

PlayMakers echoes the controversies of UNC BOG

By Mondy Lamb
Senior Writer

The crowd that braved Saturday night's snowstorm to see PlayMakers Repertory Company's production, "Some Americans Abroad," was small but well-rewarded. Playwright Richard Nelson's modern dialogue toggles wry humor with serious issues in this flawlessly performed fishbowl examination of academia.

"Some Americans Abroad" presents a group of professors and students from a small New England University touring England and taking in as many plays as possible in a short amount of time.

The play opens with a discussion of Bernard Shaw, capital punishment and Mikhail Gorbachev's social reforms. This discourse sets the tone for the rest of the play, where lofty but often ludicrous academic discussions go on.

The fact that the play is being performed in a university community magnifies the humor of the subtle barbs at academia.

Ray Dooley plays Joe Taylor, head of the English department, who is struggling to keep the budget under control and to deal with allegations of sexual harassment and difficult tenure decisions.

Dooley shines in this role and gives a polished performance as the insecurely pretentious professor. In one of the many

amusing scenes, Dooley's character, being quite infatuated with the English culture, feigns English citizenship to another American tourist; but he is unmistakably American.

Ken Strong, as Professor Philip Brown, endows his character with a genuine energy. Strong maneuvers his character well through difficult situations as he faces accusations of sexual harassment.

Although the characters are accurate representations of people that work in a university, Strong said, "I haven't met anyone specifically like Joe (Dooley's character)."

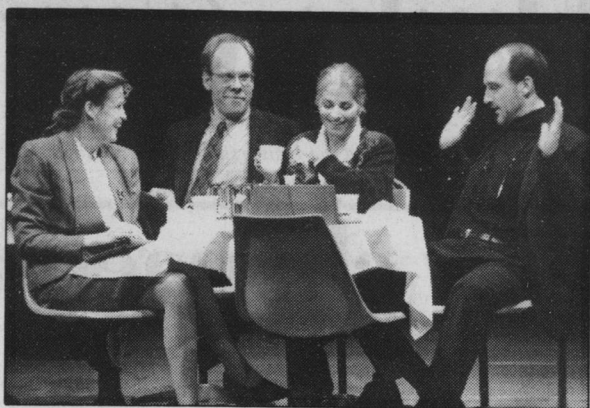
Guest artist Derin Altay plays Frankie Lewis, the only female professor on the excursion. Altay, whose character hears the accusations of sexual misconduct first, said she had a difficult time understanding why her character, as a woman and a feminist, would cover up the harassment.

"As an actress, I had to find out why Frankie did what she did," she said.

The cast also featured guest artist John Wylie as Orson Baldwin, a cantankerous retired professor living in England who delivers some of the best lines in the play.

Serious issues like tenure denial, alleged sexual harassment and marital infidelity plague these characters who seem to be incapable of the sublime actions of the artists they admire.

They are surrounded by beautiful things but are helpless to become a part



Elizabeth Anderson, Ken Strong, Derin Altay and Ray Dooley

of them. The settings of the play contribute to this idea by showing slides of the real places in England the group visits, and the floor consists of a map of England. Although the characters appear in these places, they are not a part of them.

Even for the actors, who see far more into the nuances of their characters' motives than the audience, the play ends without real resolution.

"I think we see one event in a long-term association between these people," Dooley said. "They'll be teaching at the same place for 25 or 30 years working

every day with each other. So this, 10 years from now, will be one event that will be just another war story."

The plays that weave throughout the trip serve as the binding to their friendships, so in the end the characters are forced to go back to what they know: Shaw, Henry James and academia.

All performances of "Some Americans Abroad" are held in the Paul Green Theatre. Performances continue through April 4 with shows at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday. For more information, call the box office at 962-PLAY.

BOG

Durham.

"I don't think board members should represent any particular district or constituency," he said. "We have tried ... to get people to serve with one thing in mind—the best interests of the University system."

Poole said he saw no reason to change the selection process. "If you look at the history of the selection process, it's put some very good people on the board," he said.

