

Afghanistan photos starkly beautiful

By HASIE SIRISENA

Staff Writer
Imagine a world as elegant as it is rugged. Think of a country rich in color and passion. Picture a people isolated from the flurry of modern life. There you have Afghanistan.

The beauty of Afghanistan is the subject of the newest photography exhibition at the Carolina Student Union. Luke Powell's "The Afghan Folio" is a compilation of photographs taken while he traveled through the country, documenting his impressions of the culture.

Powell spent his youth in Davidson and graduated from UNC in 1969, after majoring in religion. He then attended Yale, where he received his master's degree in art.

Religion and art eventually drew Powell to Afghanistan in 1971.

After working on an archeological excavation in Israel, Powell traveled through India and Central Asia. Trapped in Afghanistan by the severe winter, Powell began to appreciate his surroundings.

"I was stuck in Kabul, but I had time to think and realize how incredible Afghanistan was at that point in time," he said.

Afghanistan was a wonderful discovery for Powell, not only for its beauty but also for its simplicity.

"It seemed to be rushing into the 13th century. Why go back and unearth a few inches of mud-brick foundation and a few pot shards when these people were living in that pre-industrial, pastoral world? Afghanistan was visually exciting beyond anything that I had ever seen before or I have seen since," he said.

Afghanistan has become famous for its frequent tribal wars and the recent conflict with Russia. Most people are familiar with the country through media coverage of the Soviet offensive. However, Powell's photographs date back to before the



'The Winnowers,' one of the photos in 'The Afghan Folio,' now on display in the Union Gallery

Soviets invaded in 1978.

Powell captures a country deeply rooted in tradition. There are common cultural threads between Western and Eastern cultures, he said, and these commonalities between the past and the present are the major themes of his photographs.

Powell says he uses photography because he feels that the camera is his proper tool. Though Powell paints and sketches as well, he turned to photography on his first trip to Afghanistan because it offered a focus for his talents and training.

The accuracy of his photography is so important to him that he prints his photographs using the dye transfer process, which involves using red, green

and blue filters to make black and white separation negatives. The negatives are then combined so that the photographer can control color, highlights and balance. As many as 20 negatives are used to achieve a positive image.

The color of the dye transfer process is remarkably accurate and lasts far longer than normal color prints, he said. It offers the photographer more control than usually possible in conventional color printing.

"You can see more detail and reclaim more information (with the dye transfer process) ... Why use a process that will fade in a couple of years when you can use one that will last longer than your lifetime?"

Despite the benefits, the dye transfer

process is a long, intricate process that very few photographers use.

Powell's photography has taken him not only to Afghanistan but also to other parts of the world. He has worked in Paris, Sri Lanka, Egypt and the West Bank. Powell's collection of photographs from Sri Lanka will be published as a book and released in the near future.

"The Afghan Folio" will be exhibited through Oct. 19 in the Carolina Union Gallery. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Powell will also be present for a Sept. 18 panel discussion on Afghanistan. The discussion will take place in the Hanes Art Center and begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Folk stars offer path for Chapel Hill duo to reach new sound

By CHERYL ALLEN

BAND PROFILE LOGO

Their guitars glare pink from the stage lighting, and their eyes meet as the signal to begin. Using only acoustic guitars and the raw harmonies of their voices, the duo of Nikki Meets the Hibachi captures the audience with their unembellished vocals and progressive folk style.

Nikki Meets the Hibachi is a local band following in the same vein as musicians such as Tracy Chapman and the Indigo Girls, member John Gillespie said.

"It's a kind of rock alternative with a folk base," said Elaine Tola, the other half of Nikki Meets the Hibachi.

"We are a perfectly split duo," Gillespie said. "We each have our own songs and our own distinct ideas, but it usually ends up being a mesh of those ideas."

Both Gillespie and Tola have always loved music. Tola attributes much of her interest in and exposure to music to growing up in a musical family. The youngest of six guitar-playing children, Tola taught herself chords from her sisters' guitar books.

"I've played off and on for a long time," she said. "More off than on until the last few years."

Never having taken a formal lesson, Tola says that Gillespie's more extensive musical background has taught her a great deal.

Gillespie was a bass player through high school, taking lessons and playing in a band.

"I'm a guitar player now, and I pretty much taught myself from watching other guitar players," he said. "I've learned a lot from Amy Ray and Emily Saliers of Indigo Girls."

Despite diverse backgrounds, Tola and Gillespie agree on their musical influences. The two met at an Indigo Girls show, and now, though they perform all original music, the influence of the Indigo Girls is striking.

After playing their first gig just a

Cheryl Allen Band Profile

year and a half ago, they have recently finished cutting their first album. Due out in November as an independent release, the EP is titled *Hanna's Amorphous Hat*.

"Our goal is to be on some strange eclectic label and to be able to play music for a living and see as much of the world as possible through that," Gillespie said.

Both agree that the best part of playing together has been the people they have met.

"A lot of it has to do with the people who come out to see us," Tola said. "They agree with what we are saying and it's a good way to get people together with similar interests. We have a very diverse audience. Many of the people who come out to see us are very accepting of each other and of our music and have become good friends to us."

Tola said she enjoys influencing people with her music.

"If I write a song and it touches someone in a certain way, it may not touch someone else in the same way. That's not to say they haven't gotten just as much out of it. They just got something different out of it," she said.

