CCL: A GATEWAY DRUG

Chatham County Line is the type of band that appeals to a wide swath of music fans.

On the surface, the bluegrass elements are obvious, but digging just a little deeper will reveal plenty of alt. country, roots and other Americana elements.

The band released its fourth LP, IV, this week and will give it a proper celebration Friday at Cat's Cradle.

Assistant Diversions Editor Jamie Williams chatted with CCL front-man Dave Wilson in advance of that show about Tift Merritt, bluegrass as a genre and the good manners of Dutch audiences.

Diversions: With the new record coming out this week, you must be pretty excited.

Dave Wilson: I'm real excited about this week. It's time to get back to work.

I'm getting ready to have a cold beer and think about it.

Dive: Sounds like a lot of cold beer goes into making your records?

DW: Yeah man, why not?

Dive: That's how plenty of bands start, right? As a way to drink beer with your buddies?

DW: One thing led to another, and, as a big Gram Parsons fan, I started playing some music with some fellows and one thing led to

We went on tour with Tift Merritt for a while, and ended up getting a record deal. It's been a great ride.

Dive: Speaking of Tift, it's pretty cool that you guys' record comes out the week after hers.

DW: I know. I've listened to it, and it is great. I love that girl. We saw her on the Jay Leno show last week. We're still friends with all them, and I thought it was great. She really knocked it out of the

Dive: I saw that, too. She's

really making waves. DW: Totally, man. She's killin' it.

This record's gonna do a lot for her. Dive: What about you? Do you have any goals for this record?

DW: We're definitely in it for



Chatham County Line will bring its lively bluegrass-influenced music to 'Cat's Cradle Friday in honor of the release of IV. The Everybodyfields open.

the long run. It'started out as a way to just hang out and have some fun, but, man, then it turned into a job,

and we really enjoy it.
We just want to keep doing it and making stronger and stronger music, adding to the legacy of the genre of music we make. It's a dream come true

Dive: You guys definitely have bluegrass influence, but there is plenty of other stuff as well. How do you define the sound?

DW: You can't hide your influence. I mean, I'd never heard blue-grass until college. I had no idea what the deal was, no idea about the genre. I spent a lot of years hanging out with the guys in the band, and we've all been in rock

Everything is gonna show up when we hit record.

Dive: Do you think that draws in more people who may not like traditional bluegrass?

DW: That's what we want. We're the gateway drug for blue-

Dive: What do you have planned for the release show this

DW: We're gonna try and get some special guests out and learn some weird songs to play. The Cradle's the best. It's the place we want to play. I know we're from Raleigh, but the Cradle audience is just awesome. They are really respectful and really respect you.

Dive: Do you have big touring plans to support the record

DW: We're gonna head to Texas for SXSW and then do a few Heartland shows. We're really here,

there and everywhere. We'll do festivals in Portland, New York, over in Ireland, Norway and some in Holland. We'll do a week in the U.K.

It'll be a lot of pickin'.

Dive: How does the Dutch bluegrass crowd compare to the Cradle?

DW: They're good. They are so respectful, and they don't yell out during the show.

My first time there, I thought we sucked because no one responded. There were no rebel yells or people getting excited, but you learn from exposure that they just don't do that. They are so polite, and they wait

until the end of the song and then they pay their respects.

Dive: What do you prefer: the raucous shows or the crowds that sit back and just listen?

DW: A good balance between everything is good. We love the theater shows, and then we also love the loud, drunken bar shows. I mean, that's why we've done four years of Christmas shows at the Pour House in Raleigh. It's tight and loud and smoky, but we love it.

> Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

CCL gives tradition a kick

Traditionalism is a hard flag to

When playing traditional forms such as bluegrass - it's difficult to strike a balance between vivacious artistic expression and reverence to the time-honored expectations of the craft.

Chatham County Line manage to accomplish both on its fourth long-player.

Taking exquisitely-played contemporary bluegrass and garnishing it with other country instrumentation (namely, steel guitar, harmonica and organ), the band creates a product that's warm,

inviting and invigorating.

Captured in wonderful clarity, IV keeps enough familiar bluegras elements to lasso the listener right

But thanks to the band's musical creativity and solid songwriting,

Chatham County Line also creates a record that remains interesting on repeated listens.

Principal songwriter Dave Wilson delivers tunes full of delightful country wisdom as comfortingly obvious as a rock-ing chair and a glass of ice-cold emonade on a hot Southern afternoon.

