

Committee to Consider UNCW Landmark Ideas

What would you like to see UNCW's landmark? If you have definite ideas about it, now's your chance to let someone know. A committee appointed by John J. Burney, Jr., chairman of UNCW's board of trustees, is seeking ideas from the community, alumni, faculty and staff.

This landmark will be the "centerpiece" of the 15-acre University Commons, adjacent to the University Union, an area of campus earmarked for development with extensive landscaping, brick walkways and an amphitheatre.

"The landmark and University Commons will be one of the most exciting things to ever happen to the university to save this land," Burney said, in announcing the formation of the landmark committee. "It will link the history of the university with the future."

"With Sam Bissette agreeing to serve as chairman along with the other citizen representatives, this project represents a chance to involve our entire community in a very important effort for our university," Burney commented.

Besides Bissette as chairman, other members of the committee are Dr. Sigmond A. Bear, vice chairman; Charles Boney, Sr.; Dr. Hubert Eaton; and William Hill, serving as citizen representatives; and Eric Squires, president of the UNCW Student Government Association; Dr. George Bair, special assistant to the chancellor; and Dr. Lee Johnston, assistant professor of political science, representing the university community. Serving as advisers to the committee are John J. Burney, Jr., Dr. Jairy C. Hunter, Jr., Carl Dempsey (a 1956 and 1965 alumnus of UNCW), and John Jefferies.

According to Bissette, the purpose of the committee is to "recommend a major landmark for the campus, something that can be seen, something that is meaningful, and something that can be a permanent centerpiece for the university campus."

The committee has already begun its work to find such a landmark, by soliciting ideas from the community—students, alumni, area citizens, faculty. "We want a good one for UNCW," Bissette said. "The general public is being asked to send their suggestions to the committee. We are open to suggestions from every quarter for anything that will be meaningful," he added. The committee will begin evaluating these suggestions in December, so alumni with ideas should send them in immediately.

Once a landmark is accepted by the board of trustees, a fund-raising campaign will begin to raise money for the landmark and the University Commons.

Have an idea? Send it in writing to the landmark committee in care of Dr. Jairy Hunter, Jr., Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs and Development, UNCW, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, N.C. 28403.

Maybe your idea will become reality right in the middle of campus!



Photo by Jean Farmer

This year, the Office of Minority Affairs began the Minority Mentor program, designed to help freshmen minority students with a friend—a black faculty member or administrator who serves as a resource or someone to talk to. Here, Sandy Martin (near the piano), assistant professor of philosophy and religion; Marc Ellington (center foreground), HPER lecturer and coach of water polo and diving; and Joseph Awkard (right background), professor of psychology, talk with students at the first meeting for the mentor program.



Photo by Bob Penn, Courtesy of Firestarter Productions

The "old lady spy" in *Firestarter*, as portrayed by Anne Fitzgibbon, assistant professor of drama at UNCW.

FIRE-STARTER

It began with a call from Mark Lester, the director of *Firestarter*. Someone had seen Anne Fitzgibbon in her role as Sally in "The 5th of July," and they knew she was right for a part in the Dino de Laurentis movie being filmed in Wilmington. According to the assistant professor of drama at UNCW, she spent a "wonderful three days in the mountains" filming her scene. She played an "old lady spy" working for the Shop, trying to find the little girl Charlie, the one who starts fires by thinking about them.

The *Firestarter* crew "couldn't have been nicer to work with," says Fitzgibbon. "It was absolutely fascinating and absolutely exhausting. But everyone went out of their way to be helpful."

Fitzgibbon's scene is a short one in the middle of the movie. She and a male spy are looking for Charlie, and they dress as tourists. "I love that hat," exclaims Fitzgibbon. "They let me choose the hat. I just love it!" Their job is to find the little girl and make a phone call. Fitzgibbon calls herself and the men she worked most closely with in the scenes—two North Carolinians and a South Carolinian—the "three Musketeers." Fitzgibbon also worked with David Keith and Drew Barrymore. She does indeed have a speaking part, but didn't divulge just what it was she says in the movie. As you can probably tell from the photograph, hers is not a "nice" character, but instead a sinister, shady lady.

Fitzgibbon is not the only one in her family in the movie. Her daughter Kitty plays "Joan the neighbor." Kitty is an actress and worked in *The Seduction of Joe Tynan* with Alan Alda. When Fitzgibbon talked with Kitty about being in *Firestarter*, her daughter said, "I can tell you about it [being in a movie], but until you do it yourself, you won't really know what I'm talking about." And, says Fitzgibbon, she was right. "It really is difficult to describe the exhilaration, the excitement, the fun, the exhaustion, involved in making a film," she says, "or even in doing a small part like mine." But in talking with her, you know it was all those things, and more.

Would she do another film if she had the chance? "I would love it!" she exclaims without a moment's hesitation. In fact, there is talk of several more movies being made in North Carolina and Wilmington.

Anne Fitzgibbon is not the only UNCW "citizen" with a part in *Firestarter*. Several of her students will appear on the big screen as well. Sam Sumner plays a technician seen throughout much of the movie. Kim Weeks, a drama and music major, plays two roles—a prostitute and a college student. Others had small parts as well. Sandie Ward-Freeman, a secretary in the creative arts department, plays a woman in a public bathroom who has to deal with a man rushing into the ladies' room to douse his burning boots in the commode. "It didn't take long," says Ward-Freeman. "I walked out of the stall and looked shocked to see this man come running into the ladies' room."

For three days, Anne Fitzgibbon had her name on the door to her own dressing room, which had a couch, bathroom, dressing table, and other amenities. Granted, the room was one in a series encased in a trailer, but it was hers for three days. And when her daughter Kitty worked in

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