



The Shazam, a four-piece rock 'n' roll band from Tennessee, will be playing at the Local 506 on Saturday as part of Chapel Hill's three-day-long pop-rock music festival Sparklefest.

# Town to Host Sparklefest

By Brooks Firth  
Staff Writer

Musician and promoter Mike Nicholson has seen enough music festivals done wrong for him to want to finally do one right.

And Nicholson said he hopes his goal of orchestrating a successful and unforgettable festival will become a reality when Sparklefest opens at Local 506 on Thursday.

Based on festivals like Los Angeles' International Pop Overthrow and the locally founded Slezefest, Sparklefest is the sequel to last year's Shindig at Kings in Raleigh.

The festival runs the gamut of music styles, offering a musical slice of pie for almost every taste. Spanning the genres of indie, rock, psychedelia, punk and pop, the bands participating have been influenced by and compared to The Who, Ben Folds, the Barenaked Ladies, Weezer and the Beatles among others.

"The area has a lot of people who are interested in this kind of music," Nicholson said.

While some bands are traveling from locations such as Florida and New York, several bands are local performers.

"There is a conscious effort to bring

local bands to the event," Nicholson said.

The festival has been dubbed a celebration of "Power Pop," but musician Mike Warder of The Argument said that such a simple description of the music is somewhat misleading.

"Nobody calls it rock and roll anymore," he said. "Pop is really short for popular. The term can be broadened into anything that can be accessible to a large group of people."

Organizers are expecting a large group of concert-goers, but Local 506 is an intimate, if not small, venue.

"The more intimate setting is going to be beneficial to the artists and the audience," Warder said. "It makes it easier to connect."

But due to the space restrictions and influx of interest - Nicholson received more than 70 calls for the festival's 21 performing slots - Sparklefest also is running a sidestage at the Go! Rehearsal Studios on Friday.

Hence, the festival is one of the largest and most comprehensive rock shows to hit the Chapel Hill area.

"This festival is a way to for bands to be seen by people in this area, expand their fan base, and give people a way to see it all," Warder said.

Nicholson decided to take on the task of organizing Sparklefest based on his love for the music that he wishes to share.

"I love this kind of music," he said. "I've played music for 25 years. I have a hard rock, punk background, but this well-crafted, well-written kind of music is the music I always come back to."

Advance ticket requests for Sparklefest have been coming in, some from as far away as the Northeast, Europe and even Japan.

Such widespread popularity not only will help Nicholson achieve his goal of building up the profile of each individual band, but it could increase the festival's drawing power.

"I want to build it year to year so that people look forward to it when the festival returns," he said.

Sparklefest runs from Thursday to Saturday and features more than 20 local and national musicians. Ticket prices range from \$5 to \$12 - \$25 for the entire festival - and are available at all Triangle Record Exchange stores.

Visit [www.sparklefest.com](http://www.sparklefest.com) for a complete list of musicians and more information.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

# Homecoming King, Queen to Face New Application Process

An committee will interview candidates for Homecoming king and queen before the student body votes Nov. 7.

By Elizabeth Michalka  
Staff Writer

This year's candidates for Homecoming king and queen will face new steps in the application process, including appearing before an interviewing committee of campus leaders.

The Carolina Athletic Association is in charge of organizing Homecoming, but this year it will have assistance from

the UNC Board of Elections.

CAA Homecoming Director Kris Willett said the committee will interview all applicants and choose the top three female and male candidates.

The selection committee consists of seven members, including Willett; Sue Kitchen, vice chancellor for student affairs; Ben Singer and Ursula Dimmeling, senior class president and vice president; Reid Chaney, CAA president; Justin Young, student body president and Mark Townsend, speaker of Student Congress.

"The committee will increase student participation in the selection of Homecoming king and queen," Chaney said. "I think it'll be good."

Interviews will take place between Oct. 22 and 25, and the top six candidates will be announced Oct. 26.

These interviews will focus on candidates' proposals for service projects that the Homecoming king and queen are required to complete. The committee is looking for well-planned, feasible projects to benefit UNC and the community.

Willett said service projects must be initiated by Jan. 15 and completed by March 20. "During the interviews we will ask candidates about their project proposals, which should be very detailed and thorough," Willett said. "We will choose candidates with the best proposals."

After the interview committee selects the top three candidates for both king

and queen, a general campus vote will take place.

Voting this year will be solely online. The elections board is in charge of voting procedures and tallying the votes.

"The election will use the same system as last year," said Emily Margolis, elections board chairwoman. "It went smoothly last year, so we expect it to go well."

The board sets up the online election, which will be available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Nov. 7. There will be a link located on the Student Central Web site, which may be accessed from any computer.

"Online voting will make the whole process easier and faster," Chaney said.

The online elections will be held the same day as a special election to fill

empty seats in Student Congress, which organizers said was an attempt to increase voter turnout for both elections.

The CAA and the elections board also decided to use the official titles of "Homecoming King" and "Homecoming Queen" instead of Mr. and Mrs. UNC this year. "The official title changes and flip-flops nearly every year," Willett said.

She said people have been offended by the titles of "Mr." and "Mrs." and the titles were changed to prevent problems. Willett also hopes this change will establish a standard for coming years.

"This year we wanted to go back to traditions, and the name of Homecoming king and queen are more traditional," Willett said.

