

# School Forum Debates New Skills Curriculum

BY JOHN REID BLACKWELL  
STAFF WRITER

Local parents and educators held a public forum Thursday night to discuss the issues surrounding the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' curriculum-restructuring plan designed to teach students practical skills for today's work force.

The discussion, which was held in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, was the second of four public forums scheduled this fall concerning current issues and programs in the school district.

A panel of nine administrators, teachers, parents and school board members addressed the concerns of the approximately 40 citizens who attended.

The curriculum-restructuring plan, which was approved by the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education last December, still is in its experimental stage. It includes comprehensive procedures for teaching students to solve complex problems; operate in teams; acquire and evaluate data; and understand social, organizational and technological systems.

Parent volunteer and panel member Gail Neely told the assembly she thought the best advantage of the new curriculum was that it stressed applied knowledge.

"When children are taught only theory and memorization of facts, they lose sight of why they are at school," she said. "I feel that this is the kind of curriculum that is more conducive to learning."

School board member Ken Touw told the assembly that practical-skills knowledge included in the new curriculum was necessary for students to become successful in today's work force.

"We don't want students who just know the three R's," Touw said. "We want students who are effective members of our society."

But some of the parents who spoke at

the forum were concerned about the effects of a new curriculum that did not concentrate on basic academics.

"Let's not be so concerned with the interpersonal aspects of education that we don't teach the basics," parent Alan Belch told the panel. "I think it's important that students be able to add, subtract and multiply without a calculator."

Panel member Diana Caplow, a teacher of academically gifted students at Seawell Elementary School, said she thought the new curriculum would enhance student's understanding of basic academics.

"I think it is a misconception that an integrated education neglects basic academics," Caplow said. "When children become interested in the subjects, they want to read and learn more."

Touw said, "Research has shown that by teaching students these higher-order thinking skills, we can actually enhance their ability to learn basic skills."

School board Chairwoman Mary Bushnell said the curriculum would motivate students because it made education "relevant to their lives."

"That's not to say that facts are not important, you have to have some specifics," Bushnell said. "But students really need to understand the bigger concepts behind the facts."

Parent Peter Morcombe told the panel he thought parents and taxpayers would not approve of such a comprehensive change in education.

"We thought that we had a fight on our hands with the multicultural program, but I think this will be a bigger one," Morcombe said.

He said he thought the restructuring would cost the school district too much money.

"I don't think it should be seriously considered without definite, proven benefits."

# Dance Company Offers Eclectic, Inventive Styles

BY WAYNETTE GLADDEN  
STAFF WRITER

The world-renowned, radical, eclectic and avant-garde Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday in Memorial Hall.

To live up to the omnipotent string of adjectives that normally precede its name, the company is alive with innovation and energy. It is famous for its use of unexpected body juxtapositions, unusual partnering and the diverse background of its dancers.

The 10 members of the troupe have extremely varied training ranging from athletics and acting to classical, folk and modern dance. Their training parallels their ethnic-racial backgrounds, which run the gamut from Puerto Rican to Jewish and Irish Catholic. One dancer is overweight. One dancer is an ex-convict and one, Jeffrey McLamb from Clinton, studied dance at the N.C. School of the Arts.

The most striking element of the Jones/Zane company is its in-your-face, confrontational choreography. In 1980, 1981 and

1982, Jones received Choreographic Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The themes for his pieces include equal rights for gays and blacks.

In his work, "Last Supper at Uncle Tom's Cabin/The Promised Land," Jones shocked the art world with the final section, in which members of the company and some volunteer nonprofessionals appeared completely nude. Jesse Helms' followers can relax, because this piece is not on the program for Saturday night.

Jones' choreography is sought after and performed by many dance companies such as the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the Boston Ballet.

The world's most beautiful people by People magazine, said, "I

don't want to fulfill somebody's trendy, multi-colored agenda. I think they're approaching me because they want something different."

His very different performance here Saturday night will include "And the Maiden," "Just You," "Another History of Collage" and "D-man in the Waters." The last piece received the 1988-89 Bessie Award. It is set to Mendelssohn's string octet and is dedicated to deceased company member Demian Acquavella. Its epigraph on the program reads, "In a dream you saw a way to survive and you were full of joy." Its theme is the new vitality in life that can occur during times of grave crises or illness.

