Weekend Excursion Primed for Big Time

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Edit

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 thou-

Tuesday, April 25, 2000

sands 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

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

Fisher 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

In the fall, he said, the band members vill 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

king us more seriously now." And Weekend Excursion makes no ses 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-

"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



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/clinpsy/anx9.html. Or call (919) 962-2507. All calls are confidential.

Lessons That Will Last A Lifetime.

OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

ng 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

GREEK WEEK

Catering Breakfast, Lunches and Dinners

7 Days Delivery to UNC

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

\$5 for 5 cans - non greeks

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

@ Carolina

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

@ Duke Lip Sync @ Gotham

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Tar Heel Temps Get More Than a Degree

Out of UNC!

• Graduating in May?

• Staying in the area? Gain valuable work experience at UNC through Tar Heel Te the University's own in house temporary service.

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

Call today to schedul

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

Sport Clubs

Coca Cola. CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

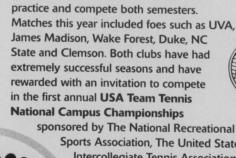
Intramural Sports

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.



The Men's and Women's Tennis Clubs

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.





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.



COCA-COLA. ALWAYS CAROLINA!!

www.unc.edu/depts/camprec



