

PERKINS

Mayor-elect shares vision for Greensboro and citizens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

positively about your community and working together to show them that the city and county government can work together for the common good. Then, I think the next thing that you have to do is go out and promote your community to the region, and those outside the region, to attract companies to relocate in our community. One of the things that I have done over the years is work hard on establishing relationships with other regional leaders that I think will pay dividends when I take office as mayor.

G: Now that you're elected, what are your thoughts on the White Street Landfill?

RP: The White Street Landfill is not going to reopen. In terms of our solid waste management strategy, I think we have to look at all the options. I believe there will be some options available that will involve regional disposal facilities that are emerging now that should have been looked at before and for one reason or another were not. Randolph County being one, Rockingham County being two and a shared facility for the triad being a third option that may be a longer term solution but something that we all want to work on.

G: With a number of Greensboro businesses closing in the past year, how do you plan to reverse this trend?

RP: This is a tough recession; this is not something that any of us have ever been through. It's an unprecedented situation

in terms of unemployment and people losing jobs (and) ... something that we're not going to come out of quickly or easily. The regulatory environment is something that we need to try to pare down. We don't need to have any unnecessary regulations on the books that are going to impair businesses, but at the same time you have to protect the city that you're living in — in terms of over development — when things come back, so we need to have responsible planning and we need to make sure what does get built in our city is built in an attractive manner. We don't want to build a bunch of junk; we want to build responsibly.

G: What is your opinion on the Occupy movement, specifically in Greensboro?

RP: I think that the Occupy movement in Greensboro went pretty peacefully. They set up camp in downtown and I think the city worked with them to grant them at a reduced cost a location to camp. I think our police did a good job of cooperating with them so that there wasn't any violence. I don't think we had an arrest in Greensboro when they were here. It was something that certainly they have the right to do and that's why the rights that we have in our country are so special and so valuable; people can do that without being persecuted or thrown in jail.

G: Greensboro has five four-year universities. How will you use your position as mayor to help keep a larger number of those students in Greensboro and working after they've graduated?

RP: The success for the universities is also the city's success. They are a stabilizing portion of our economy because students go to school whether the economy is good or bad, and sometimes they stay in school longer when the economy is bad. We need to make sure that we help the colleges and universities with their long-term growth plans and we don't inhibit them and we're working together as opposed to trying to stop what they're interested in doing.

G: (Submitted by student) What is your opinion on the current referendum in the primaries to amend NC's constitution to ban same-sex marriage?

RP: I'm opposed to that. I think we've got a lot more important things to focus on than trying to make a constitutional amendment for banning same-sex marriage.

G: (Submitted by student) What is your opinion about the number of Hispanic people either documented or undocumented that live here in Greensboro?

RP: There are a lot less (now, but) ... the Hispanic population is a valued part of our community, like any other group that comes in and lives in Greensboro. I think the strength in our community is based on our diverse nature, and if we look at combining all of our strengths we're going to be a lot better off in the future. So I would welcome the Hispanic population as an active part of Greensboro and make sure that the city services are delivered in a way that all populations can take advantage of what we have to offer.

"Espiral" shows different side of immigration

By Ellen Nicholas
STAFF WRITER

As people waited for the movie to start, the buzz of conversation quickly died down as three people stepped into the center of a crowded Bryan Jr. Auditorium. Each held an instrument: a guitar, a trumpet, and a güiro, a Latin-American percussion instrument made out of a gourd.

Because attendees expected to only be shown a movie, the live mariachi music was a surprising treat.

"I think the music kind of sets the mood as Mexican," said Alfonso Abad Mancheño, assistant professor of Spanish. "I think it flowed right into the movie."

The movie, shown on Nov. 17, was "Espiral," a Mexican film set in a small, southern Mexican village. The film focuses on the lives of the women whose husbands and fathers leave them behind to go to the U.S. to earn enough money to better their lives.

"Most films about emigration deal with the idea of crossing the border, the journey to get to the United States and the lives of the immigrants once they are established in the US," said Olivia Elias, assistant professor of Spanish, in an email interview. "We rarely stop and think what happens to those people that remain in Mexico."

"Espiral" was one of 23 movies shown as part of the North Carolina Latin-American Film Festival. The films were shown at colleges and universities in Durham, Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Greensboro.

According to the film festival's website, "Its mission is to provide a space in North Carolina for Latin American images, sounds, and stories to reach a wider audience." Many agree this is an important goal.

