

# Hootie and the Blowfish

## Local Columbia group heads to L.A. to record first album

By ERIC WARD  
Editor-in-Chief

Hootie and the Blowfish, a four-member rock band from Columbia, is heading to Los Angeles in March to record its first album.

In the meantime, the band is doing a few shows, including one at 11:30 tonight at Rockafellas'. Tickets are \$6.

Lead guitarist Mark Bryan, 24, said the album's name is still undecided, but it won't have a specific theme. "We have to wait and decide what songs are going to go on it and the cover and all that stuff," Bryan said.

Bassist Dean Felber, 24, said the band's manager, Henry Newman,

secured the record deal and that the band had a choice of where to do the recording.

"We wanted to get ourselves away from Columbia and have fun at the same time," Felber said.

He said the band's goals are to be successful enough to keep recording and playing. "It's mostly for fun," he said. "We all share the belief that it's got to stay fresh and fun."

Three years ago the band started playing around campus, performing other bands' music.

"We just started messing around playing for free beer, and the fraternities saw us and liked us and said they'd give us free beer plus \$50," Felber said.

He said the band is just now becoming recognized for its original music. "It took a while to change our reputation from a cover band to an original one," Felber said.

He said Hootie and the Blowfish have many influences, among them is the West Coast alternative band Toad the Wet Sprocket. "You can hear the different backgrounds, like Darrius has a very soulful voice."

The members are graduates of USC and have friendships that go back to high school. Darrius Rucker, 25, is the vocalist and acoustic guitarist. Rucker's degree is in journalism. Jim Sonefeld, or Soni, 26, plays drums and has a media arts degree.

Felber, who has a finance and

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DEAN FELBER



Hootie and the Blowfish, a local Columbia group will travel to Los Angeles in March to record their first album.

marketing degree, said the band is not trying to make a statement in its music.

"We're just trying to express ourselves," he said. "We write about basically whatever is on the

top of our heads at the moment. We don't try to write a song about something such as racism."

Bryan, who has a degree in broadcast journalism, agreed. "That's pretty much it. We're

pretty close friends so we have similar insights into things."

The band has done shows in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana.

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## Nation

of some of the problems within the black community that need to be solved. Materialism, alcohol abuse, drugs and violence are all under fire by Ice Cube.

Ice Cube is a clever lyricist. His attack on N.W.A. on "No Vaseline" is rather harsh, but funny. "Doing Dumb Shit" is hilarious as well. Even though I have a problem with the sexist lyrics in "Givin' Up The Nappy Dugout," it too is cleverly written.

The thing to remember when you hear this album is that it is like a book or a movie. It has to be taken as a whole. If you take out specific lines from it that appear to be sexist or racist, and then discredit the entire album, you are being unfair to the artist. Ice Cube could tame his lyrics, but why should he? He attacks everybody. Yes, he does say "nigga" and "cracker." Yes, he is negative a lot of the time, but his aim is positive. You must also take into account his point of view.

A recent article in *The Source*, a hip-hop magazine, discusses the album and the politics surrounding it. One of the writers said something that inspired me to write this article. "My entire line on the Cube and the media thing is, where the fuck were you (white media) when he was talking about killing niggas with the flurry of buckshots?" he said.

That is such an important question. All of these critics who are so quick to attack this album have nothing to say about Cube's other lyrics. For instance, in "Us," Ice Cube says, "When I do a show to kick some facts, us blacks don't know how to act/Sometimes I believe the hype man/We mess it up ourselves and blame the white man/But don't point your finger you jigaboo/Take a look at yourself you dumb nigger you."

These lyrics are highly inflammatory but prove that Ice Cube's attack is not one-sided. The media seem



quick to crucify any black person who speaks his mind freely. Hammer and Arsenio Hall are o.k. because they aren't trouble-makers.

Whether you like the album, credit must be given to Ice Cube for speaking his mind. He is brutally honest, and his intelligence is evident. The album hits hard with some of the most powerful funky tracks I've heard in awhile. Overall, I don't like it as much as his first album, *Amerikkka's Most Wanted*, but it is a definite must for anyone who is seriously into rap music. A-

WUSC 90.5 FM has a new rap show on Monday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. called Hip-Hop Nation hosted by yours truly. Later G.

## Carolina Program Union

Line of programs start Sunday with 'Kiss Me, Kate'

By LEE CLONTZ  
Assistant Carolina Editor

The Carolina Program Union has already set new programs on its agenda for the Spring Semester.

The line of programming starts at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Koger Center with Opera Northeast's production of "Kiss Me, Kate," Cole Porter's acclaimed musical.

"The show is excellent. It's been playing all over the country," CPU graduate assistant Kristin Fourroux said.

"Kiss Me, Kate" is a modern rendition of William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" and



Members of Opera Northeast Co. who will perform in Sunday's performance of "Kiss Me Kate" on Sunday.

features the music of Cole Porter.

"It's a very contemporary version of 'Taming of the Shrew,' but that shouldn't scare off people who don't like Shakespeare. It's very modern," said Ferroux.

Richard Watts Jr. of the New York Post, described the show as "A smash hit of epic proportions," and John Chapman of the New York Daily News called it "The sprightliest, handsomest and most tuneful musical imaginable."

In other CPU news, the CPU office, on the second floor of the Russell House, will have an open

house on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Refreshments will be served.

"It's for people who are interested in what CPU is all about and would like to join up," Contemporary Sounds Chairman John Chism said.

The CPU also will start Tuesday Night Live in the Golden Spur, bringing local comedic talent into the student lounge. Shows begin in several weeks.

Also, CPU movies begin next week in the Russell House Theater with "Raising Arizona," "Boyz N the Hood" and "The Decline of Western Civilization."

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