

# Connells turn dud Sud Flood into outdoor party

By NANCY SALOMONSKY  
Carolina Editor

Upon arrival, Sud Flood '94 looked as if it was going to be a fiasco. Dud Flood '94.

The outdoor concert and party featured The Connells, Unknowns and Carben Black and was supposed to start at about 1 p.m. Saturday, but at 1:30 p.m. there were more port-o-johns than there were people.

The crowd of about 300 wandered in about 3 p.m. and was forced to partake in the overpriced beer while waiting for the first two bands Carben Black and the Unknowns to hit the stage at 4:30 p.m.

The highlight of the day came around 6:30 p.m. when national recording artists The Connells took the stage making the sun-burned crowd rise to their feet.

The Connells are David Connell, bass; Mike Connell, guitar and vocals; George Huntley, guitar, vocals and mandolin; Doug MacMillan, vocal and guitar; Peele Wimberley, drums and percussion; and the newest member of the group Steve Potak, piano, organ and keyboards.

The Connells formed in 1987 like many other college bands.

"We came together a few years ago while we were in school at UNC," said Mike, the group's leader. "It was something fun for us to do. We really didn't intend on sticking with it."

The group has traveled across the United States and enjoys playing in Atlanta, Chicago and Tidewater, Va.

"For today, Rock Hill is my favorite place to play," Huntley said. "But, it is hard to figure out how we are doing in South Carolina. I am excited to be playing here, though."

The Connells play a mixture of outdoor shows, clubs and concert halls.

"I like playing outdoor shows as long as it is not too hot, ideally at about 9 p.m.," David said.

However, lead singer MacMillan said, "I would much rather play in clubs because the acoustics tend to be a little bit better."

The Connells played a mixture of music from their five albums: "One Simple Word," "Fun and Games," "Boylan Heights," "Ring" and "Darker Days."

"We decide what we are going to play by picking the songs that have done the best over the years," Mike said. "Fun and Games," "Slackjawed" and "Sal" are some of my favorites to play."

"Mike usually decides what we are going to play and the order, but I would have to say that my favorite to play is "74-75" because the crowd really gets into it," David said.

Christopher Collins, a dedicated Connells fan spent the week travelling with the band and logged almost 1,000 miles on his car.

"My ex-girlfriend got me into The Connells, so I really started following them in 1990 when 'One Simple Word' was really popular," Collins said. "My favorite is 'Scotty's Lament' because it reminds me of British rock 'n' roll."

Connells fans can expect a new album in the fall or early next year, according to Doug MacMillan. "The working title for the CD is 'Blue Gremlin.'"

The Connells have music videos for their hits "74-75," "Slackjawed" and "Over There" and are presently working on their fourth, "New Boy," off their latest album, "Ring."



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