### The Daily Tar Heel

# **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, student and total groups at Fall Fest enjoyed enthu-siastic 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 Chevael Will 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

"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 facili-

ties 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 grass-roots approach," he said. Hirsh and the band hope to use

events such as Fall Fest to get the

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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.

Sunday.

to showcase student talent.

one looks forward to seeing."

word out about Bazungu. "I would love to find the kind of a chance to get our name out there," Avent said before his performance people who are into this music and et them into our band," he said. "Hopefully this will be the start Bazungu.

Stepping out, rapping up

Many performance groups com-prised members of student organizations, playing to a crowd of new-comers 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 a cappella group Clef Hangers said Fall Fest was an opportunity to inform students about upcoming auditions.

"It gives us really good exposure,

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INCREDIBLI

Business owners react to tax

#### BY MEREDITH LEE MILLER ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Paying taxes is an almost unavoidable part of life, and busi-ness owners in downtown Chapel Hill have had to become particu-larly familiar with that reality.

Since 1989, property owners in the downtown district have been subjected to a supplemental down-town 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 gener-

Angela Crisp-Sears, who was in charge of organizing student per-formers, said Fall Fest is a chance ates about \$70,000 annually for the town, will provide one-third of the budget for the new nonprofit corporation. The town and the There are certain groups every-University, who also have represen-tatives on the panel, will match that amount to give the entity a working

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"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 mak-ing fees," Rippe said. "(The tax) is another extra thing to pay for. We

another extra uning to put that 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 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 corpora-tion 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.

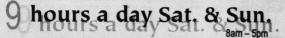
He said the varied representatives on the corporation, which recently appointed Nicholas Didow as its interim executive director, will oversee the funds and their effectiveness

in serving downtown. House said there always will be some merchants who oppose addi-tional taxes, with some preferring to donate to downtown improve ments and some who rather would

not contribute at all. "Of course, this process will have to be revisited in the future," he said.

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