

# Photographer develops art of folklore

By JULIE BRASWELL  
Staff Writer

Viewing life through the lens of a camera has led photojournalist Jock Lauterer down North Carolina's rural roads and wooded mountain paths toward a career in community journalism.

Lauterer is currently the head of Brevard College's expanding journalism and photography departments. His past credits include positions as photography editor of The Daily Tar Heel, creator and editor of two N.C. community newspapers and instructor in the UNC School of Journalism.

Lauterer, a Chapel Hill native and alumnus of UNC, returned home Friday to celebrate the publication of his third book, "Runnin' on the Rims."

Lauterer's life in the mountains of North Carolina has always been punctuated by frequent returns to Chapel Hill.

"If my life has any symmetry to it, it revolves around UNC and the mountains," Lauterer said. "It's like there is a rubber band around me and the Old Well and me and Mour Mitchell, and I am always pulled back to one or the other."

Lauterer carries his camera everywhere and said he finds a photo in every face.

He'll stop anytime, just to get a good shot. While at Spanky's

and rural newspapers. He knew he did not want to work on a daily newspaper or in an urban setting.

In 1969, Lauterer and two friends scratched together funds and began their own newspaper in Forest City, a mountain town between Charlotte and Asheville.

Called This Week, the newspaper was a huge success, Lauterer said. It outran the competition and won 10 North Carolina press awards in its first year. "It proved you could take a small paper and make it wonderful," Lauterer said.

This Week became a daily newspaper in 1978. But soon after, in 1980, Lauterer left his creation to start another rural paper, the McDowell Express. A semi-weekly, the McDowell Express also won press awards.

As editor, publisher and writer at the two papers, Lauterer wrote about and photographed many people of the western North Carolina mountains. Noticing the number of photos and stories centered on the older population of the mountains, Lauterer found he could put together a book on these people. He called it "Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey Now."

"Runnin' on the Rims" is a second collection of 15 years of photos and profiles about the people who fascinate Lauterer the most — the

aging generation of mountain people tucked away in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The individuals in Lauterer's book represent a way of life and personal histories as old as some of the mountains themselves.

