

Weekend Excursion Primed for Big Time

By Ashley Atkinson
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Its songs have been featured in two episodes of the hit TV show "Dawson's Creek." The band has performed with Edwin McCain, and for a crowd of thousands at an Atlanta Falcons game.

Weekend Excursion, long a favorite on the Chapel Hill frat-party circuit, is primed to hit the big time. Not bad for a group which started out selling demo CDs in a Greensboro dentist's office.

"When we get to the top - and that's definitely our goal - we'll realize how much hard work it took to get there," said UNC senior Michael Ferry, the band's violinist.

Weekend Excursion formed in 1995 while its original members were in high school together in Greensboro. The band released its debut CD in 1997, after the six headed to Appalachian State University and UNC-Chapel Hill.

The band hit a brief roadblock in November when its vocalist, Aaron Shepherd, left the group. "He went his

own way, and we were sort of caught without a solution for a few weeks," Ferry said - until the band stumbled across Sam Fisher performing in a Boone coffee shop. "It was a shot in the dark. We got lucky," he said.

Fisher's vocals are featured on *Radioactive*, the band's third release. The album was Schoolkids Records' No. 1 selling local record for two weeks.

Ferry has changed things for the better, Ferry said. "Our music has already taken on slightly more of a funk aspect. Our stage shows have improved."

But Weekend Excursion's five original members are all graduating this spring, leaving the band's future open. The plan for the summer, Ferry said, is to try to spread the band's influence into surrounding states.

In the fall, he said, the band members will be moving to Raleigh together. "Unfortunately, right now the band can't pay all our bills. But our goal is to let the band be our career," Ferry said.

Weekend Excursion doesn't have a recording contract - yet - but it's mak-

ing connections and taking definite steps in the right direction.

The band got its songs featured on "Dawson's Creek" "through a friend through a friend," Ferry said. The exposure has resulted in "mail orders from Alaska and Ohio, places we've never set foot before," Ferry said. "People who didn't give us much attention before are taking us more seriously now."

And Weekend Excursion makes no pretenses of being in it just for the music - the band is aiming for success. "We're looking for a major label contract, radio exposure across the country. We want to tour full time," Ferry said.

What separates Weekend Excursion from the pop-rock bands that already populate Top 40 radio, Ferry said, are its live shows - and Ferry's violin, a unique choice of instruments. "We take pride in the fact that everyone that leaves the show is going to leave with a smile on his or her face, will have been moved to tears or danced around," he said.

And although the band has acquired a large fan base among N. C. college stu-

dents, it wants more.

"We're definitely not content with where we are now," Ferry said. "There's so much more ahead of us that we're working diligently to achieve."

The 1999 acquisition of a manager, booking agent and publicist was a major move for Weekend Excursion, Ferry said. "You can only go so far on your own in this business before you've got to have someone to help you out."

The band's manager formerly worked with Hootie and the Blowfish. "He knows exactly how to take us there and what we have to do to make our dreams a reality," Ferry said.

The band's booking agent is also opening doors - literally. "He's booking us in the places we couldn't play before. For example, we couldn't get in the Cat's Cradle before," Ferry said. "We just didn't have the credibility." The band will play a CD release party at the Cradle on Thursday.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.




PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIKA GUFFY

The North-Carolina based pop-rock band Weekend Excursion will perform at a CD release party at Cat's Cradle on Thursday.

Do you worry about germs or fear you forgot to turn off the stove?
 Do you have distressing, repetitive thoughts that you can't dismiss?
 Do you spend a lot of time washing your hands, checking locks or appliances, or engaging in other rituals?

If you experience problems like these, you may have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.



If this sounds like you or someone you know, you or s/he may be eligible for free and confidential treatment through a study underway at the Anxiety Treatment Center in the Department of Psychology. No medication is required.

For more information, visit www.unc.edu/depts/clinspy/ox9.html. Or call (919) 962-2507. All calls are confidential.

GREEK WEEK *schedule*

TODAY
Jupiter Coyote @ Beta
\$2 for 2 cans - greeks
\$5 for 5 cans - non greeks
Bar Deals

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
IFC Basketball Tournament vs. Duke @ Carolina

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
Panhel Powder Puff vs. Duke @ Duke
Lip Sync @ Gotham

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
Step Lesson in Pit with NPHC

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
Alpha's Greek Freak!

Lessons That Will Last A Lifetime.

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Put that college degree to use by enrolling into the Air Force Officer Training School. Upon successful completion of the Officer Training School, you will become a commissioned Air Force officer with earned respect and benefits like - great starting pay, medical and dental care, management and travel opportunities. For more on how to qualify and get your career soaring with the Air Force Officer Training School, call 1-800-423-USAF, or visit our website at www.airforce.com

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com



SALADELIA CAFE

Catering Breakfast, Lunches and Dinners since 1988

7 Days Delivery to UNC

4201 University Drive • Durham, NC 27707
489-5776 • www.saladella.com

Tar Heel Temps

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Get More Than a Degree Out of UNC!


- Graduating in May?
- Staying in the area?

Gain valuable work experience at UNC through Tar Heel Temps, the University's own in house temporary service.

We have positions in all areas of campus: academic, administrative and medical environments.

Call today to schedule an appointment (919) 962-2980

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



Coca-Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

Entries close today for the **SAND VOLLEYBALL TRIPLES TOURNAMENT** and the annual **SPLASH & DASH TRIATHLON**.

Sand Volleyball: play this Saturday, Apr. 29. 3 divisions: men, women and co-rec. All entries will receive a Discover t-shirt.

Splash & Dash Triathlon: open to the first 96 to enter. \$10 buys you a t-shirt, a water bottle and a great starter triathlon. Swim 500 meters, run 3.1 miles, bike 13.5 miles. Sunday, Apr. 30, 9am.

All 1999-2000 Campus Rec staff are encouraged to RSVP for this year's Award Picnic. See Diane by some time tomorrow.

Sport Clubs

The Men's and Women's Tennis Clubs practice and compete both semesters. Matches this year included foes such as UVA, James Madison, Wake Forest, Duke, NC State and Clemson. Both clubs have had extremely successful seasons and have rewarded with an invitation to compete in the first annual **USA Team Tennis National Campus Championships** sponsored by The National Recreational Sports Association, The United States Tennis Association, and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association from April 27th-30th in Austin, TX. This opportunity for both teams will be invaluable in promoting UNC and in competing on a national level. We look forward to intense competition and meeting students from other college campuses. We would also like to thank the UNC Sport Clubs Program for their contribution to support our trip and competition. For more information about club tennis please contact Katie Neal at 370-5248 or kneal@email.unc.edu or Mike Iskandar at 914-4713 or miskanda@email.unc.edu.



CAMPUS RECREATION



Carolina Adventures

at the OEC

Management of The Kerr Lake Recreation Area has been officially moved to the Carolina Adventures program. This beautiful 320-acre lakefront property is just 90 minutes north of Chapel Hill. Anyone interested in renting a site, equipment, or hosting a group retreat is encouraged to contact the KLRA staff located at the Outdoor Ed Center at 962-4179.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER



ALWAYS COCA-COLA. ALWAYS CAROLINA!!

www.unc.edu/depts/camprec





DUSTIN GARIS is the **COKE MAN**. SOME SAY THE COKE MAN HAS POWERS! SHOW HIM A BOTTLE OF COCA-COLA AND HE WILL TURN IT INTO TWO! (WITH A FREE COCA-COLA CUPBOON GOOD AT ANY CAMPUS STORE)

Coca-Cola Campus Marketing Manager
CokeMan@unc.edu
914-5051