Eligible students for Homecoming king and queen must be nominated by an officially recognized student organization. Nominees also must be full-time seniors, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.8.

Interested students must submit an application by Oct. 15. Applications include a \$20 entry fee, resume, letter of recommendation, transcript, a signed proclamation form and two essays.

"We want candidates with strong personalities, who can handle themselves well," Chaney said. "They should also be a good representative of the student body."

The University Editor can be reached at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

# Midway Executives To Seek Federal Aid

Airline officials have said that if Midway receives federal aid it could resume operations on a small scale.

By Chase Foster  
Staff Writer

Midway Airlines officials have announced they will seek federal aid in an attempt to resume operations and return to the skies.

The Airline Stabilization Act passed by Congress last week will provide \$15 billion to the airline industry to cover lost ticket revenue and slumping ticket sales.

Midway CEO Robert Ferguson said in a story by The Associated Press that he will seek \$40 million in assistance from the \$15 billion airline bailout package.

Midway filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Aug. 13, laying off half of its work force. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Midway ceased all operations, laying off its remaining 1,700 workers.

Most people thought the Raleigh-based company was permanently out-of-business.

But Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., Rep. David Price, D-N.C., and Rep. Bob Etheridge, D-N.C., are all working to guarantee that Midway receives a portion of the funds.

Helms' Press Secretary Jimmy Broughton said Midway is an important staple of the Triangle's economy.

Prior to filing for bankruptcy in August, Midway had 115 flights a day out of Raleigh-Durham International Airport, which accounted for one-third of the airports' flights.

Midway was the only airline to have its hub at RDU.

"What we are working on now is to make sure Midway is included in the bailout," Broughton said.

Bridget Lowell, Price's press aide, said Price met with Ferguson two weeks ago.

Lowell said Price was concerned about keeping Midway afloat to help preserve the local economy.

"Obviously Midway has a huge impact on the Triangle's economy," she said. "It's an important force regionally."

Lowell added that Price is working to

gain federal severance money for the thousands of airline workers who lost their jobs when Midway permanently grounded all flights.

The bailout package provides funds in two general categories. One is through direct assistance in compensation for the FAA's suspension of all flights Sept. 11, and the other is through compensated loans.

RDU spokeswoman Mirinda Kossoff said the airport is not involved with Midway's attempt to receive federal aid.

Kossoff said Midway's closure has not limited available destinations for RDU passengers, but it did hurt the airport financially.

*"What we are working on now is to make sure Midway is included in the bailout."*

**JIMMY BROUGHTON**  
Press Secretary for Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

# Muslims, Arabs Face Harassment at N.C. State

NCSU public safety officials have been working to ensure the safety of Muslim and Arab students on the campus.

By Mike Gorman  
Staff Writer

Arab students at N.C. State University have faced both support from administrators and racially motivated harassment since the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Hesham Abdel-Baky, president of N.C. State's Muslim Student Association, said he has witnessed more support for Arab students than abuse, particularly from campus administrators.

But Abdel-Baky added that there have been several racially and religiously motivated harassment incidents on campus.

"One of our covered women - the Muslim women who wear the veil - was spit at the day of the attack," he said.

"Another said she had small pebbles thrown at her."

Abdel-Baky said he still recommends that veiled Muslim women walk to class in pairs, even a month after the attack.

Tom Stafford, vice chancellor for student affairs at N.C. State, said several Arab students have withdrawn from the university for fear of racial or religious harassment in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

But Stafford also said N.C. State administrators have been going to extra lengths to ensure the safety of Arab and Muslim students.

"We will not tolerate discrimination based on racial or religious background," he said.

To demonstrate their stance, administrators placed the university's harassment policy in a prominent location on N.C. State's home page.

N.C. State Public Safety officials also have been working with Arab and Muslim student groups to ensure student safety.

Abdel-Baky said campus police have been diligent about providing for the needs of Muslim students.

Police have provided emergency phone numbers for students and have offered daytime class-to-class escort services.

Tom Younce, director of N.C. State Public Safety, said campus police have a zero-tolerance policy for harassment cases.

"If harassment rises to the level of criminal offense, we'll make an immediate physical arrest," Younce said.

Stafford added that students charged with violation of the harassment policy are arraigned before a Student Judicial Board.

Penalties depend on the verdict of the board.

Students found guilty of harassment

might face suspension or expulsion from the university.

N.C. State Public Safety representatives, along with administrators, met with Arab and Muslim students in a combined meeting of all the university's international student organizations the day after the attack to discuss safety issues and the campus harassment policy.

Abdel-Baky said he thinks the backlash against Arabs and Muslims on campus stems mostly from media depictions of people from the Middle East as terrorists and radical extremists.

He added that many people have trouble separating the fanatics from Muslims and Arabs as a whole.

But until that perception changes, Abdel-Baky said, people will continue to harbor the same fears and suspicions.

He said, "What it comes down to is an issue of who the bad people are, who Arabs are, and what Muslims really believe in."

The State & National Editor can be reached at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

Professor David Halperin will read from his new book **Abraham Miguel Cardoza: Selected Writings** on Thursday, October 11 at 3:30pm. at the Bull's Head Bookshop in UNC Student Stores.



Professor Halperin is a former Religious Studies Professor at UNC.



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