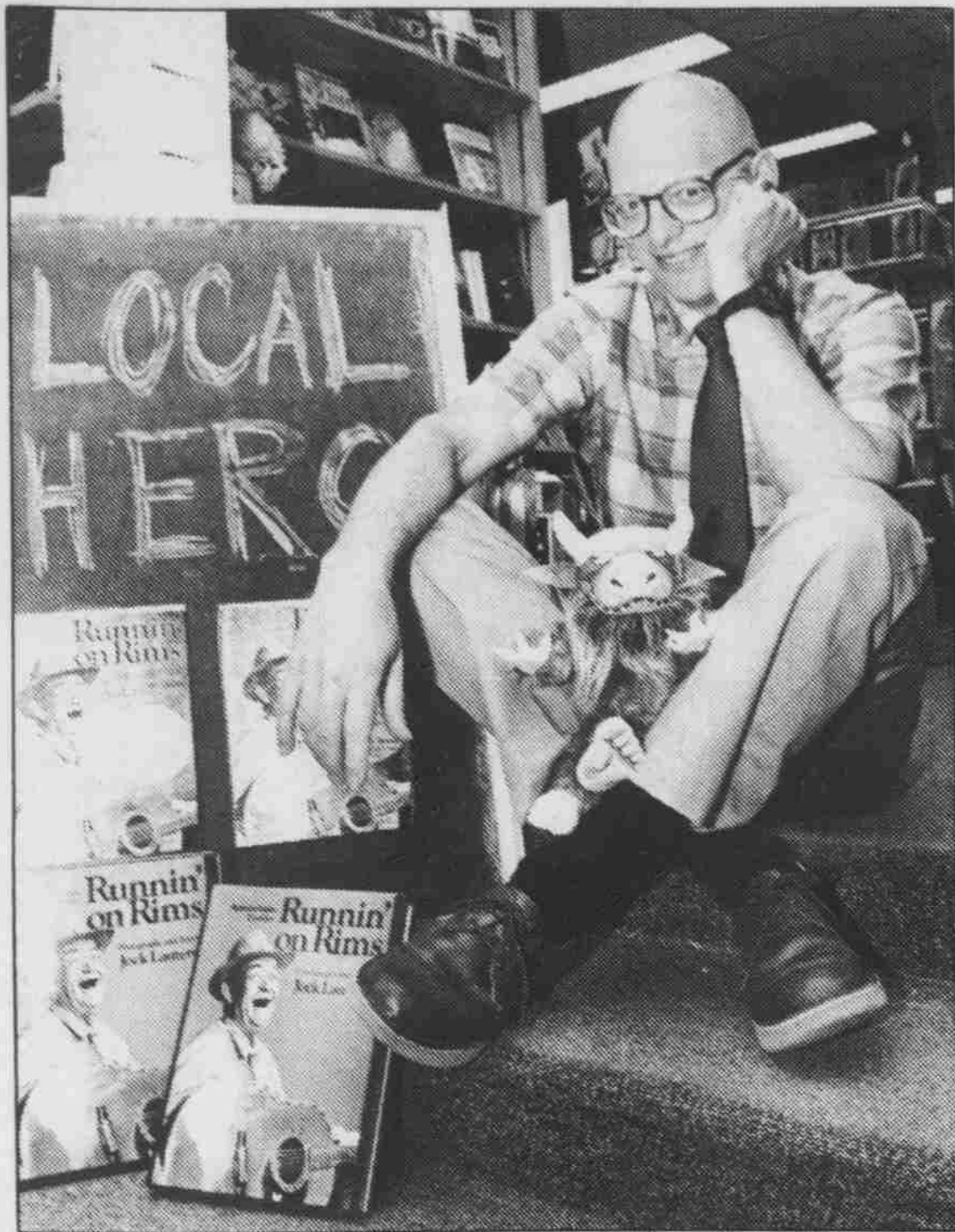
Lauterer calls his work "folkloric photojournalism." The stories are all "pie slices of these people's lifetimes," as Lauterer called them.

Lauterer said his photos are the final result of a friendship with the people. He never takes a tape recorder to the interview. The notepad and pencil only appear in his hand after the person feels comfortable. The camera emerges from its case somewhat as an afterthought.

"The secret, I found, was to envision the picture I wanted before I sort of absently picked up the camera, acting as if it were no big deal, but rather as natural as scratching my head," Lauterer said.

Lauterer's profiles on individuals like Edsel Martin, the woodcarver, Aunt Kate Burnette, the woodcutting farmwoman, and J.D. McCormick, the guitar maker, come from hours of friendship and learning about others.

For Lauterer, his work is not reporting and interviewing, it is finding the ways of mountain people in their own dialect and discovering a history in their faces.



DTH/Tony Deifell

N.C. photojournalist Jock Lauterer with a display of his new book

## General Public's political songs don't miss a beat

Scores of Tar Heels participated in the Chapel Hill ritual known as Basketball as they made a pilgrimage to the Dean Dome Saturday night. The few, the proud, the off-Beat trekked instead to Memorial Hall for the General Public concert. They were not disappointed; the Lakers and Bulls may have had sports fans cheering, but the unique seven-man ska/reggae band had its fans dancing in the aisles.

Dave Wakeling and Ranking Roger, former frontmen of the English Beat, are the heart and soul of General Public. They provide the quirky charm and political views which make the group special, while the other members mostly provide solid support for the two. The presence of Saxa, the Beat's saxophone player, was a treat. Dressed in an explosively colorful tie-dyed shirt and floppy hat, Saxa projected an aura of ultimate cool as he delivered seductive sax lines.

