



Students began to form a line as early as 4:30 a.m. to wait for Iron & Wine tickets in February. They braved sub-freezing temperatures in order to get seats to the one of the many shows hosted by CUAB last year. DTH FILE/ANKIT GUPTA

CUAB brings arts to campus

Student-run board known for big names

BY ALEXANDRIA SHEALY
ARTS EDITOR

The Carolina Union Activities Board is in charge of bringing in some of UNC's most popular performances on campus, but it isn't organized by a committee of faculty or professionals.

Students such as junior Tom Allin, who said the group has been "a fantastic experience," are the ones in charge of coordinating appearances by bands; lecturers, comedians and others.

Allin, CUAB's president-elect for 2008-09, joined after a roommate brought home a flier from Fall Fest advertising the group.

"I came back to my room that night, and my roommate had a card that said, 'Make your dreams come true,' and it had pictures of all these bands I love on it," Allin said.

"I was just like, 'I have to do this,' so I just started showing up to meetings early in my freshman year."

The organization has been responsible for bringing acts such as Iron & Wine, Musiq Soulchild and Ben Folds.

CUAB is led by Allin and 14 chairmen of different committees specializing in areas such as music,

film, comedy, visual art and marketing.

The committee chairmen are assisted by members who meet regularly to propose programming ideas for future CUAB events.

The group utilizes a sum of student fees to fund each event and often works with other area organizations, such as local music venue Cat's Cradle, to bring larger events.

"We're an organization of a large team of people of different backgrounds that like to think of what students are going to see and learn from, and we get ideas from all around campus, and we put those together and make them happen," said Robert Gurdian, 2007-08 president of the CUAB.

Gurdian said he encourages students from all classes to come to weekly committee meetings if they have ideas for future programming.

While many students recognize CUAB around campus for bringing larger acts, the organization frequently hosts smaller events, such as "Puppies in the Pit," a Harry Potter trivia contest and a festival celebrating "Forrest Gump."

"Freshmen can expect to come in and bring their ideas and often-times see them immediately put into action," Allin said.

"It's exciting for folks to be able to come in and immediately contribute."

In addition to planning events, Allin said he hopes to promote the marketing and publicity side of CUAB, as well.

"From planning events to marketing, the theme that runs through all these committees is the value put on creativity and development," Allin said.

"Whatever creative skills you learn, that's the intangible and most valuable thing that comes out of the CUAB office."

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