Thursday, September 14, 2000

- Student group Hip Hop Nation's first show in two years. Featuring music from Brazen, Reignmen and more. Call 962-2285 for informa-
- Saffire, the Uppity Blues Women, Friday at the Carolina Theatre in Durham. Three witty ladies get to hootin', hollerin' and playing some acoustic blues. Call 560-3040 for information.
- Yonder Mountain String Band and Acoustic Syndicate, Friday at Cat's Cradle. Colorado's hottest bluegrass band comes down from the Rockies to jam with North Cackalacky natives Acoustic Syndicate Call 967-9053 for information.
- "The Wood," Friday and Saturday at the Carolina Union Film Auditorium. Taye Diggs and friends reminisce in the hours before his wedding about growing up. Call 962-2285 for information.
- A Night of UNC Filmmakers, Friday and Saturday at the Carolina Union Film Auditorium. Short films directed by UNC students and alumni. Call 962-2285 for information.
- Han Bennink and Eugene Chadbourne, Saturday at Go! Studios. Chadbourne, North Carolina's king of weird folk noise, could play with guitars or screechy electronic devices. Bring your earplugs just in case. Call 969-1400 for information.
- Yo La Tengo, Monday at Cat's Cradle. Indie rock sweethearts make you feel younger by playing songs about married people. Call 967-9053 for information
- Tracy Chapman, Wednesday at The Ritz. Take a fast car to go see soulful singer-songwriter Tracy Chapman. Call 834-4000 for informa-

GOT IT? GET IT!

So Long, Hip Hop: Ending a Beautiful Relationship

I never wanted it to happen like this.
I never thought I'd have my one
true love turn her back on me so cruelly. But, now, after months of agonizing self-loathing and depression, I've come to an important conclusion. A revelation, of sorts. The problem is simple, and is no fault of my own.

Hip hop sucks.

There, I said it. No more pretending. No more lies. No more forcing myself to listen to 102 Jamz just one more minute to see if, just maybe, I'll catch some Nice & Smooth. I will never again listen to the names of all the bitches DMX has slain (at least

three Kims, you know).

No, I'm taking a break from you, hip hop, at least from any solo CD with more collaborators than "We Are the World." You won't be able to dazzle me with your album covers depicting shirtless artists so coated in "blingbling" you can barely make out their
"Nass-T for Life!" temporary tattoo.
Trust me when I say that this hurts

me to tell it more than it hurts you to read it. My entire high-school-through college career has been spent, for the most part, courting hip hop, trying to become recognized campus-wide as



DAVID POVILL SO, HOW'S YOUR GIRL...

"that goofy white kid that knows all the lyrics to 'Rapper's Delight."

Hell, the first record (yes, record) I ever bought was the Fat Boys' "Wipeout" 45. I should have realized when I accidentally left the record at the Baskin Robbins before I even had a chance to take it home that this was some sort of great omen, warning me that the music I so loved would never be there for me in the end.

Don't get me wrong, here. Hip hop and I still have our times when every-thing's absolutely perfect, and there's no place I'd rather be than sitting in front of my stereo listening to Blackstar, or taking it back with some Digable Planets. We cool like 'dat.

But as more and more so-called

"rap" slimed its way onto the airwaves, I saw my relationship with hip hop growing increasingly rocky. I used to try to convince myself that it was just a phase, that once Master P was out of the picture, we'd be fine.
But after Master P, it was Swizz

Beats, and after him, Jermaine Dupri came back into town. Do you see what that bastard is doing to Lil Bow Wow? That kid's got all the talent in the world, and JD has his punk ass riding around on a scooter in his video for "Bounce Wit' Me" on the damn "Big Momma" soundtrack. How the hell is

he ever going to live that down?
Well, Lil Bow Wow was the last
straw. Selling God-awful crap to stupid
middle-class white kids like myself who don't know any better is one thing, but when you and your friends go corrupt-

ing innocent youth then I'm afraid, hip hop, you and I have to part ways.

I'll always remember the good times. Whenever I hear the Beatnut's "Watch Out Now," I'll have no choice but to smile fondly as I reminisce about smoky, sweaty nights with you at The Treehouse, leering at mostly underage girls and talking shit about the guys in the fishnet T-shirts.

