

“

We present a forum gays and lesbians can be proud of... This legitimizes the community. We present our articles just like any other newspaper would. That's the point.

Tige Watts  
co-founder, editor of In Unison

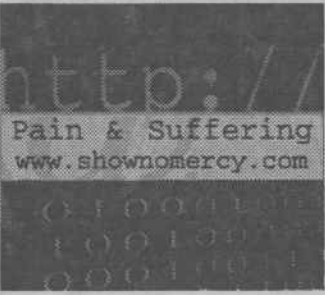
”

# ETC.

The Gamecock

Monday, February 17, 1997

SITE OF THE DAY



Page 4

## Jump for joy: *Buzz* is out

DANA TISHGARTEN Staff Writer

Jan. 25 marked Jump, Little Children's CD release of *Buzz*, the anticipated album that made its debut at The Music Farm in Charleston.

The songs featured on the CD were all recorded live at past concerts from Georgia Theater (Athens, Ga.), Ziggy's (Winston-Salem, N.C.) and The Music Farm (Charleston, S.C.). The six songs that make up the EP are "I Can Feel You," "Easter Parade," "Bad Side," "Innocent Kiss," "Underground Elite" and "Opium (Super Sexy Mix)."

During a recent interview, band drummer Evan Bivins said the title of *Buzz* came about during a conversation at Denny's with Jay Clifford, Jump, Little Children's songwriter and lead vocalist.

"We were trying to give out the whole idea of a live show," Bivins said. "Like on the back of the CD with the picture of wires and stuff. It's the whole electrical idea."

That was just the beginning. The CD itself has lightning bolts with a bright yellow background to appear like something out of a comic book.

The songs on the EP were hand

picked, Jonathan Gray explained.

"We just kinda recorded the three shows," Gray said. "We had a vague outline of what we wanted on there, but it also depended on just what came out best, recording wise."

The sound quality on the EP can best be compared to an excellent bootleg. The best aspect is the conversations between the songs.

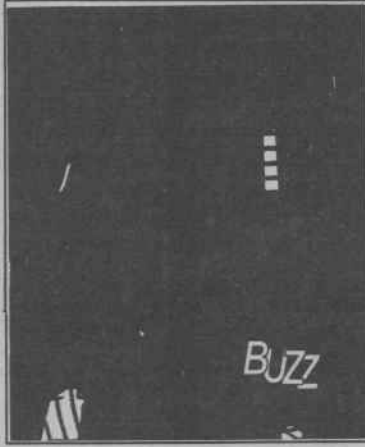
"Opium," which was featured on Jump Little Children's first CD, *Licorice Tea Demos*, also found a place on *Buzz*. When asked why, the first response came from Bivins.

"It was so phat with the Gran Torino horns on it," Bivins said. "We could not resist."

"It rocked so much harder and better," Gray said. "Opium was the one track on *Lemon Tea Demos* that we recorded in a different studio. Actually, it wasn't the one track, it

was one of two tracks that were recorded differently from the rest...we weren't excited about the album (*Licorice Tea Demos*)...we thought it ("Opium") deserved a little bit better rendition."

The other songs on *Buzz* shows the musical attitude of Jump, Little Children. A defining aspect of the band comes from their ability to tell a story through their lyrics. This characteristic of the band is best shown in the song "Underground Elite."



"Underground Elite" is a tale about graffiti on the bathroom walls of the Circle

Ks and 711's of the Southeast. The song has a low rhythmic beat. Ward Williams, usually on cello, makes his guitar debut in this compelling song.

In "Easter Parade," Clifford

delivers his nostalgic parable of a young girl's revelation to stop the Easter Parade. The chorus has a definite sing-a-long quality with its dooby dooby do wah charm.

Bivins doubles as a lyrical gangsta for "Bad Side" and "Innocent Kiss."

"Bad Side" is a song about a young man's plea with the stars and the moon to be happy. The tune playfully bounces around the songs darker lyrics.

This type of contradiction is found not only in their lyrics, but also in the band's voice, as Matthew Bivins (harmonica and melodia) offers lead vocals in "Innocent Kiss."

Often considered the sex symbol of the band, M. Bivins' charisma seeps into the lyrics as he spills out his reptilian rap.

"I Can Feel You" opens the album with a love lost ballad in a unique 5/4 time. Its driving beat displays the group's ability to intertwine classical music with a pop element.

Overall, *Buzz* is enjoyable to listen to. It's something to pop in the CD player between Jump, Little Children's next visit to Columbia with a live sound.



