

# Hootie headlines Rock the Vote at Joel

By **Susannah Rosenblatt**  
*Perspectives Editor*

Next week the campus might be abuzz with politicians, but you'll have to pilgrimage to the Lawrence Joel Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in order to see stars.

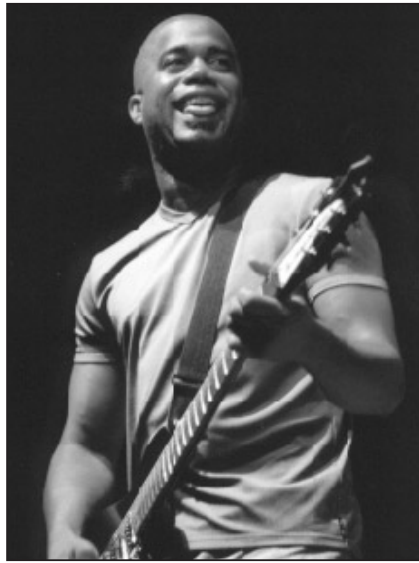
The night of Oct. 11, pop sensation Hootie and the Blowfish, along with rap artist Rah Digga and singer Daniel Cage will storm the Coliseum for an official Rock the Vote concert.

The first ever Rock the Vote event to take place in tandem with a Presidential Debate, doors to the free show will open at 5:30 p.m., and the concert will end after midnight. Rock the Vote, a non-partisan organization that helps increase political awareness as well as register 18- to 25-year-olds to vote, is finishing up a 25-city nationwide tour with the upcoming stop in Winston-Salem.

Music will begin at 7 p.m., interrupted from 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. by a live broadcast of the debate on two video screens; an estimated 10,000 people will attend the Coliseum event.

"It will be very unique," Bob Mills, an associate vice president for university advancement, said. "This should be the largest debate-watching party in history." According to Mills, third party candidates, Bush and Gore family members, and the candidates themselves have been invited to appear at the concert, although Mills cannot confirm who will attend.

The concert will be Webcast live through [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com). Viewers may participate in a "Politically Incorrect"-type forum, dubbed the Doritos "Loud Lounge," with participating



Courtesy of [www.hootie.com](http://www.hootie.com)  
**Darius Rucker and the rest of Hootie and the Blowfish will headline the Oct. 11 Rock the Vote concert at LJVM Coliseum.**

celebrities and political activists fielding audience questions in real time.

Mills notes there will be many

opportunities for student volunteers to assist with the concert; poster distribution and escorting band members around Winston-Salem include some of the responsibilities available.

Hailing from South Carolina, the two-time Grammy winning group Hootie and the Blowfish has a record of community involvement. Recipients of Rock the Vote's Patrick Lippert Award for positive outreach efforts, the band also performed at the 1997 Presidential Inauguration festivities. They will take the stage after the debate broadcast. Joining them throughout the evening as emcee will be rising hip-hop star Rah Digga, lauded by critics for her April

debut album, "Imperial." The Rock the Vote event was originally slated to take place in the Coliseum annex; the con-

cert has been moved to the larger Coliseum facility due to a Republican Party event to be held in the annex.

Parking for the concert will be located at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds midway, adjacent to Shorefair Drive, and also at the corner of Shorefair and Deacon Boulevard. Parking will cost \$5.

Planning the concert since last spring, Mills is "excited about the idea of doing this event on the night of the debate." Mills encourages area high school and college students to attend the concert. "Rock the Vote does a good job promoting politics with young people," Mills said.

Not simply a concert or a chance to witness democracy in action, Mills thinks of the debate and its surrounding events in a different way: "It'll be the world's largest civics class."

## Outcome of ticket lotto hinges on seating plan

By **Austin Harris**  
*Assistant Online Editor*

The lottery through which students, faculty and staff can obtain tickets to the Presidential Debate wrapped up Oct. 4, but it is still unknown whether the Commission on Presidential Debates will in fact make tickets available.

Registration for the lottery began Sept. 18 with students, faculty and staff of both the Reynolda and Bowman Gray campuses eligible to participate.

According to Anne Bishop, the director of Intranet development, over 3,500 people had registered for tickets through the university as of Sept. 29.

One hundred semi-finalists will be notified today via e-mail, through the debate Web site and by signs across campus.

The mayor's office also offered a separate opportunity for Winston-Salem residents to receive tickets to attend the debate. The deadline for those entries was Sept. 25.

Though many of the university's plans surrounding the debate have been finalized, the availability of debate tickets for the university community is still uncertain.

Since the CPD has not yet announced the seating arrangement in Wait Chapel, university officials do not know how many seats, if any, will be open to those people who entered the lottery. The CPD will ultimately decide on a final seating arrangement and, if there are extra seats,

will offer those seats to the university.

According to Claudia Kairoff, an associate dean of the college, debate organizers may not know how many seats will be available, "until the night before or the morning of the debate."

However, there has been some speculation over how the Secret Service's increased security measures in this year's debates will affect the ticket lottery. The agency has asked to run background checks on all individuals that will have access to certain debate-related locations around campus.

If the final seating arrangement and the number of tickets available cannot be determined until the final hours leading up to the debate, the university and the Secret Service would not have adequate time to run the necessary checks on those individuals chosen to attend the debate.

This speculation yielded a "semi-final round" in the lottery in which background checks will be conducted on the 100 finalists. Once the number of available tickets is known, the winners will be randomly selected from this smaller group of semi-finalists.

Some students are disappointed about the lack of tickets, yet hopeful that they will be one of the chosen few. Freshman Grey Hardin said, "It's upsetting that everyone here can't attend the debate, but this type of event requires tons of planning and we should recognize the CPD and university organizers for the work they've done so far."

## Media outlets setting up camp in Benson

By **Patrick Williams**  
*Old Gold and Black Reporter*

It won't take long to spot one of the approximately 3,000 members of the media across campus during the week of the debate. Some will be followed by lights and cameras and all will be trying to get a unique perspective on the presidential candidates and the issues of the debate.

The media herd has already sparked countless physical campus accommodations. The Benson University Center has been designated the media headquarters, with most activity on the fourth floor. Benson has received facility upgrades to accommodate most of the phone and computer lines.

Wait Chapel also received a facelift — all of the seats in the balcony have been removed and platforms were installed to accommodate network cameras. Furthermore, covers were placed on all of the Chapel windows and air conditioning units were installed to counter the heat from the camera lights.

Media will also be located in Reynolda Hall — the site of the NBC network "pool." NBC is contracted as the chief debate network and will establish a series of cables from which the other networks will input. The images and information will then be distributed to station headquarters via satellite from the mas-

sive media trucks and vans stationed in Parking lots P and Q. Due to the media equipment trucks and vans, most reporters will find it difficult to park on campus. After Oct. 8 all private media vehicles will be required to park in Groves stadium.

Campus information systems have prepared for the possible overload due to the media. According to Anne Bishop, the director of Intranet development, the university has recruited the help of an outside internet hosting company to cover a portion of the university's internet homepages — in case the system is bombarded by millions instead of thousands of hits.

Local media networks will be relying on their national affiliates for footage. According to Chris Grantham, the news operations manager for WXII TV, the best time for local media to access the candidates will be at post-debate parties. "Until then, the Secret Service won't let anyone within 30 feet of Wait Chapel," Grantham said. "It will be extremely hard to get a hold of them unless you are with the national media."

Despite the limited access to the candidates, local media predict smooth sailing and interesting coverage during the debates.

"We have to be fair and cover both candidates equally. We will try to cover it like anything else," Grantham said.