

# Vanilla Ice makes unsuccessful comeback

By Kevin Pride  
U-wire

I'll be completely honest: I had absolutely no idea of what to expect from a Vanilla Ice concert. As it turned out, no one else did either.



Yes, the "Hard to Swallow" tour featuring the Iceman's new brand of bass-heavy rock and angry rap made its way to the Cat's Cradle Jan. 23, and it seemed like most

of the audience was there for one of two reasons: either to laugh and make fun of Vanilla Ice or because of peer pressure.

As the beginning of the show neared, I tried to get to the bottom of this ticket-selling phenomenon we came to know in junior high as The Iceman. I mean, who would have thought that Vanilla Ice, the rap star turned nobody turned, well ... punk rocker had the popularity to sell out a free show, much less one that actually charged for tickets?

I mean, the show was on a Saturday and by Thursday the last ticket was gone. And, scores of people were being turned away at the door. I had to get to the bottom of this.

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Between the opening band, Skarhead, and Ice's appearance, I met Crazy; he has a real name, but it's not as cool. Crazy, 19, doesn't think it's funny that Vanilla Ice is back, much less that he's now a "born-again" Christian. "The V.I.P. is a big fat joke, and I'm here to make fun of him," said Crazy, referring to Ice and his posse.

"The dude is a poser, man. He's got no credibility whatsoever. Who does he think he is? One minute he's rapping and the next he's trying to be hardcore. No integrity, man. None."

Our conversation ended when the lights went down and an exodus of teenage flesh packed itself toward the stage.

Before Crazy left, he told me: "If it was me and (Vanilla Ice), one on one ... I'd jack him real good." The crowd assembled itself in a dark heap directly in front of the stage. I now understand what a sold-out show is like at the Cat's Cradle: tight and smelly.



Vanilla Ice  
Hard To Swallow  
Uni Records

Amid the absence of light emerged a singular voice, the voice of the Iceman, who announced in a voice that cracked like an awkward pubescent's: "Beware of the black cat, if you believe in suuper-stiiitooon!!!"

And that's how a Vanilla Ice concert begins. I was expecting something far less,

well, poetic, perhaps more along the lines of "Yo V.I.P., let's kick it!" or a hearty "Word to your mother!"

Instead, I get a warning. Among the murmur of voices, there were several chuckles. A blast of very loud music began and a figure appeared, bending down while he walked and rapped.

An assortment of foreign objects flew through the air and onto the stage, barely missing the guy: two beers cans, a cup and something that looked like a shoe. Unfortunately, it's not Vanilla: It's Rod J., his backup rapper and human shield.

The Iceman is not far behind, and he goes into a sneering and borderline angry rap, of which the only words I understand are "Learjet" and "here I come." Just for the record, Ice came to the show in a bus with horses painted on the side, not a Learjet.

Midway through the show, the Iceman did what everyone wanted him to do: He kicked it old school, performing a medley of songs from his first album, *To the Extreme*. First "Havin' a Roni" then an impressive beat-box session, then "Play the Funky Music," "Stop That Train," a five-minute scratchin' solo by DJ Zero and eventually, you guessed it, "Ice Ice Baby."

But this time it was different: It was a revised, heavy-metal version of the song,

the same one found on his new album, *Hard to Swallow*. The crowd was disappointed, and after the song was finished, the Cat's Cradle was half-empty.

During the old-school medley the stage looked like a zoo. People were jumping onstage, dancing, then diving head-first into the waiting arms of the crowd. It was also during this time that Dexter went to work.

During the old school melee, Dexter managed his way onstage, did the "MC Hammer" dance, somehow spritzed Vanilla Ice with a bottle full of another man's urine, pulled down his pants and mooned the crowd, then did a professional-quality stage dive. And that's how fallen '90s rap stars get treated. That sucks.

As the evening came to a close, Vanilla Ice performed an indecipherable encore song and thanked the crowd for showing up.

All in all, the show wasn't bad; it just wasn't all that good. The Iceman got picked on, pissed on and just generally laughed at.

But maybe the joke was on us. After all, we were the ones who had just paid money to see Vanilla Ice.

Kevin Pride writes for The Chronicle, the student newspaper of Duke University.

## Crossword Puzzle

"It's All Wake To Me"

By Laura O'Connor

1.				2.		3.		4.	5.
6.								7.	
8.	9.			10.					11.
			12.			26.	13.		
14.		25.		23.					24.
	15.						16.		
				17.	19.				20.
18.								21.	
22.									

### Across

- Hearn's toy
- Math subject
- A common conjunction
- Driving while intoxicated (abbr.)
- Offered as a meditation class in Benson
- \_\_\_\_\_, the people
- Faulty prophylactics
- '80s clothing (adj.)
- Southern gentlemen
- Do the \_\_\_\_\_ thing
- A building on campus built from the inside out (abbr.)
- University of the real-life *Exorcist* (abbr.)
- Underground campus organization
- Initials of Micky Mouse's creator

### Down

- A Baptist's nightmare
- Done frequently on the halls on weekends
- The money in our Deacon Dollars at the end of the year
- Favorite clothing catalog on campus
- \_\_\_\_\_, ego, superego
- Filled with James Earl Jones' voice
- Administration thinks it's a "waste" of time
- Goat boys
- How Wake students DON'T drink their beer
- Wile E. Coyote's favorite company
- Don't walk on the grass!
- Abbreviation for "Swing Kids"
- Initials of a Boston-brewed beer
- Financial aid (abbr.)

## CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send e-mail to [arts@ogb.wfu.edu](mailto:arts@ogb.wfu.edu), fax to (336) 758-4561 or write to P.O. Box 7569.

### ON CAMPUS

#### Theater

**Studio Series.** The comedies Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* and Rich Orloff's *I Didn't Know You Could Cook* will be presented under the direction of university students.  
**When:** 4:30 p.m. Feb. 1 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 2  
**Where:** Ring Theater  
**Info:** \$2

#### Comedy

**Debra Terry's Comedy All Stars.** Three North Carolina natives bring their comic relief to the stage for a night of laughs.  
**When:** 9 p.m. Jan. 30  
**Where:** Brendle Recital Hall  
**Info:** \$5, Students. Ext. 5864

#### Exhibits

**Re-Newing: Recycling in a Shrinking World.** The exhibit looks at how cultures recycle artifacts from other cultures to make new creations.  
**When:** Through March 20  
**Where:** Museum of Anthropology  
**Info:** Ext. 5237

#### Movies

**Trainspotting.** Renton, deeply immersed in the Edinburgh, Scotland

drug scene, tries to clean his act up, despite the allure of drugs and the influence of his friends.  
**When:** 9 p.m. Today  
**Where:** Pugh Auditorium  
**Info:** Free

**The Waterboy.** Adam Sandler returns as a stuttering waterboy who discovers his hidden talent of crushing people on the football field by taking his pent-up aggression on his opponents.  
**When:** 7 and 10 p.m. Jan. 29-31  
**Where:** Pugh Auditorium  
**Info:** \$2

#### Music

**Secrest Series. The Russian State Symphony Orchestra.** Virtuoso violinist Vladimir Spivakov will lead the orchestra in an all-Russian program.  
**When:** 3 p.m. Feb. 7  
**Where:** Wait Chapel  
**Info:** \$12.50 Students. Ext. 5757

#### ELSEWHERE

#### Concerts

**Cat's Cradle. Jan. 28:** Jupiter Coyote. **Jan. 29:** Cravin' Melon with the Ultraviolets. **Jan. 30:** Donnie the Buffalo and John Chain. **Feb. 1:** Pilfers and Springhill Jack.  
**Where:** 300 E. Main St., Carrboro  
**Info:** (919) 967-9053

**Ziggy's. Jan. 28:** Moon Boat Lover and Juggling Suns. \$5. **Jan. 29:** The

Bins and Pietasters. \$10. **Jan. 30:** Bloodkin and Disco Biscuits. \$5. **Feb. 2:** Life in General. \$5. **Feb. 3:** Galactic and Keller Williams. \$10. **Feb. 4:** Derek Trucks.  
**Where:** 433 Baity St.  
**Info:** 748-1064

#### Exhibits

**Pipes, Pedals, Keys and Bellsows.** Each day pieces of the largest surviving organ by David Tannenberg will be assembled by organ builders George Taylor and John Boody.  
**When:** Through March 14, 1999  
**Where:** The Gallery at Old Salem  
**Info:** \$3

#### Music

**Die Fledermaus.** A comical Viennese operetta in three acts written by Johann Strauss performed by students from the North Carolina School of the Arts.  
**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 3 and 5, 2 p.m. Feb. 7  
**Where:** Stevens Center, 405 W. Fourth St.  
**Info:** \$10 Students. 721-1945

#### Theater

**Let My People Go.** A play presented by the Touring Theater Ensemble of North Carolina about slavery taken from existing documents.  
**When:** 8 p.m. Jan. 30, 5 p.m. Jan. 31  
**Where:** Reynolda House  
**Info:** \$5, 725-5325

## RESEARCH ON ROATAN ISLAND

The Overseas Research Center of the Department of Anthropology at Wake Forest announces its recruitment of a "few good men and women" for its 31st annual field research on the tropical island of Roatan, off the northern coast of Honduras in the Western Caribbean. Any student, undergraduate as well as graduate, is welcome to apply, and freshmen and sophomores are especially encouraged.

The focus of the research will be the impact of very rapid social and economic change on the culture of the inhabitants in general and on the biological environment of this small tropical island in particular. The director of the Overseas Research Center has over 38 years of experience and data from this island, and has taken students from Wake Forest University and other institutions into the field since 1967.

This ethnographic field course offers 4 to 8 credits, the dates of which are from 18 May through 7 June, with two weeks of prior readings and lectures on campus before the WFU Final Exam Period begins.

Lectures, discussions, and some meals will be at the recently constructed "La Casa Promesa", in the mountains in the center of the island near the fishing villages of French Harbour. Students will reside in a newly constructed lodge on this beautiful estate, and will spend time in every major village on the island before focusing upon carefully directed research of their choice. There will be ample time for both hard work and relaxation on this very beautiful island that was largely spared by Hurricane Mitch.

It is expected that this year's student group will be limited to between 12 and 15 students. All who are accepted will receive some form of financial aid if they apply early.

There will be an INTEREST MEETING held on Tuesday evening, February 2 at 6:00pm at the Office of the Overseas Research Center in the Anthropology building. For those who cannot make this meeting but would like more information, please either call the director, Dr. David K. Evans at extension 5276, or e-mail him at [dkevans@wfu.edu](mailto:dkevans@wfu.edu). You may also contact the Student Field Assistant, Ms. Sarah Van Auken, at extension 1473 or e-mail her at [vanaust5@wfu.edu](mailto:vanaust5@wfu.edu).

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