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

## Former USC students take active role in Columbia community The gay voice in the Southeast

JESSICA NASH Asst. Features Editor

College often seems a safe distance from the working world. But every now and then, a flash of panicked realization leaves us painfully aware that nothing separates these four or five halcyon years from the next 40.

Tige Watts is one USC graduate who has successfully made the real-world transition. He majored in journalism at USC and also did a stint as managing editor of *The Gamecock*.

He and his partner Nigel Mahaffey are co-founders of *In Unison*, a gay and lesbian magazine. Their journal, produced right here in Columbia, circulates throughout the Southeast to a readership of at least 39,000.

Watts has been in the journalism field now for 10 years, and working on *In Unison* for four.

"If I didn't work with *The Gamecock*, I couldn't do this," Watts said.

Watts and Mahaffey began planning their project in Sept. 1993. Their first issue hit the stands in Jan. 1994.

"At that time, there were two publications like this in North Carolina, but none in South Carolina," Watts said. "Also, a lot of publications were just for gay men. We gear ours towards men and women. That's one reason for the name."

Watts adds that *In Unison* tries to pay more attention to female issues. After all, they aim for an expansive readership.

The magazine's early days were shaky, but Watts and Mahaffey are not ones to give up. They began with a magazine format but switched to a tabloid form in Jan. 1995.

"During the first year, we lost \$30,000," Mahaffey said. "So in January of 1995 we had to decide whether or not to stop publishing. We decided to switch to the tabloid format, and *In Unison* was actually better received. From '95 to '96, we went from publishing 2,000 copies to 39,000 or more."

"For us, it was more important that this was out there," Watts said, referring to their decision to change formats.

*In Unison* is not only "out there." It is also expanding. After its first year of publication, *In Unison* was the leading gay and lesbian magazine in South Carolina. By its third year, it was also the foremost publication of its kind in North Carolina. Watts and Mahaffey foresee further growth.

Right now, *In Unison* circulates primarily in North and South Carolina, eastern Georgia, and southern Virginia.

"We need this kind of publication in the Southeast," Watts said. "If we expand at all, it will be westward—to more homophobic areas like Mississippi and Tennessee."

Mahaffey adds that they have readers wanting even more copies printed. But he and Watts have to say no to the demands for now, until they get more advertisements.

Both Watts and Mahaffey believe that the tabloid's wider range of

issues is the biggest factor in its popularity.

"So many issues face us all in different ways," Watts says. "We want to look at those as much as possible. We want our readers to be aware of everything."

If *In Unison* has a focus, it is a focus on diversity—of readers and issues.

"It's important that people know gays and lesbians are out there, and that these issues do exist out there," Mahaffey said. "We face issues like those of the straight world."

Watts says that *In Unison* refutes the claims of conservative lawmakers, who say gays and lesbians focus only on sex. Their alternative publication is less extreme than some might like to admit.

"We present a forum gays and lesbians can be proud of," Watts says. "*In Unison* is not just about sex. This legitimizes the community. We present our articles just like any other newspaper would. That's the point."

"The S.C. gay and lesbian community is proud of our magazine," Mahaffey said. They never miss a chance to say they appreciate us starting it. That's enough support right there so that we'll keep it up. We're contributing something positive to the community."

*In Unison* is published monthly, with wide distribution in the Columbia area. Close to USC, the magazine is available at Intermezzo, Metropolis, the Immaculate Consumption, and Capitol Newsstand.

## Let's talk about entertainment...

DAWN HUNSICKER Staff Writer

The music scene in Columbia has improved dramatically over the past decade.

If you take a walk through Five Points on just about any night of the week, you'll hear the sounds of live bands pouring from the doors of the bars and clubs that line the streets. The entire USC and Greater Columbia area, from college students to professional people, have become more supportive of the local music scene in the last few years.

Two of Columbia's most prominent music supporters are Carl and Amy Singmaster. Carl Singmaster is the owner and founder of Manifest Discs and Tapes. Amy Singmaster has kept Columbia residents updated about music and events for years in the *Free Times*, a local weekly paper.

The Singmasters met in the early '80s when they both worked at WUSC-FM 90.5, and they have been married for three years.

Carl was working as an electrical engineer, programming computers when he heard of WUSC. The opportunity to go on the air and learn radio skills intrigued him, so he enrolled at USC to obtain a master's of Computer Science.

He quickly became involved with the station and would often go and sign on whenever someone would go off the air. He spent his every waking minute (literally) on the air, including weekends.

