Chapel Hill's Sweet Baby James rocks concert audience



DTH/Tony Deifell

James Taylor begins Friday's concert with "Something in the Way She Moves"

Campus Calendar

Wednesday

12 p.m.

NOW

bo

438

30

Institute for Environmental Studies will have environmental seminar on "Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention: A Cross Cultural Perspec-

thru Saturday

Donald Huisingh of NCSU. It will be in Room 05 of Mitchell 6 p.m.

Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold its weekly meal and service at 300 E. Rosemary St. Cost is

tive," given by Dr.

NCSL will meet in Union 220 to finalize plans for IC. Students for Simon will meet in the Union. All students welcome.

8 p.m.

Carolina Union Gallery Committee will have a mixed media presentation combining poetry and paintings from different eras of American and European art, "Art on Art/Poems & Music" will be performed in Great Hall. UNC College Republicans will meet in Union 211. Guest speaker will be State Senator Bill Boyd, who is running for lieutenant governor.

hapel Hill native James Taylor had a joyous and spirited homecoming when he brought his excellent stage show to the Smith Center Friday night. Excellent singing and superlative vocal harmonies were the hallmarks of the show, and the concert also benefited from the enthusiasm of

Taylor and his band. Taylor opened the concert with his lovely solo rendition of his mid-70s work "Something in the Way She Moves," and then moved into a performance by the whole band of "Song For You Far Away" from his recent album That's Why I'm Here. "Song For You Far Away," featuring some excellent steel guitar and banjo lines, had a gentle, countryish flavor that was evident at different points throughout the night. This

song also featured excellent vocal harmonies between Taylor and his backup singers Rosemary Butler and Arnold McCuller, and these harmonies were a central feature of the concert. Butler and McCuller's promi-

nence in the show. Their singing was excellent, and it was particularly noticeable on songs such as "Only One," which featured a cappella vocal harmonies. Taylor and his backup singers displayed a delicate and wonderful blend of voices, and these well-balanced harmonies made Taylor's slower tunes particularly

nence on stage reflected their promi-

memorable. Taylor was also good during his more up-tempo numbers, and his band was able to provide a suitably lively accompaniment to such songs as "Your Smiling Face." The band seemed a little ragged near the beginning of the show, but it became noticeably tighter as the show progressed. The instrumental arrangements on some of the songs were somewhat different than those featured on Taylor's recordings, but these new arrangements were gener-

Taylor played a few tunes, including the title track, from his upcoming album Never Die Young. These

ally interesting and well-done.

David Hester

Concert

songs seemed interesting enough, but the highlights of the show involved Taylor's renditions of his older songs and his covers of other artists' tunes.

Taylor's performance of "Only A Dream in Rio" was one of these highlights. Taylor's voice, strong and sure during this number, featured the warm and mellowsounding quality that became his trademark during the 1970s. His voice was excellent throughout the night, but in this song his singing and his band's playing seemed to complement each other particularly

An unexpected highpoint of the show was Taylor's performance of the old Chuck Berry song "The Twist." Although this song is not typical Taylor material, he and his band managed to provide an extremely convincing interpretation of a song that sometimes seems to border on being a rock 'n' roll cliche. The band gave one of its most spirited performances of the night during this number, and Taylor matched his band's exuberance. He jumped around the stage throughout the song and even danced with backup singer Butler.

Another up-tempo number, Taylor's version of "Steamroller," was the liveliest part of the concert. Although Taylor and his backup singers provided the central musical focus during most of the evening, his band took center stage during this number. Keyboard player Don Grolnick contributed a particularly bluesy Chicago-style piano solo, and the bass playing of long-time Taylor sideman Leeland Sklar was also particularly notable. Taylor's singing featured a harder edge than usual, and he and his band seemed to have a good time performing this driving mix of blues and rock 'n' roll. Although these faster numbers

were well done, the central focus of the show was on Taylor's slower, folk-influenced songs. "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight," for example, excellently displayed Taylor's penchant for sincere and confessional ballads. Taylor's performance of "Fire and Rain" was also extremely well done, and his singing seemed as confident as it did on his recording of this song in the late

The highpoint of Taylor's Chapel Hill concert was, of course, his performance of "Carolina In My Mind." The crowd gave an uproarious response to the opening notes of the song, and their singing along with Taylor was audible throughout the song. The song was performed at a somewhat slower-than-usual tempo, and Taylor's band's performance featured tightly-woven vocal harmonies and a soaring steel guitar line. The slow and gentle performance of this tune made it seem almost like a gospel song.

Taylor mentioned in his intro to "Carolina In My Mind" that his last few days in Chapel Hill "had been like a trip back in time," and he mentioned his attachment to the town at other points in the show. Taylor said after his performance of "Carolina In My Mind," for example, that he had been waiting a long time to sing the song in Chapel Hill. He also mentioned near the beginning of the show that it was "awful nice to be back home." Taylor's happiness at being back home was evident throughout the evening, and it enhanced an excellent night of music at the Smith Center Friday night.

Mobile

SEE THE FUTURE.

Be among the first to see the 1987-88 basketball Tar Heels, including the debut of Carolina's new freshmen!

Student tickets are now available for the Blue-White basketball games. The first game will be played in the Smith Center immediately following the Carolina-Clemson football game on November 7. The halftime will only be five minutes so you can get out in time for your Saturday night plans

The second Blue-White game will be played at 7:30 PM on Saturday evening, November 14 in Carmichael Auditorium (Nostalgia Night in Carmichael).

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

Present your student ID and athletic pass at the Smith Center Box office between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Students may also purchase guest tickets for \$5.00 in addition to their complimentary student ticket.

BLOCK SEATING AVAILABLE

Student groups of 50 or more are welcome to send a representative to the Ticket Office with the groups athletic passes for block seating.

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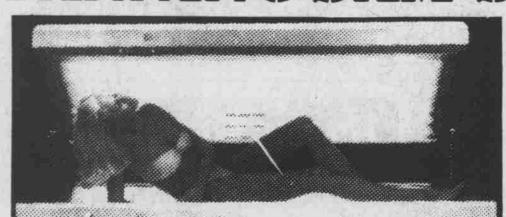
FALL FORUM

"Demystifying the Arms Race: A Citizen's Guide to National Security" featuring

Sheila Tobias Flora Lewis Brig. Gen. E. Patricia Foote Saturday, November 14, 1987 Mikimmon Center, North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC

For Registration Information Write: NCCWO, Box 2825, Raleigh, NC 27611 or Call: Luba Racanska 962-3093 Registration is limited. The \$25 Registration Fee includes lunch.

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"The book reads as well as the best McPhee or Mitchell." - Noel Perrin New York Times

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Harvard Paperbacks

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