Or the Sunday afternoons back in middle school, when the neighborhood crew would come over to make home-made renditions of videos for "La

made renditions of videos for "La Schmoov" and "Scenario." (Break out your Starter jackets and Raiders hats!)
I'll even miss those days when I used to ride around in my '88 T-bird, pumping Montell Jordan's "Sumpthin' for the Honeys" single.
But one thing's for sure. Never again will I be scared shitless when I hear a screaming siren coming up behind me,

screaming siren coming up behind me, only to realize that it's just Cam'ron trying to give me a taste of life on the gritty streets of "Harlem World."

No longer will Puffy's obnoxious voice litter my favorite music with "Ungh. Uh-huh. Yeah. Bad Boy. Uhhuh." It's not my job to shake it fast, and no matter what you say, I simply

and no matter what you say, a samply refuse to back that ass up.

I'm leaving you, hip hop, at least until you figure out what you're doing with your life. You're no good for me, and I deserve better. So, goodbye, hip hop. Oh, and one more thing. Call me Cuz' I ain't mad at 'cha.

> David Povill can be reached at pfunk@email.unc.edu

Like Fine Wine and Cheese, Yo La Tengo Ages Gracefully

BY BRIAN BEDSWORTH

KNOW IT? LEARN IT!

If bands were cars, Yo La Tengo would be a 1984 brown Volvo wagon

Like the Volvo, the Hoboken, N.J.,

only gets better and better with age. It just might take a little longer for them to

has released 10 albums. But three years passed between 1997's I Can Hear the

On And Then Nothing, guitarist/vocalist Ira Kaplan, drummer/vocalist (and Kaplan's wife) Georgia Hubley and McNew create sweeping, beautiful soundscapes that tell stories of mature relationships.

A commercial success, And Then Nothing is one of the most reserved, introspective records the group has ever made. Kaplan's unforgiving guitar screech is traded in for subdued organ tones and electronic percussion.

"It just kind of happened that way," said McNew. "Quieter sounds were more appealing to us. We even tried to play them louder, and just felt more comfortable playing them the way they

And that's OK, because Yo La Tengo is in a unique position. The group has been around long enogh to have a huge fan base. By making quality records the band has won the hearts of critics, too.

Yo La Tengo is the untouchable band. It's kind of neat to think about (our position)," McNew said. "I don't think we've done anything that differently. Whatever success we've come by has been on our own terms," he said.

And that means years of hard work. The band is now on its second tour in less than a year in support of And Then

"You have to keep touring," McNew said. "People keep offering us gigs, and we like touring. We like playing gigs."

The three toured for a year and a half for I Can Hear the Heart, and made it as

far away as Japan, New Zealand and "That was amazing," McNew said of

the Pacific tour. "It was like a holiday almost, except we had to play every once in a while." The current tour will take the group

around the United States, and then back to Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

McNew said Yo La Tengo has not started on a new album yet, but has recorded soundtrack music for a film to be released next year. He wouldn't say anything specific about the film, other than "It's a pretty big deal."

Looks like they've still got plenty of

miles left in them.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can

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A Retreat for Student Organizations

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trio is inconspicuous; solid; and though it's been on the road for years, shows no signs of quitting any time soon.
But unlike the Volvo, Yo La Tengo

change gears now.
Since its 1984 inception, the group

passed Detween 1897's I can that the Heart Beating As One and last spring's And Then Nothing Turned Itself Inside Out. "We were afforded the opportunity to take our time on this one," said



SEPTEMBER

FIGHTING GRAVITY, REGATTA 69 (\$6) ACOUSTIC SYNDICATE** w/ Yonder Mountain String Band JUNIOR BROWN** (\$15) w/ TIFT MERRITT

CRACKER w/ Special Guests Jonathon Segal, Victor Krummenacher and Greg Lisher** (\$10/\$12)

YO LA TENGO W/ VERSUS** (\$12) (9:30 show) QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE W/ VAST & Like Hell** (\$13)

22 FR BALFA TOUJOURS (\$14: 7pm)

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Joan of Arc
VERBOW
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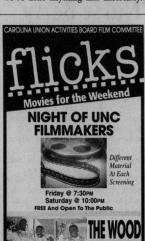
Vandermark Five ELLIOTT 10/6 Weston 10/15 Mountain Goats

@ The RITZ: 11/12 BEN HARPER** @ KINGS in Raleigh: 10/17 MIKE WATT** (\$8) w/ Cobra Verde

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