During this period, WUSC was recognized as one of the trendsetting radio stations by the trade journals

of that day. Carl was there during the transition from 10 watts to 300 watts.

The station possessed a good listenership, support for its radio shows and an educated and dedicated staff. The station was on the air 365 days out of the year and almost 24 hours a day. They never missed an entire day.

Carl hosted a variety of radio shows at WUSC, including Pocket Full of Blues, Massive Metal, and Raucous Waves (punk music). Carl feels that playing music not played on commercial radio is one of the most important aspects of college and non-commercial radio stations.

When Carl left USC he wanted to stay in the music business. When he opened Manifest 12 years ago, it was a small store in Columbia that he had to get off the ground.

Now, Manifest Discs and Tapes has expanded to Clemson, Charleston, Florence, Greenville, and Willmington, NC.

Carl wanted a record store that offered all types of music. Sharing his passion for diverse musical styles, Manifest's employees often attempt to turn people on to new sounds. Of course, the store carries music that people already know and love as well. In addition, Manifest helps promote local bands, such as Craven Melon.

Amy Singmaster also has had a passion for the music industry for many years. While attending USC in the late '70s early '80s, she was involved in many groups that helped promote music on campus like Contemporary Sounds and others.

She was the Russell House theater manager and had a radio show every Monday night from midnight until 3 a.m.

Amy began *Free Times* in August 1987. This year will be the publication's 10th anniversary.

She initially wanted to promote and support live music in the community. In the beginning, Amy Singmaster was *Free Times*. Waiting tables at night and selling ads during the day, it was a major chore during the first five years just to get the *Free Times* out once every two weeks.

Amy would stay up for three days straight when she was getting the paper printed and delivered. She educated herself on how to get a paper out, and she had to learn most of the stuff along the way.

*Free Times* is now a weekly distribution that brings Columbia information about many local establishments and upcoming events. Although *Free Times* now has a staff, Amy still does a little of everything, including delivery when needed. Most of her job is doing the bookkeeping, but she still gets out of the office to collect ads.

Carl and Amy Singmaster will both admit running your own business is hard work, but it can be done. Carl and Amy are very supportive of each other and their pursuits.

They are also great assets to the community and work hard to bring broaden the cultural scope of Columbia.

## Leadership prevails among Greeks



The national Greek system has long been seen as a training ground for the nation's future leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt, Elizabeth Dole and George Bush. Every president except one since 1900 has been a member of a fraternity, and 76 percent of US Senators are fraternity members.

Developing leadership skills has always been one of the primary

objectives of Greek life, and it is no different here at USC. Jennifer Hobbs is a sophomore and currently serves as the Kappa Delta sorority president. She said that "one must always be able to be prepared for something. I just wanted to give back to Kappa Delta."

Serving as president usually involves total dedication to the organization.

"The first three weeks [after Christmas break] revolved around Kappa Delta," Hobbs said.

Every organization depends on its leaders for setting goals, governing over the chapter and motivating the members. Clay Cavanaugh, president of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, knew how much work and dedication

serving as a chapter leader involves. "As president, you must take a stand, even against friends," Cavanaugh said.

He explained that serving as president involves putting a great deal of work into the fraternity, but the work is worth it because things "come out better."

While he has served as president the chapter has been more involved on campus, held more fundraisers and encouraged members to pay their dues on time. Last weekend, the local Kappa Sigma chapter hosted their district conclave.

Cavanaugh said the national officers who attended said, "it was the best conclave they've been to." Officer training and goal setting

sessions help individuals learn shared responsibility, self-government and financial self-sufficiency. Everyone in the chapter is a leader whether they serve as officer, committee chairman or committee member. This can shine through in winning intramurals, fundraisers, planning social events and balancing a budget.

These skills enhanced by the Greek community follow the individual throughout life. Leeza Gibbons, a famous celebrity who was involved in the Greek community as a USC student, said, "Not a day goes by when I don't call upon these skills I learned as a leader and a listener, and a compassion that was nurtured in me as a friend, and as a citizen."



SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Pictured are some of the winners from this year's Young Artist's and Maestro's of Tomorrow winners: (top) Oleg Proskurnya, Andrew Rye, Stephan Bednarzyk, (bottom) Rebecca Stone, Jen-Jyl Yang, and Charles Ancheta. All winners will be featured in the USC Symphony Orchestra concert on Thursday, February 20, at 7:30 p.m. Call (803) 251-2222.