COMING ATTRACTIONS

Art

Willie Birch: Through Jan. 21 at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art. This New Orleans-based artist presents his papîer-maché sculptures and paintings which promote racial consciousness. $2. 725-1904.

***Threadbare: Revealing Content in Contemporary Fiber*:** Through Jan. 21 at SECCA. This exhibit features a number of artists who have expanded the concept of fiber to communicate social, cultural and political messages. $2. 725-1904.

***Accounts Southeast: Craft — Function and Tradition*:** Through Jan. 21 at SECCA. The first group show of the Southeastern artists series, this exhibit highlights traditional and functional clay, basketry and fiber. $2. 725-1904.

Art Department Exhibition: Through Feb. 1 at the Fine Arts Gallery, Scales Fine Arts Center. This exhibition highlights works from faculty and staff of the department of art. Free. Ext. 5585.

Holiday Open House: 1-5 p.m. Sun. at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art and Graylyn International Conference Center. Enjoy entertainment and refreshments while touring these historic homes. $6. 725-5325.

Clubs

Ziggy's: Tonight, Thanks to Gravity and Brides of Jesus. Fri., Gwar, Brutal Juice and Meatmen, $10. Sat., The Aquarium Rescue Unit, $5. 748-1064.

Cat's Cradle: Tonight, Knocked Down Smilin'. Fri., Purple Schoolbus. Sun., Gwar with Meatmen and Brutal Juice, $12. Mon., The Queers, $5. Wed., Flaming Lips, $10. (919) 967-9053. Cat's Cradle is located in Carrboro.

Lizard and Snake Cafe: Mon., Eyehategod and A.C. (919) 967-6303. The Lizard and Snake Cafe is located in Carrboro.

Movies

***Stand By Me*:** 8 p.m. tonight in Pugh Auditorium. Free. Ext. 5255.

***Nine Months*:** 9 p.m. Fri., 8 and 11 p.m. Sat. and Sun. in Pugh. This lighthearted romantic comedy stars Hugh Grant. $2. Ext. 5255.

***The River Wild*:** 7 p.m. Fri. in Pugh. Starring Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon, this white-water thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat. $2. Ext. 5255.

***The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*:** 8 p.m. Mon. and Tues. in Pugh. Take a little study break to get into the holiday spirit with this timeless Dr. Seuss adventure. Free. Ext. 5255.

***The Blues Brothers*:** 8 p.m. Wed. in Pugh. Free. Ext. 5255.

Music

Holiday Choral Concert: 8 p.m. tonight in Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center. Brian Gorelick will direct this collection of classic holiday favorites. Free. Ext. 5026.

Archie Shepp: 8 p.m. Sun. at SECCA. This innovative jazz saxophonist will perform along with pianist Jaki Byard and local musicians Matt Kendrick and Hugh Petersen. $10. 725-1904.

Miscellaneous

***In Search of a Corner Preview*:** 8 p.m. tonight in the Benson 401. Don't miss this preview of the hilarious parody of life at Wake. Free. Ext. 5255.

***In Search of a Corner IV*:** Midnight Friday and Saturday in Brendle. You saw the preview, now come and see the real thing. $2. Ext. 5255.

Green Day gets nutty

Punk band rocks Charlotte with power hour

BY CHRIS GREZLAK
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REVIEWER

Despite the exceedingly obnoxious crowd and the ridiculously tight security, the Nov. 29 Green Day concert in Charlotte, at the Hornets Training Center, was a pleasant surprise.

Overall, the show was remarkably similar to concerts on the California-based band's previous tour of clubs and smaller venues, and was an enjoyable experience.

Green Day was energetic and entertaining throughout its hour long set. In between songs, and even during them, guitarist and vocalist Billie Joe Armstrong kept the rowdy crowd attentive and lively with his joking remarks and wild stage antics.

An attack on local favorite Hootie and the Blowfish was particularly humorous, as were the chants of obscenities Armstrong frequently led the audience in.

The set covered all four of Green Day's albums, with the majority coming from the multiplatinum 1994 release *Dookie* and their latest effort, *Insomniac*.

The audience seemed particularly psyched up by radio favorites such as "Basket Case," "When I Come Around" and "Long View," but seemed less responsive during both the old stuff and the brand new material.

With his vigorous opening screech of "Paper Lanterns" and constant twitching and bouncing around, Armstrong effectively united the diverse crowd on the floor into a bunch of pogoing music enthusiasts. Meanwhile, numerous cautious fans chose to observe the melee from a distance, safe in their seats at the back of the arena.

Never stepping out of the glaring spotlight, Armstrong was the obvious focal point of the evening, with the exception of drummer Tre Cool, who led the band through two songs.

One could watch Green Day without hearing the music, and still be entertained by Armstrong's stage antics. Maybe that explains the few individuals wearing earplugs.

The spitting and slobbering of Armstrong's inspired vocals were best noted on "F.O.D.," "2000 Light Years Away" and the closing number, "86."

A nostalgic and meaningful song, "86" documents Armstrong's return to Gilman Street, a bay area punk club where the band was once embraced, and the subsequent cold and heartless welcome he received. Instead of hellos, Armstrong heard, "What brings you around, did you lose something the last time you were here?"

"Long View" showcased Mike Dirnt's skillful bass handling, while the opening number "Armitage Shanks" was largely dominated by Cool's drum beats.

Cool also amused the crowd during the encore, when he grabbed a guitar for a solo rendition of *Dookie's* hidden track, and then led the band (with Armstrong on drums) through "Dominated Love Slave," a country music parody describing a physically painful relationship: "I love it when you hurt me, so drive those staples deep."

New songs such as "Brat" and "Westbound Sign" were performed wonderfully.

"Geek Stink Breath," the heaviest number of the night, sparked slam dancing, while "Brain Stew" produced an eerie calm throughout the coliseum.

Green Day's mass appeal brought young children, parents, college students, punks, skinheads and a suited businessman or two.

While the majority of the crowd was kept under relative control, there were a few incidents, perhaps reflective of the band's rebellious and raucous nature.

One individual was eventually tossed from the arena for throwing a small lit firecracker on stage, forcing a halt in the show and an Armstrong-led crowd chant of "Get Out."

Two drunk men took the opportunity of an open mosh pit to box, and to throw each other into unexpecting concertgoers.

Unfortunately, the anxious crowd had to sit through the monotonous 20 minute set of The Riverdales, an imitation Ramones-style band who played the same chord progression throughout their set, with a complete lack of emotion and no apparent effort exuded by any band members.

The band finally left the stage after being booed, cursed, and rudely gestured by the largely drunk crowd.

The concert was overall humorous and entertaining, though at times chaotic.

But what else would be expected from a band who proclaims "Hooray, we're gonna die!" If given the chance, catch Green Day at the nearest arena as soon as possible.

Just be prepared for a rowdy and extremely diverse crowd, flying Armstrong spit, a night without necklaces (due to the security) and perhaps a slight loss of hearing.

Courtesy of Buena Vista Pictures

Kinda puts you in the Christmas spirit, don't it Vern?

Films like *Ernest Saves Christmas* (1988) not only prove that anybody can be a star, but they just might get you into the swing of the season as well. Somehow Jim Varney, who so nobly portrays Ernest P. Worell, has made multiple Ernest films, including *Ernest Scared Stupid* (1991), but has been tragically overlooked by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences during Oscar voting. Varney also plays the voice of Slinky Dog in *Toy Story* (see review, B5).

LIFE IN HELL

Ernie Pook's Comeek *by Lynda Barry*

Krazy Kat and Ignatz *by George Herriman*