

Iron & Wine revisits roots

BY KEVIN TURNER
STAFF WRITER

From his lo-fi, muffled acoustic tracks, which gave him instant notoriety among the indie crowd, to the critically acclaimed studio-produced *The Shepherd's Dog*, Iron & Wine's Sam Beam has traveled far but stayed close to his Southern roots.

Tonight, Iron & Wine returns to the South in a sold-out Memorial Hall performance.

Beam, who records and performs under the name Iron & Wine, is originally from Columbia, South Carolina. Having gone to college in Virginia and Florida, he is a Southern boy at heart. And it's hard not to hear that as an influence in his music.

The show, which was brought to UNC through the joint effort of Cat's Cradle and the Carolina Union Activities Board, is one of the most sought-after tickets of the year.

"We made 900 tickets available to the students, and they were all gone by mid-afternoon the day they went on sale," said Tom Allin,

CUAB's music committee chairman.

When tickets went on sale Feb. 21, hundreds of students braved winter temperatures to wait in a line that snaked from Memorial Hall to South Columbia Street by 10 a.m.

"Iron & Wine definitely strikes a universal chord within us all. The nice thing about them is that it's a name that people know and respect, being a band that is constantly changing their sound," said Allin.

Although the banjo-laden recordings of earlier albums have made way for new, more experimental ventures into West African and blues music on the 2007 *The Shepherd's Dog*, the appealing folksy sound that made Iron & Wine famous still permeates its songs.

And Iron & Wine struck a chord with the UNC student body, really hard.

"I was so excited the minute I heard that Iron & Wine was coming here — I knew I had to get a ticket," said Robin Fail, a junior whose roommate got her a ticket after waiting in the behemoth line.

This will be Fail's first time seeing Iron & Wine.

Allin said bringing a show that drew this much excitement and fervor from the student body was extremely important to CUAB, which had a hard time booking artists of equal caliber and recognition this year. Rumors circulated of pending deals with popular indie acts such as M.I.A., Feist and Spoon.

"We really needed to bring something to show that we were giving to the students," Allin said.

And the stars seemed to align when Cat's Cradle approached CUAB with the idea of bringing Iron & Wine to Memorial Hall.

"It's been so difficult to find dates that work for both big-time artists and fit into Memorial Hall's schedule," Allin said. "But this was just something that fit beautifully, and we were delighted that it was able to work so well, and we're really so grateful for the fantastic student response."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Obama will visit ECU on Thursday

GREENVILLE (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama will hold a campaign event at East Carolina University this week.

The Obama campaign said Monday that the Illinois senator will visit Greenville on Thursday, speaking at ECU's Williams Arena. The campaign also said it will soon provide additional details about a town hall event in the Triangle.

North Carolina's May 6 primary will award 115 delegates.

Rice rejects VP selection rumors

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sought to end speculation Monday that she might be a vice presidential running mate for Arizona Sen. John McCain.

While praising McCain, she said in an interview: "I don't want to be, don't intend to be, won't be on the ticket."

She said she would return to academic pursuits at Stanford University, where she previously served as provost.

Pope Benedict XVI will make first papal visit to the U.S. on Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP) — A theologian recalls the then-cardinal's deep understanding of Protestantism. A former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican was impressed by his interest in all things American.

Those who have met Pope Benedict XVI say the nation should expect a man who knows and admires much about the U.S. but also sees a culture in need of moral guidance.

Benedict arrives late Tuesday for a six-day visit to Washington and New York filled with high-profile events. He will meet

President Bush at the White House, address leaders in Roman Catholic higher education, speak at the U.N., visit ground zero and hold two stadium Masses before leaving Sunday night.

It will be the first papal visit by Benedict since he was elected in 2005. However, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — who will celebrate a birthday and the anniversary of his election to the papacy while in the U.S. — traveled to America five times during his many years as the Vatican's doctrinal watchdog.

Delta, Northwest to combine forces

ATLANTA (AP) — Delta Air Lines Inc. and Northwest Airlines Corp., squeezed by record high fuel prices and a slowing economy, are combining in a stock-swap deal that would create the world's biggest carrier.

The boards of both companies gave the deal the go-ahead Monday.

Delta said the combined airline, which will be called Delta, will have an enterprise value of \$17.7 billion. It will be based in Atlanta, and Delta CEO Richard Anderson will head the combined company.

British journalist released in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi troops freed a kidnapped British journalist for CBS News on Monday after finding him hooded and bound in a house during a raid in a Shiite militia stronghold in Basra.

Richard Butler's rescue after two months in captivity was a success story for the Iraqi military, which has been strongly criticized for its effort to impose order on Iraq's second-largest city.

Butler, 47, was thin but in good condition and laughing as he was shown on Iraqi state television hugging well-wishers.



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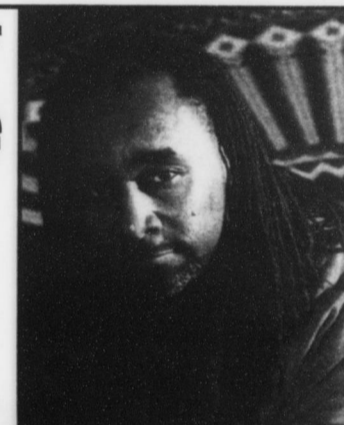
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Eric Jerome Dickey

New York Times Bestseller Eric Jerome Dickey is coming to the Bull's Head Bookshop to sign books and read from his new novel *Pleasure*.

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CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

ALWAYS COCA-COLA. ALWAYS CAROLINA!

GLADIATOR challenge

Teams of 2 (M, W, & Co-Rec)

Friday, April 18 - Hooker Fields
(Last day to sign up: Tuesday, April 15)

* Joust * Obstacle Course * Tug-of-War * Fitness Challenge

Register in 203 Woollen Gym
campusrec.unc.edu/events.html

campus recreation
campusrec.unc.edu

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465 Yd SWIM 5K RUN 10.8 M BIKE

sunday, april 20 Triathlon

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