

Ear Candy

By TNT
Features editors

How do? Allow us to introduce ourselves. We're TNT, the dudes on the features desk, and we've been commissioned by the biggies at USC as part of the "Year of the Arts" program to search the world over and bring you reviews of the hottest rock on this planet we call Earth. Dig?

It is our mission to consider everyone at USC, no matter what their tastes and creeds, and up until this day there has been a bare spot when it comes to good ole rock 'n' roll. Headbangers are people too.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the entire staff, but we guarantee we bring the unadulterated opinions of the guys at features. It's the least we can do.

● Kiss, *Smashes, Thrashes & Hits* — This is a prime example of what happens when a record company decides they want to make more money off a band. Maybe they think offering 20 percent of new material, two new songs and a remake of "Beth" can justify not calling this a greatest hits compilation.

Diehard Kiss fans won't buy such a scam. This is for people who don't want to sift through a bunch of mediocre stuff to get to the good tunes of this band's career.

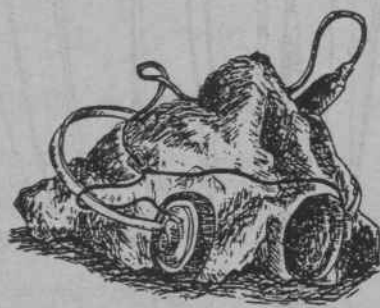
As far as the new stuff goes, "Let's Put the X in Sex" is a funk-ed-up pulsating tune that walks a thin line toward pop rock. But make no bones about "(You Make Me) Rock Hard." Paul Stanley is at his naughty best with lyrics that reveal his physical addiction. It's about love and sweat and the combination of the two.

The rest of the album reaches back to their rowdiest tunes when they wore the paint and were '70s rock demi-gods. Crooners since never have reached the melodramatic lyrics of Stanley in smashes such as "Love Gun" and "Calling Dr. Love." Then of course there's the other kick-it-out music, including "Detroit Rock City" and "Rock and Roll All Night."

Smashes is a history lesson of what '70s rock was all about: loud, raunchy and a helluva good time.

● Bullet Boys, *Bullet Boys* — Get your necks loosened up and man your air guitars because this is primo stuff. These guys from L.A. know how to do it. It's shoot-from-the-hip rock 'n' roll, and we're not just saying that because it fits.

Not only is this chock-full of good songs, the production is stellar. This produce is as crisp as the goodies on a California salad bar. And crunchy cuts and smooth reverb enhance the



blistering vocals of Marq Torien. The man can sing.

His is the voice of the late AC/DC singer Bon Scott turned up two notes higher, and he can hold a note and swing it around a while.

"Smooth Up In Ya" is a grabber and hooks you into its jump-down, turn-around rock 'n' roll, and Torien doesn't simply scream unintelligibly at you. "Shoot the Preacher Down" shows more of the range of the band as Torien tries to keep up with the licks. Equally as notable is their tribute to Aerosmith, "Ode to Joe," and you can tell there's a Joe Perry influence in their music.

Basically, anywhere you land your needle on this baby is a good bet. They aren't going to impress you with ferocious speed, but they will get your head a-bangin'. A word to the wise, watch these guys.

● Tesla, *The Great Radio Controversy* — We were pleasantly surprised with this one. You get your full rock 'n' roll dollar.

It's been all too long since their first album, and Tesla has returned with something that shows they've spent their time wisely.

From the outset, "Hang Tough" sets a tempo that fills in for the entire 13-song record. It's no hollow chocolate bunny.

Controversy takes the speed up and down combining both headbanger's buffet such as in "Did It for the Money" or the saucy blues in songs such as "Heaven's Trail."

A lot of this one is soul-based, and the word on the street is that the song "Be A Man" evolved from warm-up riffs Frank Hannon was toying with in the studio. Maybe that doesn't float your boat, but only bands who are comfortable together can build songs while already in the studio.

We get this when it debuts at the end of the month, and if you missed them when they were in Columbia, you'll spend the year regretting it. The album may be just enough therapy to save you.

Bang in there until next time.



JULIE BOUCHILLON/The Gamecock

Snippity doo dah

Josh Rhoades, a sophomore English major, undergoes follicle surgery under the steady hand of hair surgeon Faye Bitts at Carolina Styles in the Carolina Mall Thursday. Many students get their hair cut on campus.

Students can tour Koger backstage

By RITA K. COSBY
Senior reporter

All interested students will have a unique opportunity to perform at Koger Center's free student open house extravaganza between 1 and 3 p.m. on Jan. 28th.

This first public tour is expected to be the biggest of the massive five-story complex, which has a 2,236 seating capability. It is considered to be one of the most acoustically superior performance halls in the country.

Next week's open house titled, "Tea for two — thousand and one (and that one is you)," enables students to view the entire Koger facility.

"This is the first time anyone's ever been allowed backstage. It's especially important because students will get this first glance," said Bruce Littlefield, a broadcast journalism and theatre and speech senior.

Members of Mortar Board will be continually conducting informal tours throughout the two-hour event. "We hope that once students have taken the tour, seen how the center functions, and above all, had fun, that will take away an intimidation they might now feel," said Carolyn Holderman, Mortar Board adviser.

