## THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

### Diversions

# Intricate Pinback floors audience

#### **BY ROBBIE MACKEY**

How it happens: Pinback takes the stage quietly.

The band sets up and begins playing. After song one, the virgin-view-

er's internal monologue goes some-thing like this: "Wait, you mean, all that stuff I thought was guitar on their records was actually bass? Weird.

Then, as song two comes to a "This one, too? How the hell? This isn't nearly as straight-forward as I thought it was when I heard Blue Screen Life."

Song number three begins, and

members, sheepishly wave their post-set goodbyes to a slack-jawed audienc Indeed, it isn't uncommon to

is damn impressive!"

find yourself standing next to particularly wide-eyed boys and girls, collecting their chins from the club floor after their first Pinback live experience.

Smith IV, Pinback's principal

The jaw loss is easy to explain, though, as Smith and Crow's music

watching." Ray Browne, a retired professor at BGSU and the acknowledged

But the trend of incorporating

E

....

rangely beautiful

greendale

ETERNAL SUNSHINE

THE

THE LADYKILLERS

FEROCIOUS FRESH & FUNN

GOODBYE LENIN :00, 9:30, SAT-SUN 2:00, 4:3

helsea

intermission

Japanese Story

N 2:

2:10, 4:20

CONCERTREVIEW halfway through the second chorus: "Look at the hands on that PINBACK bassist! For the love of Christ, this CAT'S CRADLE SUNDAY, APRIL 11 And so on and so forth, until **Rob Crow and Armistead Burwell** \*\*\*\*\*

> is so deceptively uncomplicated on their newest record that the visually apparent intricacies of Pinback's live performance are absolutely bewildering.

And Sunday night at Cat's Cradle, after the gaunt dream rock of The Eaves and the static pop of American Analog Set, jaws started

to plummet Bashfully, in his vintage Public

Slayer" to study interpersonal rela-

tionships. "It's more realistic in its depic-

But using movies and television programs as a way to gauge socie-ty is one thing: Both mediums are still reasonably young and have understandable value in observing and critiquing society. Literature is another beast altogether, and appeasing the literary community often requires an effort of mammoth proportions.

UNC English Professor Robert Cantwell. "Consequently, certain kinds of works are assigned to a certain strata by the literary authorities."

But what now is considered popular" can become "literary" during the course of time. Nathaniel Hawthorne's gothic romances, for example, achieved their status as literary master-pieces long after their publication.

B O Vo

Student Pilm Festival!

free thursday april 15 • 7 pm

union auditorium

documentary, comedy, adventure

ims by the following UNC students:

chris baker • logan davis • pablo durana

sam hargrave • stephanie johnes • not

liotta•jennifer lloyd•angela mcdeveR

sean overbeeke • pete sickbert-bannet nataya a. simmons • robert joel wiggins

afterwards, catch the premiere of

UNC senior sam hargrave's hour the till "How Violence Solved All of My Problems"

Enemy T-shirt, Crow set free the opening sample of "Boo," pinched from 2001's *Blue Screen Life*, as Smith entered in turn with his slap-chording and finger-finagling bass work.

The duo, along with a rotating cast of accompaniers, offered up a hefty set of dense pop songs, deli-cately obscured by their layered vocal interchanges and distinctive bass-driven sound.

Whether the soft cotton swab-bing of "Loro" or the sly propulsion of "Offline P.K.," each of Pinback's

"Grey Machine" was an opus of errey macmne was an opus of eerie majesty, while "Tripoli" was a fully sophisticated expanse of upper-register vocal harmonies and purposefully sluggish bass jumps. Very simply, Smith and Crow's

songs took on entirely new charac-ter live. They were almost auda-

cious in their complexity. Virgin-viewer's final internal monologue: "And to think, I was convinced Pinback played simple little pop ditties.

"Damn, my jaw hurts."

Contact the ASE Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

"Elitists believe that which costs a lot of money to acquire and that which requires education to understand, holds more value than that which is easier to access," she

That elitism proved to be the most formidable obstacle when Browne tried to develop a pop culture program at BGSU.

Evolving during the late 1960s, it faced opposition from other, more established departments, such as English and history. Even American Studies programs failed to accept it as a valid course of study. "If there's one thing aca-demics can't stand, it's something

Ironically, scholars believe that many American Studies programs are in trouble because they've become so politicized. So in their place, the necessity of popular culture programs has been realized — the field is gaining recognition as the voice of America.

said.

pop culture tells us so accurately what the hopes, dreams, needs and desires of the people were in any particular historical moment." Roll over Shakespeare, tell

anything. It's good, all right. What do you want from me?

Dismemberment Plan, Change Their name conjures up images of a demonic cult, but, in fact, the members of the Dismemberment Plan can be quite modest. On Change the band shows off this softer side, especially on the touch-ing "Ellen and Ben." Though it lacks the craziness of other Dismemberment Plan albums, Change cashes in big with earnest lyrics and temperate chords.

