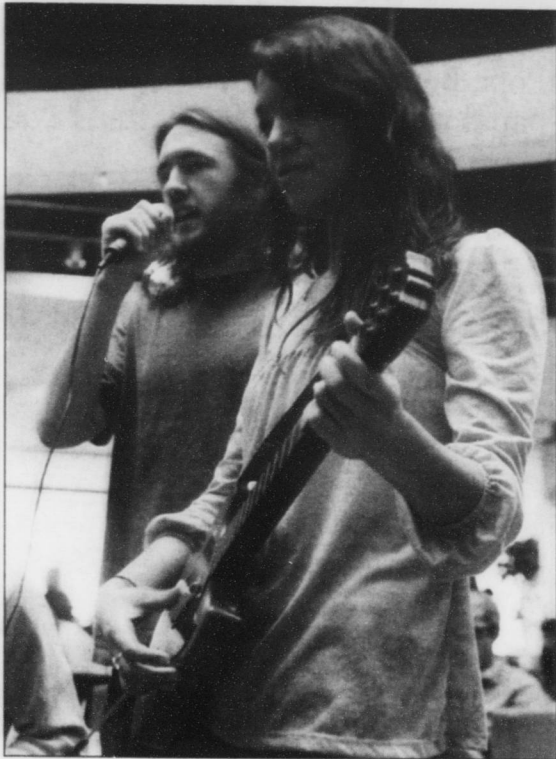


ROCKIN' OUT FOR THE BOYZ



DTH/SARAH RIAZATI

Chris Ross and Veronica Mora promote the release of non-senior, faculty and staff Boyz II Men tickets for SpringFest by playing "Rock Band" in the Student Union on Monday. "I was writing a paper, and I saw them set up and wanted to play," said Ross, a graduate student.

CRIME

Booker stressed that both towns' police departments have officers and employees who speak Spanish to try to improve communication.

Durham has also seen a slew of robberies that seem to target the Latino community.

Stephen Oates, one of the men charged with the murder and robbery of Duke graduate student Abhijit Mahato, also has been charged with 15 robberies in Durham, several of which involved

Latino victims.

Kammie Michael, the Durham Police Department's public information officer, said in an e-mail that it appears Latinos were targeted in some of the robbery cases.

Both Michael and Pardo said that police have responded by getting out into the communities where the robberies took place to provide education and information.

Michael said Durham police spoke to Latino residents throughout the community, particularly in the apartment complexes where several of the robberies occurred.

Pardo said he will attend a community meeting at Kingswood Apartments, where one of the robberies took place, on April 23 to give crime prevention tips in Spanish.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

PIT PREACHER

Birdsong was banned from the Pit in March 2007 after refusing to move from an area reserved by Carolina Adventures. He was charged with trespassing and could be arrested if he goes back to the Pit.

He said he is working with lawyers to get back to his UNC home as soon as possible.

"I still have (the) First Amendment, and I plan to use it," he said, adding that students should get involved with bringing him back to the Pit.

Birdsong has been preaching at UNC since the 1980s, and he said that while he's preaching, he tries to say things that will draw a crowd and allow him to debate with students.

"You can't be scared to offend someone," Birdsong said. "A lot of people will come against me on the things I say, but they have to be said."

Several students say there's something about the Pit preachers that draws them into discussion, especially on the long haul to classes.

Sophomore Michael Thornton said he finds himself watching Pit preachers, often unintentionally.

"I like the fact that I can sit out here and listen," Thornton said. "But the problem is that most of the time the sermons are bad representations of Christianity."

Birdsong said that although some of the things he says can be controversial, it is the students who bring up "the crazy stuff."

"It's hard to get into the actual Bible with students because 90 percent of the people who listen to me don't know the Bible," Birdsong said.

He said his sermons often escalate to shouting matches because students get emotional when they are challenged.

"Stuff might shake them up, but if people will just look in the Bible they'll see the things I say are right," Birdsong said.

Although he still shakes students up, the excitement that Birdsong brought to the Pit is missing.

Other religious organizations, such as Good News on the Move, a group of young evangelists, are using more conventional methods such as individual conversations to convey their messages.

"We're here to spread the word about the love of God, not to spread a message of hate," said Zach Plowman, a 19-year-old who is a member of Good News on the Move.

Until Birdsong re-emerges as the Pit preacher, his entertaining debate remains absent from the busiest location on campus.

"Watching Pit preachers is like watching TV," Thornton said. "If it's exciting, people will watch."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

TRANSFER SITE

tions from the Orange County Human Relations Commission today to establish a definition of environmental justice.

"We got involved because we thought it was an issue of discrimination against the people that live in that area," Commission Chairman Bill Hendrickson said. "It will help them in locating the new site for this transfer station."

Assistant City Editor Sarah Frier contributed reporting. Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Exclusionary criteria

The Orange County Board of Commissioners is expected to approve tonight the criteria that would exclude a site from consideration for a waste transfer station. Preliminary exclusionary criteria have already been established:

- A. Sites located outside of Orange County.
- B. Sites within "Critical Area Overlay District" of protected supply watersheds.
- C. Sites located beyond three miles of U.S. 15-501, N.C. Hwy. 54, N.C. Hwy. 86 (excluding N.C. Hwy. 86 north of Hillsborough), U.S. 70, Interstate 40, Interstate 85 and sites beyond 12 road miles of the center of projected waste generation.
- D. Sites with wetlands and floodplains.
- E. Sites with areas having steep topographic slopes.
- F. Sites with endangered and protected flora and fauna habitats.
- G. Sites with protected areas of historical, archeological or cultural significance.
- H. Sites with county-owned lands designated for park preservation.
- I. Sites within protected watershed overlay district excepting therein those non-residential land use activity nodes.
- J. Sites with less than 25 acres in size unless transportation access, existing buffers and preliminary transfer station layout demonstrates the adequacy of a smaller size.

EDWARDS

involved in things," she said. Edwards described her journey from being a "silent protester" to being someone who speaks her mind when she must.

When her boss at the Pines — a restaurant in Chapel Hill that has since closed — used racial slurs, she risked her job and asked him to stop. She didn't lose her job, and she continued to speak out.

In the wake of the Kent State University protest, when four students were shot fatally by the National Guard during a rally against the Vietnam War, she ran to tell her fellow students.

One man paused his card game to tell her they probably deserved it.

"Whatever my reasons were for inaction, they were not relevant at that moment," she said, adding that she attended her first anti-war action meeting later that night and began to get deeply involved.

"(College students) have the luxury of time to think about classes ... and also to be involved."

ELIZABETH EDWARDS, ALUMNA

"We didn't affect a single policy ... but maybe we've changed the national conversation," Edwards said.

"You cannot be silent like the boy playing cards."

Many students at the event said they felt inspired by her speech.

"I think it's just the ideas she has and how she puts them forward that intrigues me and so many others," sophomore Kaylyn Siporin said.

"It was great to be reminded to have a better, more active college experience."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

UNC TOMORROW

ing mental health in health initiatives, involving American Indians in minority-student initiatives and ensuring that individuals can be held accountable for following through on the recommendations.

Students and faculty are invited to send recommendations to committee members during the next week.

The campus response is only UNC Tomorrow's first phase, which focuses on public engagement. The report on phase two, to be submitted in December, focuses on academics.

"The people of North Carolina who spoke to us expect us to be something that they can be proud of," said Tom Ricketts, a UNC professor who served on the UNC Tomorrow advisory Scholars Council.

"There is a sense that we should be better at what we do."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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Location: Lumina Theatre
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