Leslie Winner said the bill would help women and minorities gain more seats. As an example, she said blacks would have a better chance in the 1st and 12th congressional districts, which have black voting majorities.

She said geographical diversity was important to ensure that all parts of the UNC system received fair representation.

Boulton

He said that in preliminary budget information meetings with the finance committee, he was told equipment acquisitions needed to be submitted using a different procedure from the finance hearings. But during the budget hearings, he was told that STV should have included funds needed for buying equipment in their operating budget requests.

"Our budget was treated as a joke," he said. "It was like an auction, \$1,000 here, how about \$999."

Boulton called for students to give new attention to the Student Code and suggested that the University's Insti-

"It's beneficial to the working board if members understand the needs of universities all across the state," Leslie Winner said. BOG members also need to consider potential students from their part of the state, she said.

There are 20 white men, six white women, one black woman and three black men on the board, with two seats vacant. The makeup of the board will change Thursday, when the legislature fills those seats that are up for election in 1993.

"It's not a party issue," Dennis Winner said. He added that every legislator he had spoken with was in favor of the plan, including one Republican.

He said there was no rush on sending the bill to the full General Assembly. If approved, the bill would not affect the BOG until 1995, when the next group of seats will be filled.

from page 1

Clinics

escort women to the clinic, he said. Brenner said the clinic had been the site of several protests, including one in

1988 for which seven protesters were arrested. "If there's a problem, we don't hesi-

tate to call the police or to call our escorts," he said.

Protesters who picket the Triangle Women's Health Center can be arrested for trespassing private property, Brenner added.

Brenner said anti-abortion protesters traditionally targeted women who came to the clinic for abortions, but health professionals who perform abortions

increasingly might be at risk.

Yuhasz said that if health professionals were threatened, women wanting abortions might be more reluctant seek the care they needed.

"A number of emotional barriers already exist for women seeking abortions," she said. "I'd hate to see physical barriers."

from page 1

Correction

In Tuesday's Daily Tar Heel article, "Pappy" in instructor's novel claims he killed Hemingway," the date that author William McCranor Henderson would read from his book incorrectly was reported. Henderson will read at 2:30 p.m. today. The DTH regrets the error.

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY
11 a.m. African-American Senior Celebration Committee will sell authentic Class of '93 Kente Stoles for \$25 in front of the Sonia H. Stone Black Cultural Center until 1 p.m.
2 p.m. University Career Services will offer interviewing skills to seniors and graduate students in 209 Hanes.
5 p.m. Carolina Association of Black Journalists will invite Fannie Flono and guests to speak about working at The Charlotte Observer in 104 Howell.
6 p.m. American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee will meet and hold elections in the South Gallery Meeting Room.
International Health Forum will invite Dr. Huanggang Gia, Department of Medical Anthropology, to speak on "Traditional and Western Medicine in China" in Rosenau Student Lounge.
Wesley Foundation will have a dinner and a program titled "Homosexuality," presented by a guest speaker.
7 p.m. Carolina Comic Book Club will hold its 10th Anniversary meeting in 205 Union.
7:30 p.m. Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense will sponsor a debate titled "Should Women Be Allowed In Combat?" with the UNC Debate Team

and special guests in Gerrard Hall.
Department of Housing/Resident Assistant Program will invite William S. Powell, Professor Emeritus of History, to speak and present a slide show on the history of UNC in the first floor lounge of Hinton James.
8:30 p.m. Carolina Critic Society will have a meeting for those interested in being staff writers, advertising agents and distribution coordinators in 213 Union.
9 p.m. WXYC 89.3 FM will air Wednesday Night Feature with Hibernian music until midnight.
WXYC will sponsor a '70s Dance at Cat's Cradle until 2 a.m.
ITEMS OF INTEREST
International Relief Committee is working to help the people of Bosnia. If you want to become involved or learn about the situation, contact Adam at 914-3380.
Carolina Union Activities Board Social Committee is looking for participants for the Dating Game II. Applications are located at the Union desk.
UCS announces a summer advertising internship position with Loeffler Ketchum Mounjoy of Charlotte for sophomores and juniors. A drop box will be available until April 1 in 211 Hanes Hall.

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