"You can't thank nobody for a romance with a postcard," Wilson wryly jokes on "Thanks" with such an audible air of good-heartedness that he might as well have begun the line with, "Well, bless your

Wilson is just as convincing when he challenges the listener to match his level of desperation in "I Got Worry.

But it's the barnstorming social commentary of "Birmingham Jail" that exemplifies what Chatham County Line does best.

Harnessing a fiddle-banjo duel

CHATHAM COUNTY LINE



full of so much fire that it feels as though it's been going on forever, Wilson lashes out with brimstoneladen fury against the racist history

"Birmingham Jail" takes grand ole bluegrass traditions and plays them with such perfection that the song becomes timeless.

With such performances, IV proves that bluegrass music is one of those things that just never gets old — so long as it's delivered with the confident craftsmanship and reverence that Chatham County Line displays.

> Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.

Racy 'Boleyn Girl' lacks substance

BY DAVID BERNGARTT

Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson star in the racy period piece about the adulterous King Henry VIII and his sibling mis-

Full of sex, cheating, backstabbing, and yes, even incest, "The Other Boleyn Girl" still comes off the Hollywood production line feeling empty.

Portman succeeds as the manipulative and powerful Anne Boleyn, while she's juxtaposed by her sweet and unassuming sister Mary

Boleyn (Johansson).

The two are thrown into both the king's bed and his politics as Henry tries to conceive a male heir and satiate his lust.

Portman is the best talent in 'The Other Boleyn Girl." She's seductive and treacherous but still shows a chord of vulnerability. Her lines, however, fail to give her a chance to shine.

The utilitarian script really just

ties the action together — rather than artfully weaving dialogue — which is an opportunity the genre so easily offers.

The production is the quality you'd expect from an A-list period

Great costume work by Academy Award winner Sandy Powell and adequate sets do their jobs, transporting the audience to 16th cen-

tury England. But the cinematography and set work leave something to be desired.

The overly-tight camera shots and cramped, darkly-lit settings give a low-budget feel to this big-

udget film.
In turn, the few sweeping shots simply look out of place and make you wonder why "The Other Boleyn Girl" doesn't offer anything more aesthetically pleasing than its young starlets' cleavages.

MOVIEREVIEW THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

The movie could be given kudos

for the interesting and risqué plot, but the real credit belongs to the truth of history and the book it was based on.

While it maintains interest, "The Other Boleyn Girl" is really only as entertaining as a good history lecture on the actual story.

> Contact the Diversions Editor at dive@unc.edu.



AVEDA INSTITUTE CHAPEL HILL

AVEDA INSTITUTE

let nature work wonders.



Spa

Receive \$5 off any facial*

Nails Receive \$5 off a manicure/pedicure combo*

Receive a haircut for \$15*

*Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with other offers. Expires March 31, 2008 Valid on Wednesday and Thursday appointments. Code: DTH.QS1.08

OUR CORNERS

175 E. Franklin St. • 919-968-3809

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL \$6 Import Pitchers

TUESDAY

35¢ Wings

\$2.50 JAGER BOMBS \$4 Miller Lite Pitchers

WEDNESDAY

35¢ Wings \$3 · 34 oz. Miller Lite & Yuengling

THURSDAY

\$2 MILLER LITE BOTTLES \$5 Moose Juice

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

\$2 Bud & Bud Light Bottles

N.F.L. SUNDAY

\$3 · 34 oz. DOMESTIC DRAFTS \$5 . 34 oz. IMPORT DRAFTS

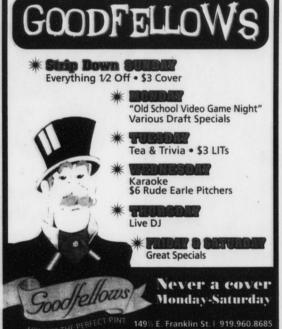
> Serving food til 2:30 am every night

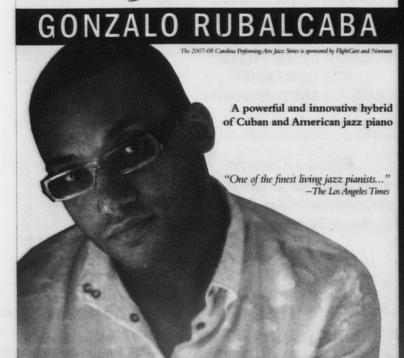
Specials subject to change on Carolina Home Game Days

FREE PLAY on our 2 Beer Pong Tables!









Saturday, March 29 at 8pm Memorial Hall Bang on a Can All-Stars Merce Cunningham Dance Company Spirit of Uganda UNC