

The Campus Echo

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Klansmen, Nazis acquitted



Tanya Simmons is surrounded by (dead? sleeping? unconscious?) cast members of AMERICA HURRAH during a rehearsal.

Opens tonight

New NCCU drama promises to be wild, odd, exciting

Strange, different, wild, unexpected?

No one seems to know how to describe N.C. Central's new play, AMERICA HURRAH, premiering tonight at 8:15 p.m. in University Theatre on the corner of Fayetteville and Lawson St.

"Expect the unexpected," wrote Herald entertainment writer Jim Buie in discussing this experimental work of Jean-Claude van Itallie, directed by Randolph Umberger. The play opens Nov. 19 and runs through Nov. 23.

"Don't be surprised if the play splits in half, if the actors ask you questions, or even if someone shuttles the audience off into another room," wrote Buie.

For Umberger, the play represents a chance for the cast and crew to experiment. "We're working with a great deal of mime and we're also working in a new theatrical environment. I think we will establish a new and unique relationship between our performers and our audience," said the director.

AMERICA HURRAH is an innovative and sometimes shocking look at three aspects of American life: the impersonality of the job market, the influence of TV upon our personal lives, and our preoccupation with consumerism.

The three play sequence is composed of a number of scenes growing out of contemporary American life—sometimes cruel, sometimes obscene, and always absurd. The script calls for a great deal of imagination from the director, the actors, and the audience.

Cast members have found the play different from anything they've worked with before.

Herbert Eley, a sophomore drama major from Murfreesboro, N.C., who has the role of the "fourth interviewer" in the first playlet,

said, "My first reaction after reading the script was that (the play) was totally insane. At the same time," he continued, "I realized how challenging it would be to act in it. You have to learn the whole script just for your part."

"This play is wild," said Thelma Henderson, a junior dramatic arts major from Henderson, N.C., who is also in the first playlet. "It's unlike anything I've ever been cast in or exposed to, as far as theatre goes." Thelma was last cast as an elderly woman in the drama department's production of BENNY.

DeWarren Moses, a senior dramatic arts major from Whitakers, N.C., calls the play "very different."

In the first New York Times review of the play in 1966, the year AMERICA HURRAH opened in New York, critic/playwright Walter Kerr said, "There's something afoot here. The three one acts which make up the production are more than three satiric views of the U.S.A. What goes on," said Kerr, "is more complex, more elusive, and more promising. The theatre is trying to discover at the moment a means of approaching poetic effect on the stage without reverting to echoing forms."

Tickets are now on sale at McLaughlin Medical Arts Pharmacy, 2520 Fayetteville St., The Merry-Go-Round in South Square Mall, and the drama department at NCCU on the Corner of Fayetteville and Lawson Streets. Adult tickets are \$3.50 for advance sales and reservations and \$4 at the door. For children 18-years-old and under, advance tickets and reservations are \$1 and \$1.50 at the door. Groups of ten or more adults may purchase tickets at \$3 per person.

For reservations and additional information, call the drama department at 683-6242.

GREENSBORO (AP) — Six Ku Klux Klansmen and Nazis were found innocent Monday of murder and rioting charges stemming from a shootout in which five Communist Workers Party supporters were killed last year.

An all-white jury of six men and six women returned the verdicts at 5:12 p.m. after seven days of deliberation.

The defendants sat expressionless as the verdict was read by a court clerk, then wept with friends and relatives after court was adjourned.

"We do not condone the actions of any of the three groups. We regret that this unfortunate thing happened in our city," jury foreman Octavio Mandulay told reporters.

Another juror, Robert Williams, said the jury did not believe any group had the right to "thrust its political beliefs on the citizens of the United States." He did not elaborate.

Security was tight in the windowless third-floor courtroom. Guilford County Superior Court Judge James M. Long had directed about a dozen policemen to "arrest and remove anyone who disrupts the reading of the verdict." There were no outbursts. Police officers and security guards stood guard in the hall outside the courtroom as family members, spectators and dozens of reporters milled about.

Police said Greensboro remained quiet as a steady rain fell early Monday night, but they were prepared for any possible trouble. Police spokesmen said all officers were on standby and that a larger than normal number of officers, including the department's Special Weapons and Tactics or SWAT unit, were on duty.

In Durham, authorities beefed up police patrols, assigned additional men to fire trucks, stationed some guards in city buildings and put some off-duty officers on standby as a precaution.

There were several false fire calls early Monday night, but aside from that the city was quiet.

Durham police watched the homes and headquarters of some Durham CWP members and supporters, but one officer said about half the known Durham CWP supporters were still in Greensboro.

The trial lasted 96 days, the longest in North Carolina history.

None of the prosecution team would comment after the acquittal was announced. Some members of the district attorney's office had said earlier Monday that they thought the jury was having a difficult time reaching a decision and that they did not expect a verdict Monday.

The four klansmen and two Nazis were charged with five counts each of first-degree murder in the slaying of the five Communist Workers Party supporters at a CWP-sponsored "Death To The Klan" rally in Greensboro Nov. 3, 1979. They also were charged with rioting. They pleaded innocent to all charges.

