood is definitely not for the musically weak at heart, but metal fans will want to check this one out. The album gets a B as a good prescription for your metal blues.

---Bad English: Bad English

Bad English, led by lead singer and former rock solo artist John Waite, is one of the newest bands on the music scene. Their debut is out in stores now and with their first two singles, "When I See You Smile" and "Forget Me Not", they are well on their way to potential stardom.

Bad English contains a great musical variety which will satisfy almost anyone's music taste. Harder rock fans will enjoy songs like "Forget Me Not" while those with a softer side will enjoy the album's fabulous ballads such as "When I See You Smile", "Possession", and "Price Of Love."

The remainder of the album mixes these two components together into a form that blends Richard Marx with Warrant. It provides a interesting combination which works very well and makes the album definitely worth listening to. (see page 8)

ALBUM
Review
by Tim Tucker