"I think it's important for students to come see movies like this because it allows them to see the world from a different point of view," said sophomore Chloe Weiner. "Because we're living here at college, going to the cafeteria, going to our classes, doing the same things every day, ... sometimes it's hard to realize other people's realities of ... having to go maybe to an entirely different country and how that can change your life, and maybe ruin your life forever because of

economic pressures."

"One thing that I found very interesting was the U.S. was always present in the movie even though we never see the U.S.," said Mancheño. "It was like (the people in the film) are brought up to go to the U.S. That's what's in their minds since they are kids."

As more and more of the men leave the village in search of a better life in the U.S., the women who remain begin taking over all the responsibilities of keeping their town afloat. Out of necessity, they realize that they have more to offer their community than just being wives and having children.

"You can look at the point of view of women in more traditional societies and how that's changing everywhere," said Mancheño.

Initially, the women left behind are portrayed as sad, abandoned characters. As they begin to take over the town, however, they find clarity and fulfillment in their new powerful roles in the village.

"I wasn't necessarily expecting it to portray the lives of the people who left to be the unsuccessful ones, but they were obviously the most unhappy characters in the whole movie," said Weiner.

The title of the film translates to "Spiral" in English, an image that plays an important symbolic role in the film.

"I believe the concept of 'Espiral' is making reference to those events, patterns, situations, that are naturally repetitive," said Elias. "Nothing changes. I am talking about the economic situation of the people that migrate. Even though they work so hard they still remain in the same place."

The film ends with the men of the village sitting drunk and alone while the women laugh and share a meal together.

In the end, "Espiral" maintained the mission of the film festival and let the audience glimpse a different world from a unique perspective.

"It's extremely important that Guilford students remain active in learning about problems that exist not only in our communities but in the world," said Early College student Haejin Song. "These movies are voices that want to tell the world their stories, and we need to be the ears and listen."

Perdue lays out new education plan at Guilford

By Jacob Rosenberg
STAFF WRITER

Fenced in by two close advisors, Governor Bev Perdue quickly walked up the stairs to the Frank Science Center on Nov. 10. One advisor flipped open a folder and said to a fast-moving Perdue, "We are going to Mrs. Melton's Environmental Science class." Perdue took the information in stride and began shaking hands and asking names.

Perdue had come to the Early College at Guilford to announce her new College and Career Promise plan, which allows certain high school students in North Carolina to begin pursuing a two- or four-year degree, certificate or diploma. The program is tuition-free and only requires high-school students to meet certain requirements.

CCP has three pathways. Two allow high-school students with a "B" or above average to apply during their junior or senior years to earn credits at local community colleges or independent colleges or universities.

The third pathway "started here," Perdue said during her speech in the Bryan Jr. Auditorium. It involves more cooperative high schools like the Early College at Guilford. Perdue hopes with this plan to better facilitate the needs of these high schools at the state level.

In a speech made in Durham earlier that same day, Perdue said, "These were really good programs, but they were patchwork ... they were not coordinated."

A former teacher herself, Perdue ran on a platform of improving education in her 2008 campaign. As the 2012 election approaches, Perdue's chances of reelection are in danger, despite the Democratic National Convention being

held in North Carolina.

Aaron Blake of the Washington Post ranks Perdue as the most vulnerable governor in 2012. Perdue hopes to rekindle support with this education plan and light a path to victory in November.

However, her reception at the Early College was mixed.

"I thought it went well ... it was exciting," said Margo Melton, the environmental science and biology teacher whose classroom Perdue visited.

Some Early College students, who wished to remain anonymous, had different opinions.

One said, "She's a publicity magnet. (She) taps us on the shoulder just because it is going to be on TV."

Another objected to the very idea of the visit, saying, "Why does she need to come here to trot out her policy? She isn't asking our opinion. She just wants us to grin in the background. It is a dog-and-pony show."

Both these students and others felt they were being used without being asked their actual opinions. Many wondered why a bill on an education plan took them out of class.

Other students, however, such as Rishab Revankar, a tenth grader at the Early College, found the visit enjoyable and described Perdue as "a very nice and dignified woman."

While opinions on the visit were varied, the early college model has been successful at Guilford, as it is currently ranked the seventeenth best public high school in the country by Newsweek. Perdue hopes to take this type of success statewide. Whether expansion of college credit programs will help her reelection chances is still to be seen.