

EVENTS

•Writer John Updike, 6 p.m. today, the Law School auditorium. Free.
 •Entertainer Finis, through Sunday, the Comedy House Theatre. For info & reservations, 798-9898.

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Friday, November 13, 1998

The Gamecock

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Walk like an Egyptian back to the '80s

senior writer **KEVIN LANGSTON**

WUSC disc jockeys will be spinning the sounds of the '80s "right-round baby" this weekend.

Students listening to 90.5 FM will be barraged with 60 hours of '80s tunes.

From noon Friday to midnight Sunday, Top 40 or no, WUSC disc jockeys will play whatever they have and whatever listeners request.

"We are throwing out the old format for the weekend," station manager Robert Regal said.

He encouraged people to request their favorite songs from the '80s.

"It would actually be better if they request Top 40 songs," he said.

Regal seems enthusiastic, noting the nostalgic value of the weekend.

"We've been doing this for years," Regal said. "It's fun for all of us because we grew up with ['80s music]."

For some people, the '80s bring back horrible memories of acid-washed jeans, jelly shoes, jams, big hair, denim jackets and many other regrettable images.

The music was a spin-off of disco, which saw a tragic demise earlier in the decade.

Duran Duran, Tears for Fears, Genesis, The Police, Devo, Oingo Boingo and The Cure were some of the names

to step up and define the sound of the '80s.

Rap entered the scene with the success of The Sugar Hill Gang, Run DMC, The Beastie Boys and Public Enemy.

For the first time, independent bands and college radio were gaining commercial exposure with forerunners like U2, The Replacements and R.E.M.

These collective sounds combined to immortalize the '80s as a decade in which almost anything was accepted.

Of course, this eclecticism was soon burned by the same flame that claimed disco.

Unfortunately, the once refreshing New Wave sounds of The Talking Heads, The Cars and Elvis Costello were eclipsed by throw-away bands, such as Flock of Seagulls, Men Without Hats, Falco and Taco. Nevertheless, people have stubbornly refused to forget about the '80s.

However, there are people who avidly curse the '80s and all the music it spawned.

Announcers Peter Johnson and Rob Flemming are two of these people.

"I hated the '80s," Johnson said. "Don't laugh, but I only liked Metallica and Guns n' Roses. I can't stand most of that pop rock stuff."

Flemming, Johnson's radio partner, feels the same way. "Many people are going to have nightmarish '80s flashbacks when they hear the stuff that we're going to play," he said. "I plan on scaring people. It should be fun."

Johnson poked fun at the many colorful names that were given to '80s rockers.

"Expect the drumming talents of such famed musicians as Rickki Rocket and Tico Torres," he said.

Flemming summed his opinion of the '80s up in one sentence.

"One weekend is more than enough," he said.

"It's the '80s all over again," Johnson said. "But this time, it's without Reagan."

Tongue, Verna Cannon, Slurr, From Safety to Where, the Trema, Erector Set, Larb, Sateen Duraluxx, go carnivore and a "surprise 'mystery' Band," will end the weekend with a festival from 1 p.m. to midnight Sunday at the New Brookland Tavern.

The cover charge is \$7, and food will be available.

Nevertheless, Regal is realistic about the popularity of WUSC's weekend format as opposed to its normal format.

"It is about the only time that anybody listens to us," he said.



FILE PHOTO



ERIN REED News Editor

Rock 'n' roll music seemed to be alive as ever with the popularity of such heavy metal "hair bands" as Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Poison, Metallica, Motley Crue and Guns n' Roses.

The '80s brought forth a new genre of music called "pop."

Michael Jackson, Madonna and Prince helped establish this sound.

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