Boston's Buddy System warmed up the crowd for GP. Their set was good, and the band sounded vaguely like a diluted American U2. The music was not of the same stripe as GP's, but the fans seemed to be fairly pleased.

Wakeling opened the GP set by launching into "Where's the Line?," a tune that contemplates the distinctions between lust and love. From the start, the fans needed no invitation to dance; most were doing it non-stop for an hour and a half.

GP played every track from its solid debut album... all the rage. Highlights of this material included the album's most popular single, "Tenderness," and the distinctly upbeat "Never You Done That," the closest GP came to a ballad. "Burning Bright," an ominous vision of a nuclear holocaust, prompted a particularly enthusiastic fan to yell "It's Reagan!"

### Elizabeth Ellen Concert

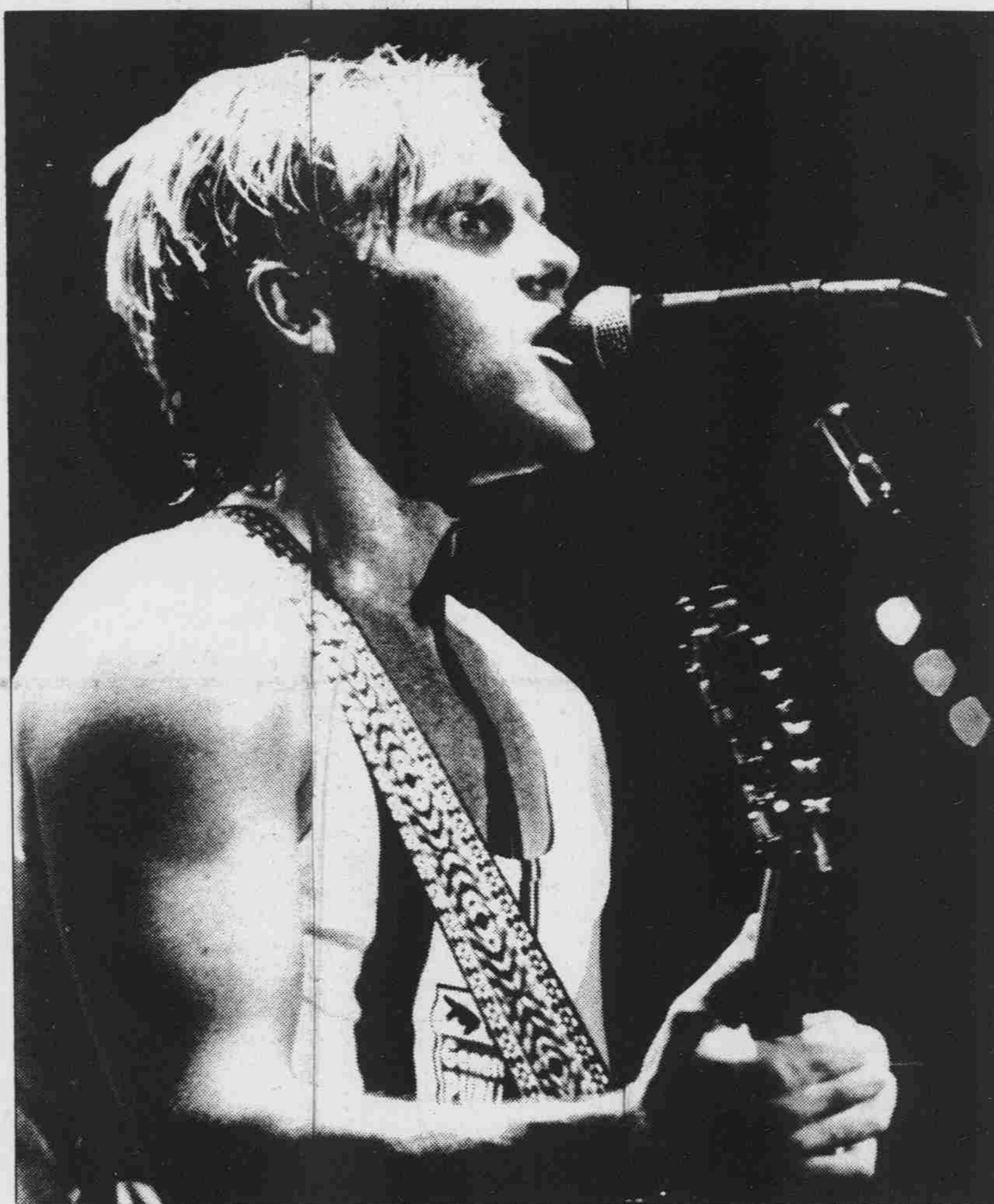
The band's new material proved to be as good as that from *rage*. "Now it's time for something really political," said Roger as the group warmed up for "Murder." Other memorable new songs included "Too Much or Nothing" and the ironically titled "Love without the Fun."

