

Keb' Mo' to play blues at Theatre

By Jim Warkulwiz
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When he was younger, blues artist Kevin Moore, also known as Keb' Mo', said all he cared about was riding his bicycle and getting candy.

After a trip to his uncle's house, where he received his first guitar lesson, everything changed.

"My uncle forced the guitar in my hand," Moore said. "He said, 'Here, play this guitar.' But I liked it. I really liked it."

Since then, all the three-time Grammy award winner has cared about is playing in front of an audience with his unique blend of influences, something he's been doing for nearly 30 years.

"I'm a little bit of blues and a lot of everything else," Moore said. "I like people to hear the music. I go there and I give them the best that I can."

Moore will be doing more of the same tonight when he and his backing band visit the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Mike Negra, executive director of the State Theatre, said because of Moore's 20-year career as a solo artist, he has an unmistakable status in the music community.

"It's a pleasure to have him in such an intimate venue like the State Theatre," Negra said. "It's an expensive ticket at \$44, but it's a special thing to see him in such a small place."

Negra said Moore's music is recognizable, which is why he has developed such a strong following.

If you go

What: Keb' Mo' Band
When: 8 tonight
Where: The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.
Details: Tickets are \$44

"You hear a song, and you know it's Keb' Mo'," Negra said. "So many different people of all ages and all types seem to be attracted to his music, which to me contributes to his legendary status."

There were only 38 tickets available for the event as of press time Sunday, and Negra said he expects to sell more tickets today.

As he grew as a musician, Moore said he also became proficient in three other instruments — the steel drum, the trumpet and the French horn. Because of his abilities, Moore eventually began touring with Papa John Creach, the violinist for psychedelic group Jefferson Airplane.

"I got exposed to a lot of different kinds of music going on the road with him," Moore said. "I had a broad range of experiences that gave me a kind of sensibility, especially for my songwriting experience."

Moore released his first solo album, "Rainmaker," in 1980. After finding himself unable to book concerts, Moore retreated from music, got married and took a job delivering airline tickets door to door. He then returned to promi-



Courtesy of Conqueror

Keb' Mo' poses for a photograph with his guitar. Mo' will play at 8 tonight at the State Theatre.

nence when he released a self-titled album in 1994.

The artist said he views his career in two parts — one part as the time before "Rainmaker" and the other as the time after his self-titled album.

Moore has also acted in several films, including "Can't You Hear the Wind Howl?" in which he portrays the iconic blues guitarist Robert Johnson. He said he does not really count his roles as acting because he usually portrays someone involved in music.

"Acting usually comes for me with a guitar in my hand, so I can't really say that I'm really acting," Moore said. "When I get a role that there's no music and there's no guitar in my hand, then I can call it acting. I'm a musician first — let the actors have the acting."

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Alum tells women to be 'legendary'

By Matthew D'Ippolito
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jess Weiner hopes young women don't just strive to be famous — she wants them to become legendary.

Fame is usually gained through image, said Weiner, Class of 1995. Rather than attempt to attain the media's unrealistic image of beauty, women should emulate role models of legendary accomplishment, such as Eleanor Roosevelt.

"To deconstruct what fame brings someone makes you think critically about what is important," she said.

Weiner, a spokeswoman for Dove, led an open discussion about issues of beauty and self-image Sunday in 119 Arts Building to an audience of about 80 women and girls as part of this year's Cultural Conversations series. During the discussion, Weiner talked about the unrealistic views many young women have of fame and beauty. Although fame may bring money and attention, it also takes away a lot of control over one's own life, she said.

Cultural diversity and varying experiences and perspectives also played a big role in the discussion.

"The issue of beauty does not only affect Caucasian women but women of many races, religions and backgrounds," Buthainah Al Thowaini (senior-English) said.

Thowaini said perspectives on

image also vary by age. The insight provided by the views of girls as young as 11 and 12 years old is very valuable, she said.

Virginia Martinez, 17, a senior at State College Area High School, said despite some differences in views, many of the core discussion points resonated similarly with everyone. For her, the discussion helped reaffirm her view that young women should not allow the media to influence their self-image.

"We should not be looking at the media to run our lives, or we will confuse what is real and not real," she said.

Susan Russell, artistic director of Cultural Conversations, said women must find a sense of identity within the female community before solutions to issues in society and the media can be found.

