

Carolina! weekend

COCKSTOCK 1993

THE BIRD IS BACK



Toasters pop up again for day of music, fun

By JENNIFER FULLER
Carolina Editor

Cockstock, "a day of love, peace and extremely loud music," will take place for the second year in a row this Sunday.

This year's Cockstock features greater variety, including a comedian host, ska, folk and rock bands and local band Channel Zero. Cockstock starts at 11 a.m. on P.E. Field A.

Actor/comedian Kevin Flynn will be the host. Flynn began his career in 1986 and, since then, has been the host of three weekly club shows. He has opened for Jay Leno and now works at the Improvisation and at the Hermosa Beach Comedy and Magic Show. His television appearances include "MTV's Half Hour Comedy Hour," "Evening at the Improv" and "Comedy on the Road."

Headlining the event is New York ska band The Toasters. Ska, a bouncy precursor to reggae, was imported from Jamaica to England in the early '60s, when it emerged with American R&B influences.

The Toasters' founder, Rob "Buck" Hingley, played in British ska bands before coming to the United States. Hingley formed the band in 1985, and, since then, the seven-member group has nurtured a

new interest in ska. The Toasters' latest release, "New York Fever," spices up the ska sound with New York City funk, Caribbean calypso and South African flavor. The band's musical scope continues to widen because of the cultural diversity of its West Indian, British and American members.

John & Mary will appear at Cockstock to perform their unique brand of "pastoral chamber rock." Guitarist John Lombardo, a founding member of 10,000 Maniacs, and vocalist/violist Mary Ramsey, a former symphony player, make up the duo.

John & Mary's second album, "The Weedkiller's Daughter," explores memory, loss and fateful circumstance. One of the songs is based on the true story of an illegal alien worker who died while working on a fishing boat. These modern-day troubadours combine melodies and melancholy visions that defy their folk-rock label.

The Dashboard Saviors deliver their Southern country-flavored rock 'n' roll sound honestly. The four-piece group comes from Athens, Ga. Their songs are described as "not your everyday 'ooh baby baby' stuff." They are short stories put to music."



The Toasters, above, will be performing their brand of ska music at Cockstock. Comedian Kevin Flynn, right, will host the event. Flynn has appeared on MTV and A&E's 'Evening at the Improv.'

The Dashboard Saviors address Southern elements such as double-wide trailers and fire and brimstone radio preachers.

CPU Vice President John Chism said there will be a larger crowd than the 1,200 that attended last year. He invites students to bring a blanket and lunch to Cockstock to sit and enjoy the music. Alcohol isn't allowed, but students can bring ice chests.



WUSC benefit unites punks

By GREG PEREZ
Graphics Editor

By the outskirts of a commercially saturated music world, Columbia's own hardcore punk scene is bristling with staggering talent.

Showcasing the forefront of rising rebels, the WUSC Benefit Show tomorrow night at the Golden Spur features an eclectic collection of local music, including the bravest punk rockers this side of the Saluda.

The benefit show will present Glut, Premonition, Assfactor 4, 49 Reasons and Barton Funk.

Tory Harris, a media arts freshman and bassist for Premonition, describes his brand of music as "geek-masturbation-core."

"I think we're taking up where Ratt left off," guitarist Garrett Grashuis said. "As soon as we get our hands on some pyrotechnics, we'll definitely be headed for the big time. Then I guess we'd be 'glam-bubble gum-core.'"

International business sophomore and lead vocalist Bill Glover said, "We're a slightly political band, but I guess we're not afraid to kid around."

Glover said the biggest problem he has with punk rock shows is the incessant violence that takes place.

"People get into the music for the physical aspect instead of what the music has to say," he said. "I'm not saying that it's so wrong for people to 'mosh it up,' but people have their own ways, I guess."

Grashuis added, "It would definitely be the ultimate dream to be playing a show and to look out and see everyone breakdancing to our music."

Harris said this benefit will be more fun because of the friendship between some of the groups.

"I think we have a core of kids who all support each other and go to each other's shows and have a good time and basically party," Harris said.

Assfactor 4 and Glut are part of this close-knit "kid-core" who are

also playing a major role in bringing in the bucks for the WUSC benefit.

Assfactor 4 consists of four friends who came together last semester from other bands. Drummer Alvis said the Columbia punk scene would be a lot better if there were more free shows.

"I hate playing where we have to charge money," Alvis said. "I'd much rather play for parties where our friends can come and see us without having to pay."

Alvis said much of Assfactor's music is filled with suffering and a recurrent theme of pain spews through their lyrics.

"Sometimes I feel like a hunk of cheese that the societal rats are gnawing at everyday," he said.

"Listening to our music makes me want to kill myself," Assfactor guitarist Kevin Gillian said.

The other punk band on the benefit roster, Glut, came together when media arts senior Chris Bickell linked up with Closet Normal records President Kipp Shives.

"We just decided to start a musical force to be reckoned with in retaliation to the metal-salsa-pop fusion that was the Columbia music scene," Bickell said.

According to Bickell, Glut could be described as "indie rock with an avant garde edge." He said this benefit is a good way to show what punk rock is all about.

"Our goal is to let our gimmicks outweigh the impact of our music," Bickell said. "We're playing this show to raise awareness about the plight of indie rockers in the Columbia area. There definitely isn't enough ska around here, for one thing."

Since all three of these bands are friends, the show should take on a more relaxed atmosphere.

"There ought to be a good cross-section of people at this show," Glover said. "When you perform in the company of friends, it's a lot better."

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