

Campus-based artists seek exposure at event

BY JIM WALSH

ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Whether there for exposure or just to have fun, student and local groups at Fall Fest enjoyed enthusiastic crowds Sunday night.

"I think the crowd was really into it," said Ruth Ball, the lead singer of Delorean, a hard rock band based out of Chapel Hill.

Senior Dan Cummins, the only current UNC student in Delorean, is the lead guitarist. The rest of the band draws its members from a base of alumni and area residents.

Cummins, who used the band's time on the main South Road stage to distribute free CDs and plug the group's Web site, said Fall Fest was an opportunity to get exposure for the group.

"We'd like this to be the start of a nice local fan base," he said.

After the show, band members said they got a good impression from the crowd and event coordinators.

"It was well organized," bassist Jeremy Clark said.

Other bands noted the improved logistics of Fall Fest this year.

Eric Hirsh of the student jazz-funk band Bazungu said that despite a few technical difficulties, the facilities allowed for solid performances.

Hirsh, who organized street teams to work the crowd during Bazungu's set, said Fall Fest was a step in the right direction. The band is gaining name recognition, he added.

"It's starting to grow beyond our 'friend's friends,'" he said. "This will be the year of UNC and the Triangle knowing who we are."

Hirsh said that having street teams was an effective way of getting students interested in his band. "It's a pretty common grassroots approach," he said.

Hirsh and the band hope to use events such as Fall Fest to get the



DTH/GARRETT HALL
Senior Jeff Fowler of the band Bazungu performs at Fall Fest on South Road on Sunday night. Several student groups performed at the event.

word out about Bazungu.

"I would love to find the kind of people who are into this music and get them into our band," he said.

"Hopefully this will be the start of a new Bazungu."

Stepping out, rapping up

Many performance groups comprised members of student organizations, playing to a crowd of newcomers and friends alike.

One such student group, the Delta Sigma Theta Inc. sorority step team, was less concerned about using Fall Fest to launch a career.

"It's really exciting," said Michelle Greene, president of the Delta Sigma Theta Inc. chapter in Chapel Hill. "We practiced long nights."

Junior Andrew Avent of the cappella group Clef Hangers said Fall Fest was an opportunity to inform students about upcoming auditions.

"It gives us really good exposure,

a chance to get our name out there," Avent said before his performance Sunday.

Angela Crisp-Sears, who was in charge of organizing student performers, said Fall Fest is a chance to showcase student talent.

"There are certain groups everyone looks forward to seeing."

Contact the A&E Editor

Business owners react to tax

BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER

ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Paying taxes is an almost unavoidable part of life, and business owners in downtown Chapel Hill have had to become particularly familiar with that reality.

Since 1989, property owners in the downtown district have been subjected to a supplemental downtown service district tax of 6.2 cents per \$100 property value.

In the past, the tax revenues were used to fund the Chapel Hill Downtown Commission, an entity whose mission was to enhance and promote downtown.

But due to the recommendations of the town's Downtown Steering Committee, these taxes now will be used to fund the newly formed Chapel Hill Downtown Economic Development Corporation.

"It institutes a specific source of revenue for downtown," said Dana McMahan, owner of Laughing Turtle Home, located at 105 E. Franklin St.

"We need this revenue to preserve downtown."

The service tax, which generates about \$70,000 annually for the town, will provide one-third of the budget for the new nonprofit corporation. The town and the University, who also have representatives on the panel, will match that amount to give the entity a working

"This town is good for making fees. (The tax) is another extra thing to pay for. We pay enough. It hurts us."

LLOYD RIPPE, OWNER, BUB O'MALLEY'S

budget of about \$210,000.

But not all business owners are happy with the tax, even those who have been paying it for years.

Lloyd Rippe, owner of Bub O'Malley's at 157 E. Rosemary St., said the tax is merely another way to collect money from businesses.

"This town is good for making fees," Rippe said. "(The tax) is another extra thing to pay for. We pay enough."

"It hurts us," Rippe added.

Greg Owens, owner of the Carolina Coffee Shop at 138 E. Franklin St., agreed.

"It doesn't make sense for (downtown business owners) to pay extra," Owens said.

"Everybody uses downtown," McMahan, who as a member of the Downtown Steering Committee took part in aiding the new corporation, said she understands the qualms some business owners have about paying more taxes.

"If you're paying, you want to get results," she said.

She added that the new corporation marks the first time in the his-

tory of downtown Chapel Hill that all three elements of downtown — business owners, the University and the town — are formally sitting together to discuss area needs.

Charles House, owner of the University Florist at 124 E. Franklin St. and executive director of the Downtown Commission, said the tax is a fair and equitable way to establish funds to be used for the betterment of the downtown.

He said the varied representatives on the corporation, which recently appointed Nicholas Didow as its interim executive director, will oversee the funds and their effectiveness in serving downtown.

House said there always will be some merchants who oppose additional taxes, with some preferring to donate to downtown improvements and some who rather would not contribute at all.

"Of course, this process will have to be revisited in the future," he said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

We've got a ticket for you.

astounding... **INCREDIBLE**

first-rate... **STUDENT PASS**

magnificent...

See five shows for a bargain price!

For as little as \$45 you can take advantage of an amazing offer.

PLAYMAKERS
REPERTORY COMPANY

www.playmakersrep.org 919.962.PLAY (7529)

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!!

Official Johnny T

ONLY **\$3.99**
\$13.99 Suggested Value

SPECIAL STUDENT ONLY OFFERS AT JOHNNY T-SHIRT

The Famous Chapel Hill Night Lights Poster

CHapel Hill

ONLY **\$4.99**
\$9.99 Suggested Value

Student ID required • Offer ends September 15, 2004 or while supplies last • Located at 128 E. Franklin St.

vineyard vines

belts, bowties, boxers, neckties & NEW! polos for girls

Julian's
Purveyors to Tar Heel Royalty Since 1942

Downtown Chapel Hill
140 East Franklin Street
942-4563
www.julianstyle.com
Open Monday thru Saturday 10 - 6

StudentHealthService

We have you covered... around the clock!

16 hours a day
5 days a week
Monday - Friday 7am - 11pm

9 hours a day Sat. & Sun.
8am - 5pm

The Electronic Appointment System makes it easy for you!

Preferred Appointment Times:
M-F 9-4:15
Call ahead 966.2281

Comprehensive Health Care:

- ▶ Women's Health Program
- ▶ Men's Health Program
- ▶ Sports Medicine Program for all students
- ▶ Full Lab, X-ray & Pharmacy
- ▶ Fitness & Nutrition Programs
- ▶ Substance Abuse Programs
- ▶ Health & Wellness Programs and much, much more!

Need advice after hours? Call SHS-HealthLink at 966.2281 to speak directly to a nurse.

SHS is located between UNC Hospital and Kenan Stadium.

Check us out on the Web: studenthealth.unc.edu