

# Charleston BLUES & HERITAGE Festival

The annual Charleston Blues Festival begins Friday, March 31 and lasts until Sunday, April 9. Performers will play at 16 different Lowcountry clubs. Tickets for performances are available at all club venues except for the Music Farm. Tickets for the finale at Brittlebank Park must be purchased in advance through SCAT.

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| <p><b>Friday, March 31</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossroads</li> <li>Nature Boy Nick Pappas</li> <li>Cumberland</li> <li>Chick Willis</li> <li>King Street Station</li> <li>Juke Joint Johnny</li> <li>Windjammer</li> <li>The Grapes</li> <li>The Red Hot Blues Room</li> <li>Easy Street Blues</li> <li>Key West Grill &amp; Raw Bar</li> <li>Shrimp City Slim</li> <li>Sports Rock Cafe</li> <li>Ritch Shynder</li> <li>Salty Mike's</li> <li>The Wolfpack</li> <li>George's Bar and Grill</li> <li>de collard peoples</li> <li>Whispers</li> <li>The Talent Explosion</li> </ul> | <p><b>Saturday, April 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossroads</li> <li>Calvin Taylor</li> <li>Cumberland</li> <li>Lowcountry Blues Jam</li> <li>Music Farm</li> <li>Uncle Mingo</li> <li>The Red Hot Blues Room</li> <li>Mojo Collins</li> <li>Key West Grill &amp; Raw Bar</li> <li>Shrimp City Slim</li> <li>Sports Rock Cafe</li> <li>Ritch Shynder</li> <li>Horse &amp; Cart</li> <li>Rx Blues</li> <li>George's Bar and Grill</li> <li>de collard peoples</li> <li>Sticky Fingers</li> <li>Bobby Messano &amp; NBO</li> </ul> | <p><b>Saturday, April 8</b></p> <p><b>The Main Event at Brittlebank Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B.B. King</li> <li>Bobby Bland</li> <li>Little Feat</li> <li>Freddy Jones Band</li> <li>Dead Eye Dick</li> <li>Jackpierce</li> <li>Edwin McCain</li> <li>Chubby Carrier</li> <li>Jasmine Attic</li> <li>Ros Bonghi</li> <li>Clay Rice</li> <li>Bio Ritmo</li> <li>Mardi Gras Indians</li> <li>Fruteland Jackson</li> <li>Fernando Jones</li> </ul> |
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## Verve Pipe, iMPOSTERS make Columbia debut

BEN PILLOW Asst. Features Editor

The Verve Pipe and The iMPOSTERS make their first visit to Columbia and Rockafellas' tonight, as the two bands round out the first leg of their Insider Magazine Spring '95 Concert Tour.

Hailing from East Lansing, Mich., The Verve Pipe is touring in support of two independent releases, their 1993 record "I Suffered A Head Injury" and the 1994 follow-up "Pop Smear."

The Los Angeles-based and Interscope artists iMPOSTERS take a break as the house band at The Viper Room, best known as the club River Phoenix died outside of, to open for The Verve Pipe. They will begin playing about 10:30 tonight, followed by The Verve Pipe at 11:30 p.m.

The bands are in the third week of their two-month tour, having spanned across Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Alabama so far. Publicist for The Verve Pipe Jason Ril, said the band is riding a growing wave of momentum across the country, having just been signed by RCA Records.

"The band is extremely happy right now and feel very fortunate," Ril said. "We've really branched out in the Midwest, having established a Michigan following and selling about 25,000 copies of the first two CDs, but the hardest part is yet to come. We have to prove ourselves. They want to make the best debut ever on RCA."

The drummer for the group, Donnie Brown, said The Verve Pipe's signing with RCA is just a beginning step.

"It's a good thing to take our music to a national level," Brown said. "It's what we've been trying to do. We had a lot of labels interested in us, but the guy from RCA just had a great vibe and understood where we wanted to go."

Upon completion of this tour, The Verve Pipe plans to enter the studio in June and cut their first RCA release. Then they plan to start touring again. The group is made up of Doug Correl on keyboards, Brown on drums, Brian VanderArk on vocals and rhythm guitar, A.J. Dunning on lead guitar

and Brad VanderArk on bass. Ril said this almost constant touring is a good example of the two and a half year-old band's dedication.

"They have a clear focus of what's going on," Ril said. "A lot of things have been going well lately, but they're still keeping everything in perspective."

Throughout the spring tour, the bands will often be playing every night taking only Sundays off. But according to Brown, that prospect is not always a difficult one to deal with.