"This, right now, is about women empowering women," she said. "As a gender, you have to decide how you're going to come together before you can change another community."

Weiner said she thinks the event was constructive and will have a long-term impact on all who attended, even if the results cannot be immediately seen.

"What I'll take away from this conversation today is the emphasis on being legendary rather than famous," Weiner said. "Leaving your mark on the world stretches way beyond what is printed in a tabloid."

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Artist brings 'timeless' photographs to HUB Galleries

By Kelly Martin
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The HUB-Robeson Galleries' Art Alley will be transformed into a memory lane today, as Michelle Rogers' vintage-style black-and-white photographs go on display through Jan. 10.

"She gives a sense that these photos are timeless," said Jennifer Lynch, communications assistant for HUB-Robeson Galleries. "They could have been taken centuries ago or days ago."

Rogers has her own dark room

If you go

What: Old-fashioned photographs by Michelle Rogers
When: Today through Jan. 10
Where: HUB-Robeson Galleries' Art Alley
Details: Free and open to the public

and uses different types of bleaching and toning to make her photographs appear antique.

She's been working in black-and-white photography and collecting old postcards for 20 years. Finding a way to combine these elements into one work has become her way of creating unique art in a world where the process of taking pictures has become easy with digital photography, Rogers said.

"It's very hard to find personal expression in photography," she said. "I've found mine."

Ann Shields, director of the HUB-Robeson Galleries, said she encourages students to visit the

exhibit because of the emotional appeal Rogers' work displays.

"Her language is universal, and I think students can relate to many special moments that she's captured," Shields said.

The photos displayed in this exhibit are created by combining three images within one frame, a method called triptych, Lynch said.

Rogers' process involves photographing a postcard and matching it up with two negatives she already has in her collection. The title of the postcard lends its title

to the finished triptych, Rogers said.

"I like very much the interaction between the three images," she said.

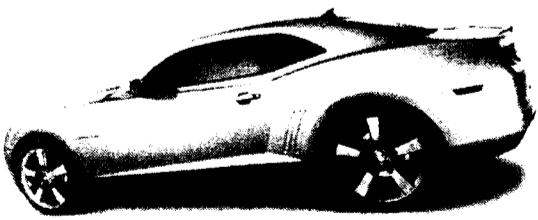
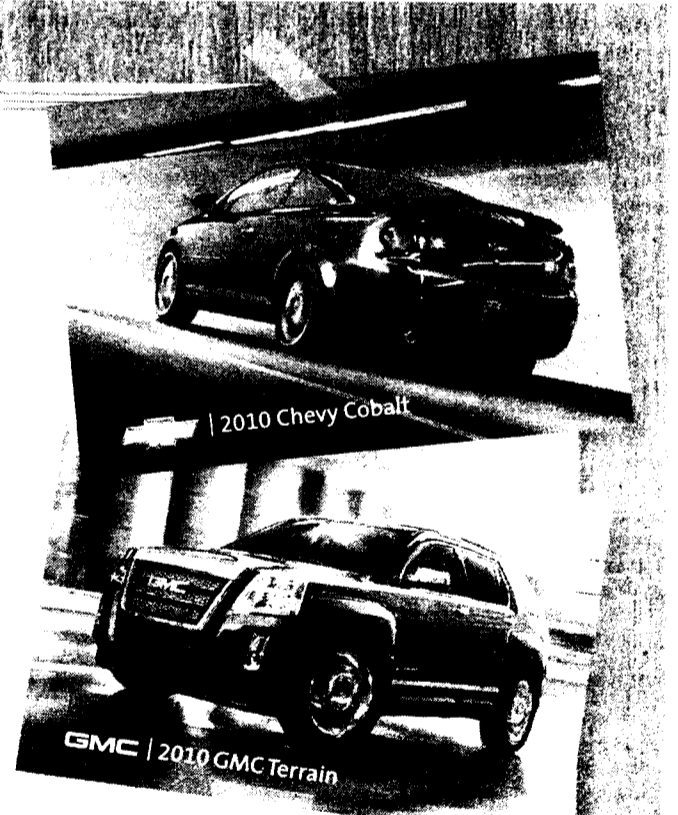
A distinguishing feature of Rogers' photos is the presence of a figure in a bowler hat, always seen from the back.

"My work is very surrealistic," Rogers said. "I felt I need a human presence in it. I wanted to have a person, devoid of gender, of social status."

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