THE MIX

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THEY SAID IT

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES: "A man's mind stretched by a new idea can never go back to its original dimensions."

coming out of the cage

PHOTO BY ANNE LEE/THE GAMECOCK

From left to right, female impersonators Samantha Hunter, Marla Vega and Nicole Roberts perform at last year's "The Birdcage." This year's event, sponsored by the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Carolina Productions, will be in the Russell House Ballroom on Wednesday night at 8.

Creed Week hopes to open students' mind to diversity

BY ELEANOR SIBAL
THE GAMECOCK

One of the Carolinian Creed's tenets is to diminish bigotry and learn from differences in people, and three USC student organizations are sponsoring Creed Week events Wednesday night to open students' minds to different groups, cultures and lifestyles.

USC's Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Carolina Productions are sponsoring "The Birdcage: Gamecock Style," which will be in the Russell House Ballroom at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

This is the fifth year of "The Birdcage" at USC, and BGLA President Jeffrey Crews said he expects this year to be as impressive as last year.

"We expect it to be wonderfully successful. More and more people come to see us," he said. "And there's a lot of participation from a wider group of people. And that's our goal."

The Birdcage revue is a two-hour event featuring the "finest female impersonators in Columbia," who were chosen by BGLA. The performers will dance and sing individually and, after each act, will sit down for a question-and-answer session with the audience.

BGLA sponsored "The Birdcage" alone last year, but CP is helping this year.

Scott Sowell, director of special programs for CP, said he recommends the show for everyone.

"The show is definitely for all audiences to experience," Sowell said. "If something bothers you about their lifestyle, this is your chance to talk to them and ask questions. By opening yourself to them and experiencing different aspects of their lives, you are able to understand them and accept them for who they are."

The show itself is impressive, according to former attendee and fourth-year exercise science student Raymond Delacruz.

"It was definitely interesting. I saw things I hadn't experienced before, like men with waxed legs and big breasts trying to hit on you," he said. "I'm open-minded, so it didn't bother me, but it was interesting to be introduced to another part of the world."

"Everybody is people — just with different tastes," Delacruz said.

"Family Feud: A Student Organization Showdown," sponsored by the Carolina Student Judicial Council, will be held at the Golden Spur on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

If You Go

WHAT: "The Birdcage: Gamecock Style"
WHERE: Russell House Ballroom
WHEN: Wednesday, 8 p.m.

Kelly Bessent, a coordinator for the game, said the event is a way for diverse groups to get to know one another and have an enjoyable evening together. The Chi Omega sorority, the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, Student Government and the Muslim Student Association are some of the groups that will participate in Family Feud.

"The game is a fun and friendly chance for organizations that have never had contact with each other to work together and cooperate with one another," Bessent said.

The event is fashioned after the television game show "Family Feud." This year, the council surveyed students to get the most popular responses to questions contestants will be asked at the program.

The groups do not play against one another; instead, they will split up, mix and match so that every participant works with people from different groups.

Last year, the Student Judicial Council fashioned a Creed Week event after the game show "The Weakest Link." Players enjoyed it so much, they suggested the council do it again.

Aaron Hark, graduate assistant of Judicial Affairs, said he hopes the relevance of Creed Week comes out through the event.

"What I've learned is that the more we bring different groups together, they learn from one another, and that is what makes us closer to becoming a unified campus," he said.

Hark also said he thinks the laid-back atmosphere of the Golden Spur will allow the audience to get more involved with the program and enjoy it more.

Because "Family Feud" and "The Birdcage" are back-to-back events this year, the organizers are hoping the whole night will be a hit.

"We hope the events draw the same people since they are in the same building and happen one after the other," Hark said. "They're both fun, and they're both the kinds of events that a crowd can really get into."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com

Relax — you'll survive semester

CHARLES TOMLINSON
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It's the middle of the year. I'd be inclined to think, "Oh, the semester is halfway over!" But not quite. Things have only begun to heat up.

Some classes offer steady workloads. They might constantly keep students sweating over the books, but at least they're consistent.

Others, however, like to play dirty little tricks on students: They start out not looking suspicious at all; the syllabus requires some readings that are assigned every week, but nothing overwhelming. So the college kids put it off, little by little, until — surprise! — it's time for midterms.

