

## Festival celebrates contemporary arts

By SONU SAINANI

North Carolina Wesleyan College witnessed the Contemporary Arts Festival Feb. 4-9. It was presented by the Performing Arts Department and consisted of a series of events, including the N.C. Wesleyan Wind Ensemble on Feb. 4, Composer's Night on Feb. 6, and a Chamber Music Concert on Feb. 8.

An enjoyable and memorable part of the festival were the plays presented by the Wesleyan Theatre and Club Dramatica on Feb. 5, 7, and 9. The joint efforts of these two groups helped make the Contemporary Arts Festival a great success.

On Feb. 5, the Club Dramatica presented "An Evening of One Acts-II." The event included two

### *Session examines boundaries of art*

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"Nudes were presented as nymphs and satyrs, not as real people, of everyday Paris," she said. "When El Greco painted for the church, 'natural endowments' had to be hidden."

The message is clear, Thorp said. "The real value of art has nothing to do with price. It has to do with helping us see our world. Keep an open mind. Do not dismiss things. We generally do not like what we don't understand. You can enhance your life if you keep an open mind and open ears," she said.

Looking at the dirty Romans, this was acceptable. They were 'learning about history,'" she said. However Manet forced viewers to look at themselves.

plays, "One for the Road" by Harold Pinter and "Sexual Perversity in Chicago" by David Mammet. Mammet's play was amusing and realistic, dealing with the sexual lifestyle of men and women in the 1980's and '90's. The plays were directed by Todd Waters and Jimmy Slakie, respectively. Original poetry was read by juniors John Hearne and Alan Felton.

On Feb. 7 and 9, two plays were presented by the Wesleyan Theatre. They were directed by Vaughn Schutz, assistant professor and director of the Theatre. The first play, "Humanity" by Walter Hasenclever, was a German Expressionist play written in 1918. The second play, "On the Verge" by Eric Overmyer, was about three women who go traveling to Tierra Incognita (fictional name of some tropical forests), in 1888 and rediscover themselves in 1955. Music was provided by Alan Berg, stage management was conducted by Mike Finney, and costumes were designed by Sara Schutz.

Most students and faculty members who watched the plays enjoyed them even though the play "Humanity" was conducive to evoking baffling responses. Freshman Peter Tuerk said that the plays were very well directed and appealed to the tastes of all kind of people. Tuerk said, "Apart from the story of the plays, I also cherished the message that they tried to convey."

"Humanity" and "On the Verge" were another step forward after "Food from Trash" which was performed in the fall of 1990. The Wesleyan Theatre has three major productions a year.



**ETHERIDGE VISITS** — State School Superintendent Bobby Etheridge chats with Edythe Tweedy, a member of the Rocky Mount Board of Education, during a visit to Wesleyan College last week.

## Panelists criticize U.S. policy

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punishing abuses. It is virtually impossible to discipline a soldier for crimes against civilians," he said.

American aid built a strong military in El Salvador, but couldn't control the unbridled power it holds over the population, Finney argued.

"In 1990 there is a fighting force of 32,000 that is directly and indirectly responsible for the disappearances of countless people," he said, and from 1980 to 1982, such "disappearances" concealed the killing of about 800 people a month — 100,000 a year.

Watson's reproach of ignorant politicians was scathing. "Our elected officials often represent our own ignorance," he added.

"Our ignorance has hurt us in Africa. It has abetted the persistence of apartheid in South Africa," he said. American misunderstanding of the people's free-

dom movement, the African National Congress, bolstered the racial government.

American governments traditionally refused support for the ANC because it supposedly promoted violence to eliminate the slave status of blacks in that country. Statesmen were fond of pointing to the Martin Luther King's peaceful methods in this country, Watson said.

Yet, he said, "The South African movement had used peaceful methods from 1912 to 1960. In 1960, however, South African police had shot down several hundred blacks who were protesting peacefully. The ANC responded to continued state violence by changing its course.

"Our policy was based on a lack of understanding of the South African state, and probably slowed the end of apartheid. Any process that is not based on facts is like a castle on the sand. It won't bear scrutiny," he said.

## Good schools key to future

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remedial summer school program. Individualized summer instruction has helped children in grades three, five, and eight move on instead of repeating an entire school year.

In addition to the summer program, the BEP also envisioned equal opportunities in the arts and foreign language, and proposed funds for more instructors, counselors, and clerical help for teachers. This year, Martin said, the state can't afford to pay for the program's next installment.

"If you want SB 2 to fail, then don't fund the BEP," Etheridge responded. "Certainly we ought not to waste a single dollar in education. Money is precious and will be more precious in the '90s. This program is for all children of North Carolina, whether they live in the poorest county of Richmond County, or the richest county of Mecklenburg County.

"If you don't provide them with a good education, you've said to them you're going to be a second-class citizen for the rest of your life. Because education is your ticket up," he said.

Etheridge noted that North Carolina has the lowest industrial wage rate in the nation, and that 14 percent of the state's adults over 20 are illiterate. One-fifth of the state's children live below the poverty level, and, in some counties, this figure is as high as 40 percent.

In the face of these figures, Etheridge said, those who criticize educational spending "need to get real. They need to get out where the problems are. We can break the cycle of underachievers — but we cannot back off school reform."

# *Bush administration hazardous to U.S.*

By ALAN FELTON

President George Bush continues to wage war against Iraq while the United States falls further into economic and social ruin. As thousands of American soldiers stand in the desert to defend the so-called "American way of life," that same lifestyle is being destroyed at home. The war may reach a conclusion in the near future; what will the situation be at home in the United States?

The President ignores the

problems of reducing a \$3 trillion deficit while adding to that deficit with a costly war. The long-proposed war on poverty is not being waged while millions of dollars are thrown away in the Kuwaiti desert. Unemployment is at its highest level since the early 1980s. The United States has the highest infant mortality rate of any other industrialized nations. The American education system produces a nation of culturally and academically illiterate students.

### *The Last Word*

President Bush's policy on race relations finds the commander-in-chief sending unfair numbers of African-Americans to fight in the Middle East and also Bush wages a genocidal drug war against African-Americans. Meanwhile, Bush waves the flag, Mom, and apple pie in front of the American people and calls the effort the building of a new world

order.

The time has come to bring about a change in the United States. The President has shown his disregard for the well-being of the American population. The founding fathers of this nation revolted against an uncaring tyrant and built the nation we call the United States. Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that the government had the responsibility to provide for the needs of the people and that "...governments

are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government..."

The government of George Bush is clearly destructive to the security and well-being of the American people. The decade of the 1990s will be a time of revolution. Listen up, George. The revolution will come.