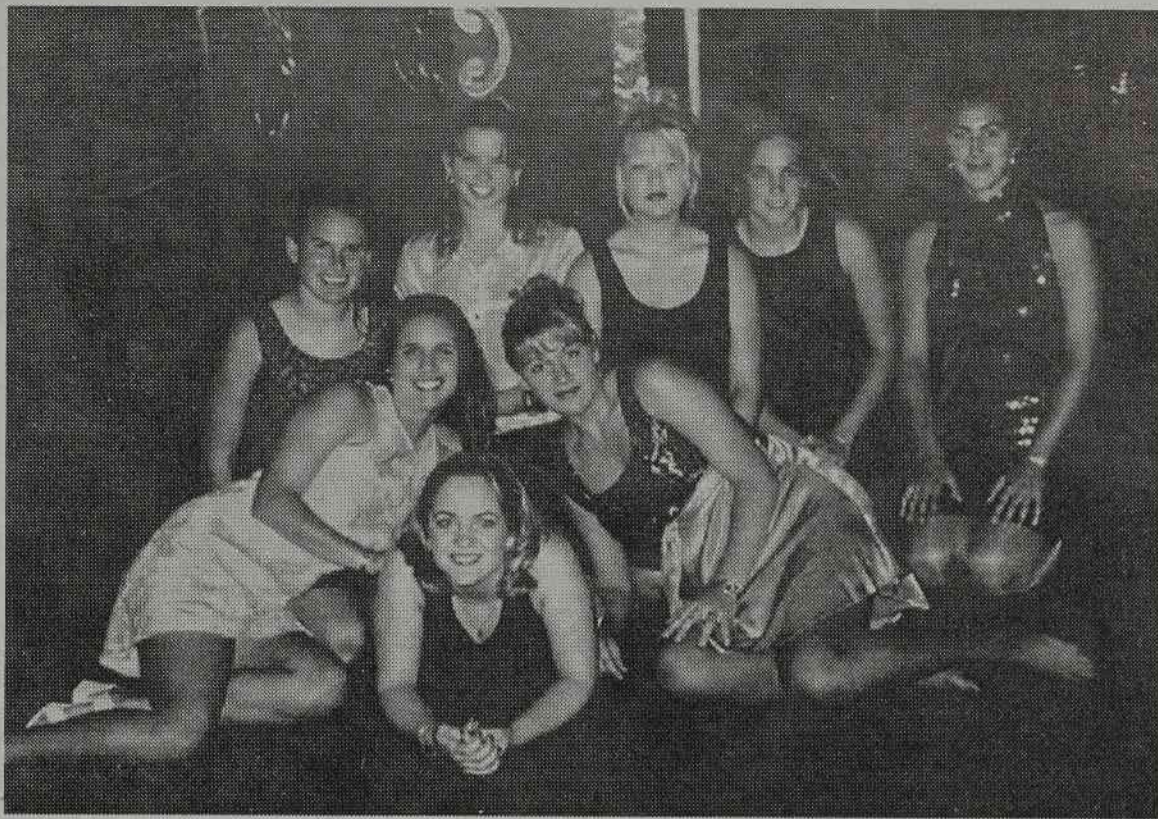


CAMPUS LIFE



HOMECOMING FRIENDS — Mayflower Sours and Karolyn Braun gather with their friends for a Homecoming photo. (Photo by Karolyn Braun.)

Campus enjoys Homecoming

By SARA SEJDA

Homecoming '96 was filled with first class entertainment and artists for everybody.

On Monday, close to 120 students came out to hear the voices of "Graffiti Tribe." With their harmonies and up-beat arrangements they received a standing ovation. Greek Council and CAB

sponsored the event.

Next, Sigma Pi put everyone in the spotlight for their annual Air Band contest, then on Wednesday had their "pudding pool" which featured close to eight gallons of chocolate pudding. That night, Pi Epsilon had their annual pizza eating contest that had students eating pizza in unique ways.

Thursday, everyone was in the aisles laughing with hypnotist Chuck Milligan.

To top off the week, the Homecoming dance provided entertainment for all. Mammie Freeman and Terrel Adgers were this year's Queen and King of Homecoming. Other court members were: Scott Cuvillo, Grant Long, and Erin Durbin.

NCWC to present '1940s Radio Hour'

The North Carolina Wesleyan College Theatre Department will present performances of "The 1940s Radio Hour" Oct. 24-26 and Oct. 31-Nov. 2, at the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts.