Nostalgic Beat fans were delighted when Wakeling announced the deliciously smooth "Save It for Later" from the album "Special Beat Service." Likewise, those fans who particularly like reggae were pleased by "Forward as One," one of the few songs of the evening that allowed Roger to do much toasting.

GP put on a no-nonsense show. Roger's endlessly energetic bouncing was the major visual interest onstage; the music and the spontaneous dancing it inspired were the real focuses of the evening. The band was dressed simply, and Roger had even abandoned the two-tone striped hairdo he had on the *rage* cover. The feeling in Memorial Hall was rather intimate and uninhibited as a result of the small crowd and the audience's proximity to the stage.

A major theme of GP's political songs is public ignorance and apathy. The band's first encore was the majestic "General Public," a song that, like "Burning Bright," places both responsibility for injustice and hope for change partially on the public. At the end of the tune, Roger led the audience in fist-shaking and chants of "striking back." Still, there was nothing in the concert as powerful as some of the Beat's most political music.

Acknowledging the crowd's disappointment at losing "an important



DTH/Tony Deifell

Dave Wakeling, of General Public, sings to an intense crowd at Memorial Hall Saturday night

game." Wakeling introduced GP's second encore, "Come Again," as a song about either sex or religion. "I guess either could take your mind off the loss," he said.

Clearly the concert did take

everyone's minds off the afternoon's heartbreaking contest in Kenan. The band's infectious rhythms make the music irresistibly danceable, yet Wakeling and Roger steer clear of the lightweight fluffiness much once

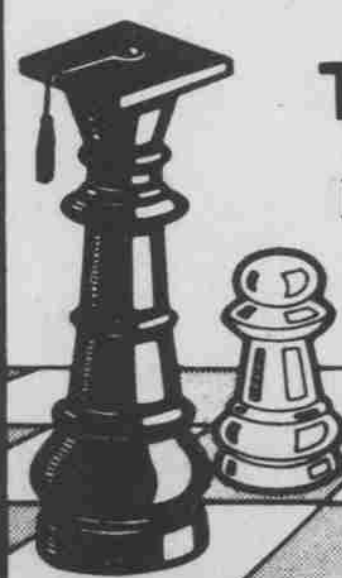
music acquires. GP is to most dance bands as a basketball is to a ping-pong ball. Bouncy and substantial, General Public proved that it is neither a warmed-over Beat remnant nor a one-album fluke.

Remember family or friends with Special Occasion, Get Well or Memorial cards.



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## Blue-White Basketball Tickets

Student tickets are available for the Blue-White basketball games, which will be played after the Maryland and Virginia football games on November 1st and November 15th. Both these games will be played in the air-conditioned Smith Center and the halftimes will be only five minutes (so you can get out in time for the rest of your Saturday evening plans). Present your student I.D. and athletic pass at the Smith Center box office between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Students may also purchase guest tickets at \$5.00 in addition to their complimentary student tickets. Student groups of 20 or more are welcome to send a representative to the ticket office with the groups' athletic passes for block seating.



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