

## Connells to bring their fun, games to campus

### The Connells

Friday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.

Memorial Hall, UNC campus

Tickets \$12.50  
For information, call 962-1449

"If we could get them for our benefit, we'd raise so much money!" "Springfest would rock this year if we could only get them." "Who was everyone standing in line for at SchoolKids and at the Union box office a few weeks ago?"

One simple word (and an article) explains it all ... The Connells. It seems the hometown boys are coming home for a visit and are performing in our very own Memorial Hall this Friday. The show, which begins at 8 p.m., promises to be well worth the excitement.

Originally from, and still based in Raleigh, the band is well known in the Triangle area and beyond. Seniors will remember when the Connells were still playing frat parties, and many will recognize drummer Peele Wimberly as the drummer from fellow Raleigh band Johnny Quest. With all this local appeal, it's hard to fathom the Connells getting national acclaim.

Yet Dillon Fence lead singer Greg Humphreys says that people here would be surprised at how popular they are outside the area. Dillon Fence opened up for the Connells in Baltimore for a sold out crowd of 2,000, he said. And as this writer can attest, even people in Delaware have heard of them.

This may come as a surprise for band members more than anyone else. (Not that they're popular in Delaware, but they're popular in general.) The band was originally formed in

### LINDSAY LOWRY

### Concert

1984 as a stress release for guitarist Mike Connell, then a budding student at UNC School of Law. With the aid of his younger brother and bass player David, and the subsequent additions of lead vocalist Doug MacMillan, drummer Wimberly, and all-around-guitar-keyboard-let's-play-every-instrument-in-the-band-vocalist George Huntly, the band was well on its way to becoming a strongly favored icon in the mind of the college rock scene.

"I hated law school so much," said Mike Connell in a 1988 interview, "I needed something to do on the side. I'm kinda astonished at how well things are going."

Well, Mike, with four albums and a reputation for putting on a tight, audience friendly show, this should no longer come as a surprise.

The Connells are often compared to groups such as R.E.M., Let's Active and the Smithereens ... small wonder. Their first album, *Darker Days*, was co-produced by Don Dixon (who produced albums by the Smithereens and R.E.M.), and their second, *Boylan Heights* was produced by Let's Active producer and frontman Mitch Easter. For their third album, *Fun & Games*, the Connells hired producer Gary Smith (who worked with the Pixies and Throwing Muses).

The release of *Fun & Games* in April 1988 placed them firmly in the Top 10 of every modern rock chart around, and became their velvet Elvis of albums — the one that secured their icon status in the heart of every frat boy.

*One Simple Word*, the most recent album by this hometown, but soon to be world-class band has a sound that is both strong and lyrical; a mul-



The Connells come home for a concert in Memorial Hall Friday

ti-faceted album that bursts with energy. From the poppy and upbeat "Stone Cold Yesterday" to the poignant and plaintive "Waiting My Turn" (in which Mike takes a turn at lead vocals), the album is a showcase of the band's diverse talents.

So, after all this, what can you expect from a live Connells show?

Not a lot of pomp and flash, Humphreys said. "They're not really into flash or giving a really complicated and overwrought production. They're more interested in delivering good music."

Do expect a lot of fun and interaction from the band, whose members don't take themselves too seriously

onstage.

The show may be all fun and games, but the music world is taking the Connells seriously. Enjoy seeing them in a small, affordable setting while you can, before long you'll be waiting in line for seats at the Dean Dome.

So, Mike ... what was that about law school?

### OMNIBUS

## THE BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD

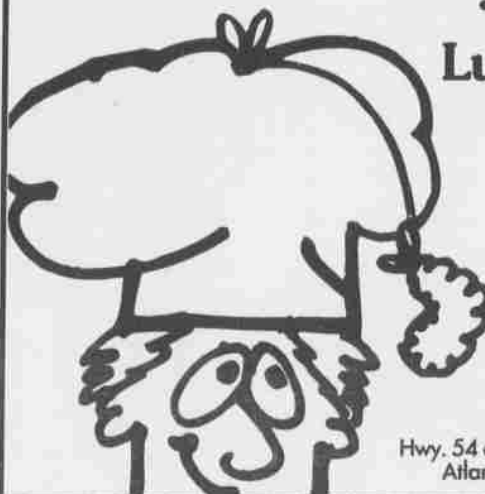
## Cum Laude Calabash.

Our chefs are better by degrees.

- popcorn shrimp
- white fish
- clam strips
- deviled crab

Lunch \$2.99 Dinner \$4.99

includes: coleslaw, hushpuppies, french fries, or baked potato



**LANDLUBBER'S.**  
SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Lunch: 11:30-2:00 Sunday-Friday  
Dinner: 5:00-9:00 Sunday-Thursday  
5:00-10:00 Friday & Saturday

Hwy. 54 at I-40, Chapel Hill/Durham, 493-8096 • 967-8227  
Atlantic Ave. at Spring Forest Rd., Raleigh 790-1200

TIMBERLYNE VILLAGE  
Chapel Hill  
968-3005

CHELSEA

THE CLASSIC TALE OF LOVE AND ADULTERY IS NOW THE MOTION PICTURE EVENT OF THE SEASON.

TRUMPET ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST PROVOCATIVE FILMS!  
The incomparable Isabelle Huppert is astounding!

ISABELLE HUPPERT  
*Madame Bovary*

★★★★★!  
UNQUESTIONABLY THIS YEAR'S MOST ORIGINAL COMEDY!

ANTONIA & JANE  
"EXCELLENT! An off-the-wall delight!"

HOWLINGLY FUNNY!  
A subversive and unexpectedly poignant film. Examines the bonds between women, men and women and our own selves.

7: 8:30 (2, 4, 5) 8:10 (4, 10)

"A GENUINE TRIUMPH! THIS IS CLASSIC WESTERN FILMMAKING."  
Michael Wilmington, LOS ANGELES TIMES

7:10 (2:10)

A TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

1000  
*Pieces of Gold*

©1991 Fencal Incorporated A Grivcal Films Release Read the Beacon Press book

MATINEES WEEKENDS ONLY