The first Wesleyan Theatre production of the 1996-97 season, "1940s Radio Hour" is a one-act musical comedy about a weekly radio show, set in the early years of World War II. It takes place in the Astoria Hotel, the ballroom of which has been converted into a sound stage for the radio program.

The play is packed with 1940s tunes, such as "Kalamazoo," "Our Love is Here to Stay," "Black Magic," "Chiquita Banana," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company D," "I've Got it Bad," "Strike Up the Band," and "I'll Be Seeing You." The play is set around Christmas, so there is also some Christmas music included.

Written by Walton Jones, the acting is ensemble, with complex relationships on stage, from the grumpy/grouchy old doorman to the delivery boy who gets pressed into singing a ballad for one of the radio actors who doesn't show up.

It is orchestrated like a regular radio show would have been, with

commercial of the period, a sound effects person, and jingles. There are dancers to entertain the "audience" and the sound effects guy even makes tap-dancing noises.

According to director Vaughn Schutz, the play is quite funny.

"It's a well-balanced, fun show, with good singers. We have good voices in the cast. There are lots of interesting things happening on stage; things don't go right, of course, as the radio show cast members prepare for the broadcast, and they get more frazzled," he said.

The play's cast of 15 is joined by another 15 musicians, playing the band, which is on the stage as the backup band for the radio show. Mike McAllister is musical director for the play.

Evening performances for the seven dates begin at 8 p.m.; a matinee on Nov. 2 begins at 2 p.m. For tickets call the Dunn Center Box Office (919) 985-5197. The box office is open noon until 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and one hour before performances.

Tickets are \$7 for reserved seats, \$5 for general admission, and \$4 for students and senior citizens.

Average college costs increase five percent

By COLLEEN DEBAISE

The cost of college tuition will continue to outpace inflation this year, and students are borrowing more than ever to get degrees, according to a new study.

"I had scholarships and parental support for college (but) have been relying on loans — about \$50,000 — for graduate school," said Derek R. Larson, a doctoral student in history at Indiana University.

His wife is also a graduate student, and they wonder how they'll pay off the loans, he said.

"I expect we'll be lucky to pay off our debt in 10 years after finding work, assuming we can both find jobs in our respective fields at all," he said. "I feel quite insecure about the financial future my investment may bring."

According to a College Board

survey released Sept. 25, students at four-year public colleges and universities can expect to pay about six percent more this year for tuition. That's about \$155 more than last year.

For-year private schools boosted undergraduate tuition this year by five percent, which means students will have to pay about \$607 more.

Room and board also jumped, an average six percent, or \$220, at public colleges and universities, and about four percent, or \$195, at private schools, the study found.

Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, said that despite costs that "are daunting too many, for most Americans, the fact remains that college is still accessible — especially in the light of financial aid currently available."

Stewart urged students and families to keep college costs in perspective, noting that a majority of students pay less than \$4,000 per year. Only about five percent of college students attend the highest-priced universities that charge more than \$20,000 a year, he said.

The study by the College Board, an association of about 3,000 colleges, also found that federal aid is available to students at a record level — more than \$50 billion.

But most student-aid growth has come in the form of federal loans, said Lawrence Gladieux, executive director for policy analysis at the College Board's Washington office. In 1995-96, federal loan programs provided \$29 billion in aid to students — 57 percent of all available aid.

In contrast, federal grant sup-

port continued to decline — despite a slight increase of \$40 in the maximum Pell Grant. Now grants represent just 42 percent of total federal, state, and institutional aid.

"Since the mid-70s, the Pell Grant has lost ground both to inflation and to the rising costs of college — a 40 percent decrease over 20 years," said Stewart.

But Jack Joyce, associate director of information at the association's College Scholarship Service, points out that half of all students enrolled in higher education receive some financial aid, often a combination of grants, scholarships, loans, and work-study.

"Focusing on 'sticker price' or allowing 'sticker shock' to influence college choice will limit opportunities that are out there for students," he said.

Some private schools have reacted to "sticker shock" with promises not to raise tuition more than the inflation rate; others have simply cut tuition. The most publicized example is Muskingum College, which cut its tuition more than \$4,000 this year, from \$13,850 to \$9,850.

James B. Appleberry, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, said the good news in the College Board report is that there is more financial aid available for students to attend college than ever before.

The bad news is that the increase is in the form of loans rather than grants, which means "we are creating a seriously debt-burdened society," he said. He blames rising costs on state legislatures that have "deprioritized" funding for higher education.