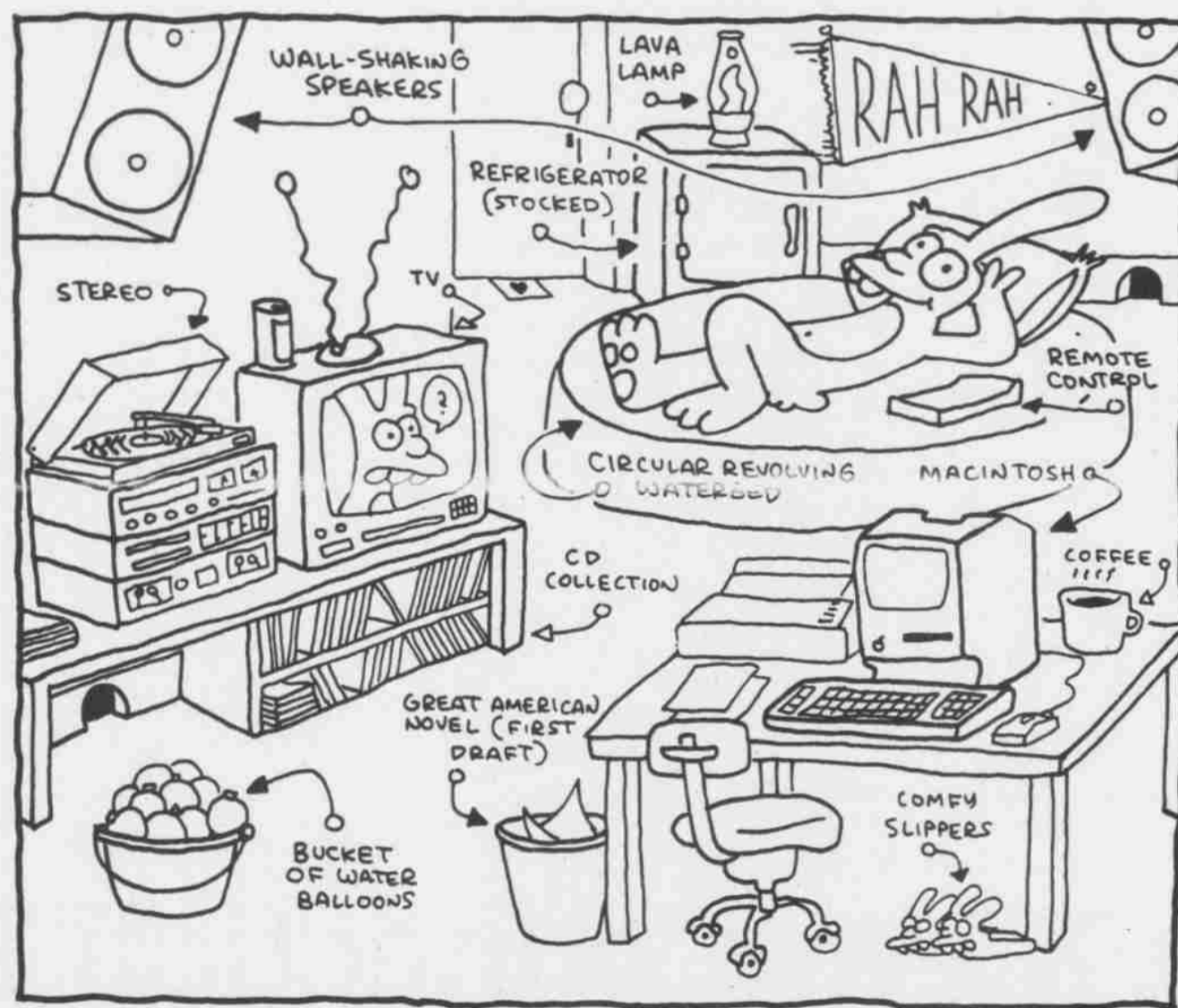
Gillespie's only complaint about performing is getting home at 3 a.m. after a gig and having to get up in the morning for a 9 o'clock class.

According to Gillespie, the group's success is just a matter of trying hard enough. He never sang before his senior year in high school, and even then he was "very bad," he said. "There's nothing that we're doing that someone who put their mind to it couldn't do."

Nikki Meets the Hibachi will play at 9 p.m. on Thurs., Sept. 14 in the Union Cabaret.

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Jazz concert to feature music faculty members

By GRETCHEN DAVIS

Staff Writer

A group of faculty members of the UNC music department will come together to perform a program of jazz music today at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium.

James Ketch, associate professor of music, will be one of the performers. Ketch, who also directs jazz studies in the department and conducts the UNC Jazz Band, said the program offers "something for everyone."

According to Ketch, 75 percent to 80 percent of the music on the program is pure improvisation, which is fairly standard in jazz pieces.

"The enjoyable aspect of this program is going to be hearing the arranged parts for the horns, since usually jazz music is written for horns to play in unison, so you'll get a sense of hearing an organized band in addition to a lot of improv," he said.

The program consists of music by a number of popular jazz composers, such

as Slide Hampton, Mickey Bass, Freddie Hubbard, Chick Corea and James Williams. It ranges in beat from up-tempo blues to rock, samba, bop and shuffle.

The program centers around John Coltrane, a North Carolina native and jazz musician/composer who died in 1967. His composition "Moment's Notice" will be performed. "One for Trane" by Mickey Bass is dedicated to him, and Robert Watson's "E.T.A." consists of chords written over Coltrane's piece "Lazy Bird."

Performers will be James Ketch, trumpet; Greg Gelb, tenor sax; Keith Jackson, trombone; Ed Paolantonio, piano; Robbie Link, bass; and David Via, drums. All musicians except Paolantonio and Via are teachers in the department. One of the selections, Clifford Brown's "Joy Spring," will also feature student Shea Carter on baritone sax.

The concert is free and open to the public.

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