Suddenly, students are swamped with all that work they unsuspectingly put off, in addition to the ever-strenuous classes that keep them working the rest of the time.

Personally, I know that when all this mid-semester weight is dropped on my shoulders, I collapse and flop around like a fish. I get so overwhelmed by having 20 tasks to accomplish in a day that I can't concentrate enough to get but maybe three of them done, by which I mean I get started, then realize I need to do something else more important first, and then realize I have something to do that's not as important, but I have to have it done in 15 minutes, so I start doing that instead, and then I realize that there is a paper due the next day that I totally forgot about, and AAAAGH!

This brings me to a point I'd like to address: Why do people put up Instant Messenger away messages that detail their entire daily schedule? It's like saying, "Look at how busy I am! Aren't you simply astonished that I crammed my schedule full of so much stuff?" It's a self-absorbed thing to do. And people don't care where you are every second of the day. At least I don't.

It's times like these when I long for the days when things were simpler — at least the days when my schedule was simpler. I want to go

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WUSC COLUMBIA 90.5FM

TOP 10

These were the most requested songs on USC's student radio station from Oct. 14-20.

1. **"TELL YOUR FRIENDS"** — Mary Prankster
2. **"NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN"** — Elf Power
3. **"KILL YOUR TELEVISION"** — Reunion Show
4. **"LIVE ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY"** — Dropkick Murphy's
5. **"IN THE FISHTANK"** — Sonic Youth I.C.P. The Ex
6. **"TURN ON THE BRIGHT LIGHTS"** — Interpol
7. **"MAKE UP THE BREAKDOWN"** — Hot Hot Heat
8. **"RIDE AWAY FROM THE WORLD"** — Stone Coyotes
9. **"BEHIND THE MUSIC"** — Soundtrack of Our Ilves
10. **"VELOCITY OF SOUND"** — Apple in Stereo

Venue to place artists in closer setting

BY HOLLY DUTTON
THE GAMECOCK

There might be small venues in Columbia, but this is no Nashville, with recording companies drawing big stars and artists giving personal insights into their songs at concerts. But Columbia will get a singer/songwriter night of its own, featuring members of Hootie and the Blowfish, Wednesday night at Senate Park.

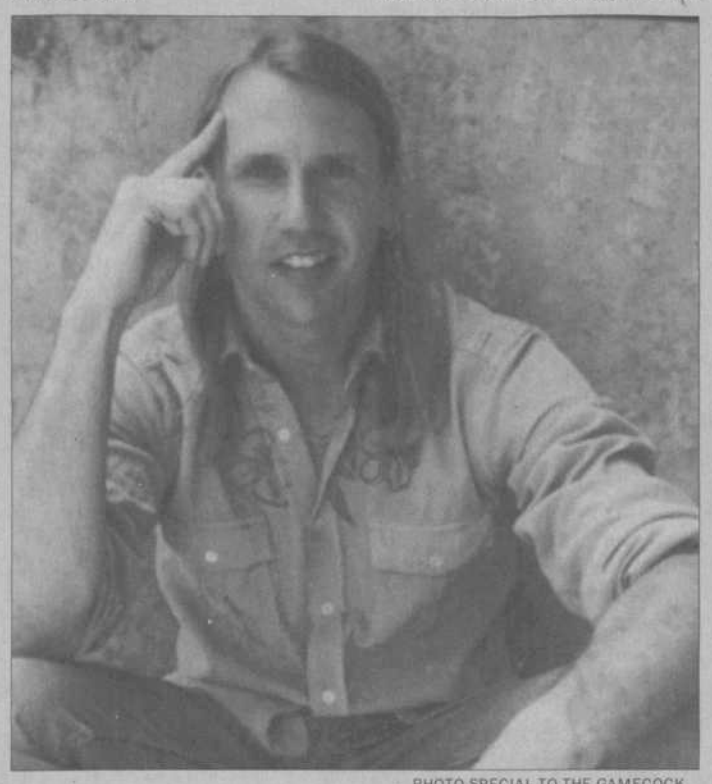

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Jim "Soni" Sonefeld, drummer of Hootie and the Blowfish.