"Students are the heart of this entire facility — they are the ushers, technicians and often the performers. That's why this place is so alive and full of energy," Holderman said.

Presently, Mortar Board is still

seeking any interested, self-contained performers (who can set up their own equipment) to perform during the celebration.

"It is going to resemble a school of the arts, with over 75 performers scattered inside in the lobby, the performance halls, doors and staircases. And outside, we plan to have twirlers, jugglers and trumpet players," Littlefield said.

A jazz ensemble, students acting as professional clowns, the Horseshoe jugglers, cellists, clarinetists and flutists will also be on hand. "Any talented student is welcome to perform and will be given the chance and a designated space to display his talents to all the students," Littlefield said.

Interested persons should contact Littlefield of Mortar Board as soon as possible. "We only ask that they let us know that they are coming. We just want to be sure that the sounds won't interfere with each other," he said.

"We'll be able to experience all elements of individuality. This is students giving a full-fledged party for students," Holderman said.

Theatre students dressed in "period" costumes will be opening doors and running elevators. Also, USC art department students will be displaying works on the walls and floors for the occasion.

The Carolina Program Union will also hold drawings for tickets to attend the Leonard Nimoy reception.

Becoming rich in thought at The USC

By ROBERT STEVENSON
Staff writer

Postponing his successful career in Pakistan, Maqsood UHsan Nuri, international studies student, is back at USC to complete his doctorate.

Nuri, who had been working as a research scholar at the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad, Pakistan, decided to take a six-month leave without pay so that he could complete his dissertation.

"A degree would possibly open more avenues for intellectual progress," he said.

Nuri intended to return to USC for the 1988 fall semester, but because of delays in obtaining a visa, he was detained in Pakistan.

Nuri is currently teaching "U.S. and World Problems" at USC while working on his dissertation, "Soviet-Cuban Policies in Africa: A case of

proxy or partner relationships." He said he plans to be finished in six months and then will return to work at the Institute of Regional Studies.

Before first attending USC in 1981, Nuri had received a bachelor's degree from Pakistan Military College in 1978, a master's degree in international relations from Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad in 1978, a master's degree in international relations from the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia in 1980 and spent a year toward his doctorate at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland, in 1981. Then, following recommendations of faculty members at the Australian National University, Nuri transferred to USC in 1982.

"This school has contributed a lot

to my intellectual growth and development," he said.

While at USC, Nuri accepted a fellowship from the University of Illinois, where from 1983-84 he researched problems in South Asia, a topic Nuri said he was very interested in. After completing his fellowship, Nuri returned to Pakistan.

In 1986, Nuri accepted a position at the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad. The IRS primarily focuses on South Asia's social, cultural and political problems. The main focus, however, is India, the largest of the South Asian countries.

During his two years at IRS, Nuri had several essays published in the institution's periodicals, *Monographs* and *Spotlight*. Some of his topics included: "Indo-Sri Lanka relations: Problems and prospects," "Indo-Afghan relation in the 1980s," "Indo-Gulf relations" and "The insurrection movement in Sri Lanka."

Most of IRS's publications are sent to various universities, embassies and government agencies associated with decision-making and foreign universities interested in studying developments in South Asia.

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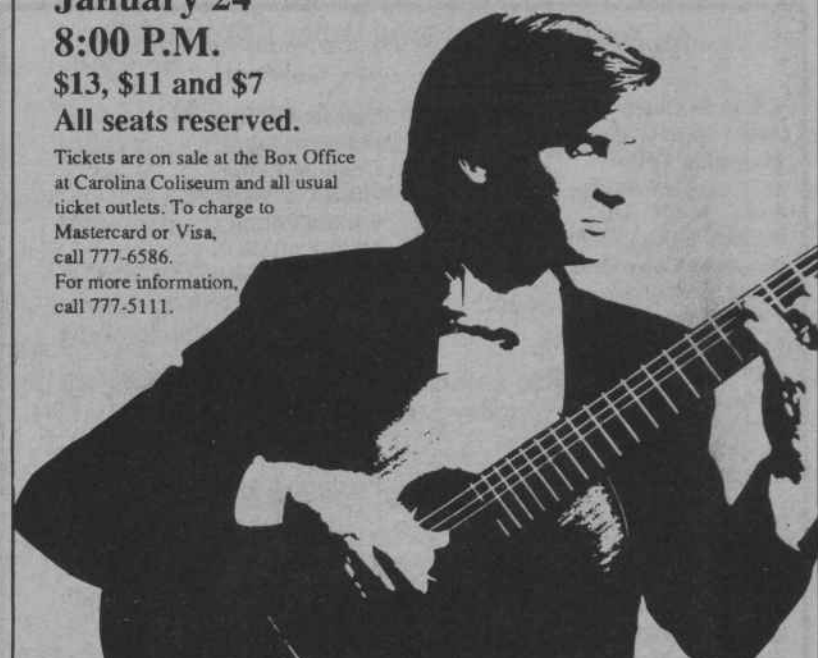
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