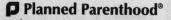
Contact the ASE Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Contact Jim Walsh at walship@email.unc.edu.

## **HELP WANTED!**

Women between the ages of 14 and 24 wanted to participate in an Emergency Contraception Research Study. Participants must be sexually active and not be pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant within the next year. Participants will need to visit the Planned Parenthood clinic in Chapel Hill or Durham 3 times in the next year. Enrolled women will receive compensation in the form of cash, vouchers for Planned Parenthood services, and gift certificates.

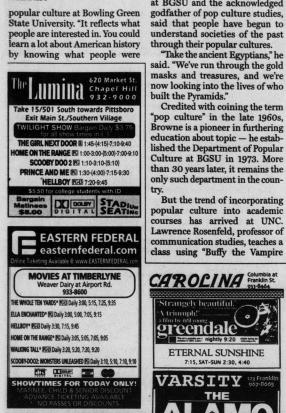
For more information, call Jessica or Rebecca at 919-286-1770.





# POP CULTURE popular culture at Bowling Green

State University. "It reflects what people are interested in. You could learn a lot about American arn a lot about American history by knowing what people were







tion of relationships than most shows on television," he said.

"The literary world, like all our social worlds, is stratified," said

"Contemporary writing is embedded in a literary legacy," Cantwell said. "We seize upon the works that will have the most lasting impact.

said.

new," Browne said.

"Popular culture is democracy and capitalism at its finest — it's about making money," Wilson

Stephen King the new

"That's why the careful study of

The Daily Tar Heel

#### DIVERECOMMENDS

"The Boondock Saints" Packed full of Massachusetts mayhem, this grisly flick about two beerdrinking, Irish Catholic vigilantes is a definitive drive-by joy ride, heavy on the pitiless slaughter.

Willem Dafoe plays the crossdressing detective whose job it is to bring justice to the pious executioners, whom Bostonians have dubbed the Boondock Saints. It's a sheer thriller. Incidentally, it also

makes pea coats seem cool. Duran Duran, Greatest You needn't be a new-wave guru to appreciate the genius of this 1980s appreciate the genus of this 1980s synth-pop phenomena. "Hungry Like The Wolf," "Girls on Film," "Ordinary World" – all classic. And though I don't actually "own" this CD, I listened to it in the car on the way back to school

last weekend, and it was awesome. Who's hungry? Who's hungry? "Sealab 2021" Cartoon

Network's finest, this faux-retro

series is the gem of Adult Swim. Creators Adam Reed and Matt Thompson struck gold when they ripped off artwork from the dopey 70s cartoon Sealab 2020 and paired it with a sharp sense of humor friendly to the college demo-graphic. Best line: "Ahh mercury, waretest of the transition metale" sweetest of the transition metals.

"Nine Stories," by J.D. Salinger Salinger is a master of the mundane. He has an uncanny ability to make anything, particularly cigarette smoking and cocktails, seem important. In "Nine Stories," the man who gave us Holden Caulfield uses his characteristically terse prose to explore ideas of death, sex and the family. "A Perfect Day for Banana Fish," haunting as it is, speaks to the magnitude of Salinger's craft, if that even means



gard) by those who misinterpret literature as something high-sounding," Browne said. "They've always used Shakespeare as the fulcrum where culture bent, but to look at Shakespeare as having never been a part of pop culture is blinding yourself from the obvi-

and "low" art has spread to journalism, as well: Last week, Dan Neil of the Los Angeles Times won a Pulitzer Prize for automobile reviews that "blend his technical expertise with offbeat humor and

director of Americana: The Institute for the Study of American Popular Culture, said that elitists riority by eschewing the study of popular culture in favor of the "high arts."

The blurred line between "high"

cultural observations." Leslie Wilson, the executive derive feelings of intellectual supe-

"(Pop culture) is held in (disre-

using contemporary novels to reach their students, an apt strategy for a generation whose culture has become fragmented, a generation that receives most of its news from the Internet and programs such as "The Daily Show

small-scale rock numbers was dutifully held together by eccentricity and experimentalism. Professors are turning toward

your pack of Dentyne Fire" or Dentyne Ice" and you could win one of many great prizes. including a MP3 Player!

your campus from April 18-May 1, 2004

looking to spot you with a pack of Dentyne Fire<sup>®</sup> or Dentyne Ice<sup>®</sup>.

All you have to do is be spotted with







Spot the Intensity!



available at 6pm

Weekly Specials-

EASY TUESDAY - SENIOR'S NIGHT \$4 Passion Fruit Margaritas

> WITH WINE WEDNESDAYS \$5 Reds \$4 Whites

LOW CARB THURSDAYS \$2.50 Domestic Light Bottles

HIGH CARE SUNDAYS \$3 Wheat Beers Free Homemade Cookies

202 W. Rosemary - 967.2506 www.laresidence.citysearch.com