USC alumnus and singer/songwriter Patrick Davis and his publicist Virginia Hunt, who were both involved in Carolina Productions, have taken their experience beyond the university campus. Davis recorded in Nashville for his upcoming album "Chances Are," and both Hunt and he have seen a need for more singer/songwriter nights.

Davis, Hootie and the Blowfish's Mark Bryan, Cowboy Mouth's Paul Sanchez, and former Blue Dog Phillip Lammonds played "a sold-out singer/songwriter show at the famous Bluebird Cafe in Nashville last month," Hunt said.

"It's very different for South Carolina and this region because there's not a forum for songwriters to get out there and perform," Davis said. "Up in Nashville, there's things like this everywhere: big rock 'n' roll bands doing acoustic gigs. I thought it would be cool to do it in the Southeast."

Not only is Davis bringing the singer/songwriter idea to Senate Park, but Hunt has lined up South Carolina natives, folk artist Danielle Howle and Hootie and the Blowfish members Mark Bryan and Jim "Soni" Sonefeld. She has also lined up special guest Claire Holley of North Carolina's Yep Rock Records to play along with Davis.

Davis has come a long way from playing in Five Points on the corner of Greene Street and Saluda Avenue. After he graduated in 2000 with a degree in history, he said, he now lives on the road between Columbia and Nashville.

"After graduating, I tried to figure out what I wanted to do. I had done some music a little bit. I didn't want to get a real job. I was lucky enough to meet some great musicians in Columbia. Mark Bryan from Hootie has been really, really helpful," Davis said.

According to Bryan, during Davis' first year at USC, he was dating Bryan's wife's cousin, who was a cellist. Davis would come over, and they would all jam at Bryan's house.

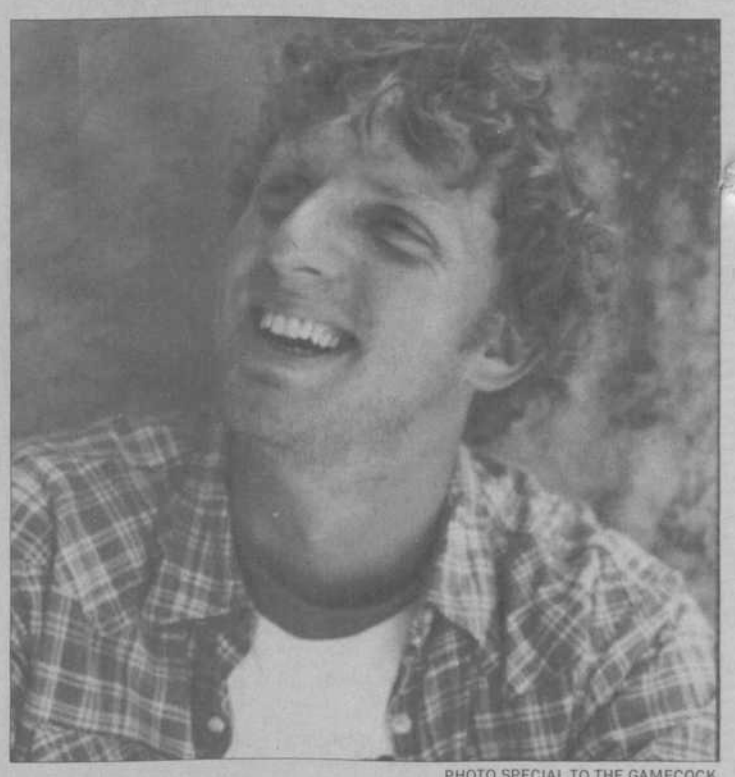

PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GAMECOCK

Mark Bryan, guitarist for Hootie and the Blowfish. He and Sonefeld are among those to play Senate Park on Wednesday.

"I thought he had good taste in music," Bryan said. "We definitely bond on that level. I thought they were pretty good once I heard a couple of his songs, and I liked his voice. I had time off at the time, so it was a good three years ago, the middle of my first year off tour, and I had the desire to do the producing, so that worked out for me."

Bryan is producing and is being featured on Davis' upcoming album, "Chances Are," which Hunt compared to a Tom Petty or Ryan Adams record. He said his live show has a more Lyle-Lovett-type sound.

Davis said one of the main reasons he put the singer/songwriter tonight together was that, when

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