"As long as people are paying some kind of attention, it's very easy to get up there and play every night," Brown said.

Once described as "five Beatles obsessives trying to record a Pearl Jam record," according to Ril, the straight forward pop rock band said its major influences are The Beatles and XTC. The Verve Pipe have opened for such acts as the Gin Blossoms and The Samples and also played at the 1994 South by Southwest show in Austin, Texas.

Ril said the band's live performance are perhaps their best asset.

"They're amazing live," he said. "The live performance does a lot of good things for the band. The real test of the band is their live performances."

And Brown said The Verve Pipe is ready to showcase their act for this part of the country.

"We're real excited about coming to Columbia," he said. "I had an old room mate from the South Carolina area and he was telling me three years ago about Hootie and The Blowfish and the Dave Matthews Band, so we've been looking forward to coming to this area."

**effwhyeye**

**The Verve Pipe**

where Rockafellas'  
when Tonight  
with The iMPOSTERS  
how much \$5

## Rapper Kam day late, dollar short

### SOUNDADVICE

JIMMY DEBUTTS Sports Editor

#### MADE IN AMERICA Kam

★★ (out of four stars)

West Coast rapper Kam displays some of the techniques that brought hard-core rap to mainstream America. Unfortunately, his compact disc "Made in America" is about five years too late.

The beats on the disc are respectable, but with the exception of Dresta on "Down Fa Mine," the lyrical show on it are subpar. One of the best beats on the album is in the intro. The beat is strong and would be great for a rapper who could flow, like Eric Sermon, Too Short or Das Efx. How-

ever the song focuses on a speech by Louis Farakhan, Nation of Islam leader.

Kam is just one of the latest converts to Islam, and he attempts to mix education and funk. Ice Cube's Death Certificate is the only album that effectively merged the two.

Cube was able to show his people where they are and where they need to be, without outright preaching. Chuck D has also had success in this area in "Fear of A Black Planet."

"Made in America's" second track "Trust Nobody" has a played out P-Funk beat, and Kam's slow flow doesn't work. He should leave that to the master, Too Short.

On track three, "Pull Ya Hoe Card," Kam has the same old tired lyrics used by wanna-be hard gangstas. The style was great when it was originated in 1989 by the D.O.C. Track four has a smooth upbeat tempo. It is Kam's pledge to the Nation of Islam and actually has lyrics that seem original. He shows he is trying to remain true to his roots and hood.

If you happen to pick up this album, do your-

self a favor and skip over track five. "Way A Life" produced by Battle Cat should have been thrown away with "Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'em." The beat and break will make any hard-core rap lover beg for a gun to blow away the stereo. If you must know, it has an R & B break that sounds like Milli Vanilli returned. Bad things man, bad things.

The one lyrical highlight comes on "Down Fa Mine," which features MC Ren and Dresta. This is the only example of lyrical talent on the album. To quote Shaq, Dresta "kicks rhymes like a real rapper should."

The best beat is on track 10 "Who Ridin." The beat gets your head bobbing, and like Parrish Smith said "cause the neck knows." The lyrics are bearable, but too bad Cube had them on "Amerikkka's Most Wanted."

Overall I found "Made in America" boring and non-creative. Even with help from Warren G., Cold 187 and D. J. Quick, Kam needs to try to feel the pulse of real rap, not what the record company thinks America is ready for.

## Fulbright Grant Information Session

Tuesday, April 4

4pm, Gressette Room, Harper College

Grants are available to 1996 graduating seniors and graduate students who propose a clear program of study to be carried out in a particular academic setting abroad. The location must be essential to the research project proposed. Fluency in the host language is preferred and a strong background in American culture and current events in the host country. Grants are calculated on the costs of travel to and from the U.S. and cost of living. Also included, settling-in allowances and tuition waivers. Scholarship criteria and application procedures will be covered during the Information Session. If you have questions before the session, contact Novella Beskid at 777-0958.



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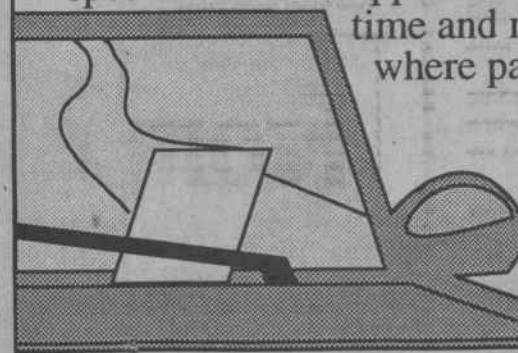


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