The jury could have returned verdicts of guilty of first-degree murder, first-degree murder by premeditation and deliberation, second-degree murder or voluntary manslaughter or innocent.

The two Nazis are Jack Wilson Fowler, 27, and Roland

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Not guilty on all counts. That's hard to believe. There must be something they're guilty of aside from the obvious murder which doesn't count because the people killed were Communists and everyone knows that Communists aren't people, they're political ideas like American Indians and Civil Rights workers and little black children in Atlanta.

Let's see...what about trespassing? They surely weren't invited to the rally site in Greensboro. During the trial, defense attorneys argued that they had gone to the rally to only "heckle the communists." You need rifles to heckle?

If a drunk driver runs over and kills a pedestrian crossing the street in a blinding rainstorm, he will be charged with involuntary manslaughter. Even though the driver has two excuses for his actions—he was drunk and the weather conditions made visibility poor—he is still guilty and will probably be punished. Fine.

But Klansmen and Nazis arrive at a rally; shooting breaks out; people are killed; videotapes show that the Klansmen and Nazis went out of their way to kill these people; and they are acquitted. Unlike the drunk driver they have no excuse—the day was clear; they were sober (not sober as in reasonable but sober as in not drunk), and they get off!

True, their case rested on a basis of self-defense, but if they were so afraid of the CWP as to bring with them guns and rifles—why did they show-up at the rally site in the first place?

If they're guilty, they're guilty of being let-off...not acquitted, not forgiven in the eyes of the law, not even justified in what they did. It's great to be pro-white just as it's great to be pro-American or pro-labor or pro-black. It's the anti's that are scary. Does to be pro-white mean anti-black, anti-jew, anti-liberal, anti-poor?

If this verdict stands, what can be far behind?
Teresa A. Burke, editor

Alphas, Kappas, Omegas cited

'Caf' director says: 'Cool it, rowdy frats.'

By Winfred B. Cross

Greek organizations on the campus of North Carolina Central University are in danger of losing their privileges in the cafeteria because of the unruly behavior of Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternities, according to Robert Smith, director of the university's Food Service.

Smith says he is very upset over the fights, arguments and "stepping" (choreographed dancing accompanied by verbal put-downs) that have recently taken place in the cafeteria by these organizations.

"I have been very generous to these organizations. I have allowed them to put their signs on the tables to have fellowship with one another in the cafeteria," said Smith. "But they continue to break the rules by making physical displays in the dining hall. If one more incident happens, all the signs will have to go."

The fall pledge line of the Alpha fraternity fought a member of the Kappa fraternity when he tried to break their pledge line. Also, a huge argument took place between several band members and the pledge line after the Elizabeth City State game in the cafeteria.

William Mills, a senior from Chocowinity, N.C., and president of Alpha Phi Alpha, agrees with Smith about the conduct of the organizations.

"The incidents are uncalled for," he said. "I apologize for my organization's actions. We are all greek and all black so the frats should be getting along better. It gives the campus and frats a bad name when things like this happen."

Besides the fight with the Alpha pledge line, members of Kappa Alpha Psi have had several arguments with Omegas and Alphas.

James Tobias Griffin, a senior from Greensboro, N.C., and president of Kappa Alpha Psi, said the incidents have been cleared up and will not happen again.

"I agree with Mr. Smith. He's a fair man," said Griffin. "If the organizations can't act right, the signs should be taken away."

Members of Omega Psi Phi have stepped in the cafeteria,

argued with the Kappa's, and danced on chairs and tables on several occasions.

Audwin Jones, a senior from Wilmington, N.C., and Basileus (president) of Omega Psi Phi, said he was unaware of some of the incidents, but explained the stepping incident.

"We were challenged by a frat from another campus. We just accepted the challenge and took the matter outside," he said. "I don't know about the other incidents but I'm sure my brothers wouldn't do anything to jeopardize any privileges we already have."

Dr. James Blue, vice chancellor of student affairs, has received complaints from non-greek students who have been asked to move from tables that have greek signs on them.

"I suggested to Mr. Smith a few months ago to remove the signs from the tables," said Blue. "These signs have caused a lot of confusion. No student has to move away from any table in the cafeteria. Organizations do not pay a fee to reserve space for their signs. This practice is done out of courtesy by Mr. Smith," he said.

Both Mills and Griffin say that they do not mind people sitting at the tables which have their signs.

But Jones said that he would rather that students not sit where the Omega sign is.

"We don't pay an extra fee but it has long been a tradition for our table to sit at the head of everyone else's. We feel honored to have a table for that purpose," he said.

Dr. Blue's response to that statement was, "There is absolutely no truth to that statement whatsoever."

Dr. Roger Bryant, assistant vice-chancellor of student affairs, also feels that the signs should be removed.

"The cafeteria should be used for eating and other social activities," he said. "It would be better if these signs were displayed only during homecoming or other special events."

Blue would like the organizations to display their insignias on the wall instead of the table tops.

"I think Smith should let the organizations draw lots and decide where they will hang a plaque or some other kind of display," he said. "It would cause less confusion and probably be very attractive."

Sorry, Gang,

No Commodores

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