To accompany the performance, Jones will give a free lecture on his current works in progress, "Still/Here," at 11

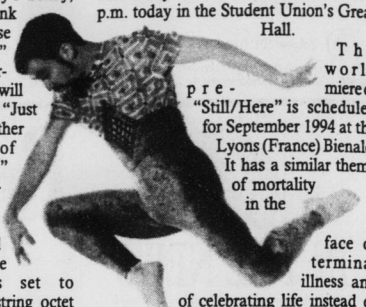
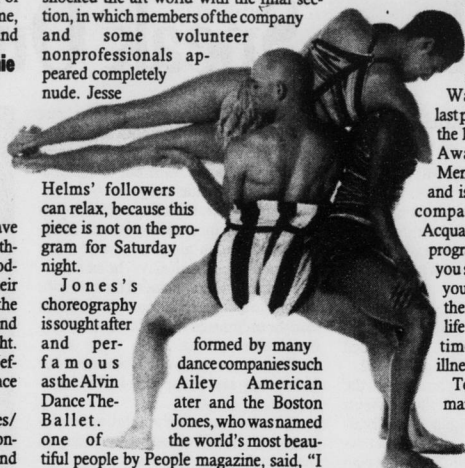
a.m. today and a free demonstration at 2 p.m. today in the Student Union's Great Hall.

The premiere of "Still/Here" is scheduled for September 1994 at the Lyons (France) Biennale. It has a similar theme of mortality in the face of terminal illness and of celebrating life instead of fearing death. His lecture will focus on this issue, which has special meaning to him.

Jones is HIV-positive and lost his companion of 17 years, Arnie Zane, to AIDS in 1988. In "Still/Here," he strives to transcribe these issues into an artistic vision and bring them to the stage.

Tickets are available for the performance at the Carolina Union Box Office. They are \$15 for the public, \$13.50 for senior citizens and \$8.50 for UNC students.

Call the box office at 962-1449 or the Union Information Desk at 962-2285 for details.



# Lab! Explores Four Generations of Family Problems

BY ALISON MAXWELL  
STAFF WRITER

"Daughters," Lab! Theatre's latest "hands-on" production, promises to be a truly "heartwarming, humorous, wonderful spectrum of emotion that absolutely anyone can relate to," according to senior director Joanna Buckner.

A contemporary play written by John Morgan Evans, "Daughters" is the story of five central Italian female characters and their ability or inability to deal with intense, often heartbreaking crises. Set in New York, the play unfolds within the single-set kitchen of Mom, portrayed by freshman Megan Martin. The play centers upon a veracious, genuine portrayal of human life and survival within the family.

"The dialogue is actually what you expect when you sit down to anyone's kitchen table, and the conversations give a won-

derful picture of how women hold themselves together in the face of crisis," Buckner explained.

Four generations of women, including Grandma (freshman Hilary Sparrow), Mom, Tessie (freshman Guillermina Molina), Patty Ann (junior Jenny Schwartz) and Cetta (junior Nicole Gibson), are seemingly burdened by a series of trying situations.

The woman first are faced by the doleful situation of Pop's (Mom's husband) cancer of the throat. Trying to decide whether or not to consent to the removal of Pop's voice box, the women debate the pros and cons of the operation while facing other life trials. Tessie, Mom and Pop's favorite daughter and also an intensely high-strung woman, discovers that her husband is having an affair. After this striking revelation, Tessie experiences a nervous breakdown and is admitted to a mental hospital.

While Tessie is recovering, 93-year-old Grandma passes away in her sleep. Meanwhile, Patti Ann, who often is put in the background during family discussions, as-

certainly that her husband also is having an affair. The final twist to this bizarre and complicated plot is 17-year-old Cetta's engagement to a 25-year-old lawyer.

Throughout the play's production, the audience will discover an underlying power struggle between Tessie and her daughter Cetta. Tessie, who lives with Mom until her death, always has been the central, domineering power figure. When Tessie breaks down mentally and is sent for recuperation, Cetta takes control of the family and decides to cancel Pop's throat surgery.

Gibson and Molina agree that "the confrontation between mother and daughter is the most enjoyable and intense scene in the play."

Although "Daughters" sounds like a morose version of a soap opera, the play promises to be a warm and humorous production, Buckner said. "The playwright finds a real-life kind of humor in the everyday situations presented. 'Daughters' is full of humor, but the real-life crisis situations will touch the audience."

Thematically, the play centers on a bond

of love that keeps the family firmly held together. The playwright is guaranteed to realize the importance of family relationships and learn that in the end any family actually can overcome adversity, Buckner said.

First-time director Buckner said the whole directing process "has been wonderful due to the great work of stage manager Josh Thompson, technical director Clara Campbell and producer Holly Derr."

Buckner stresses the importance of the entire cast's effort on the overall success and appeal of the production.

"Audiences are really going to like it because of the fantastic cast of women who have really connected with the characters and brought them to life," Buckner said.

"Everyone who views the play will come away from it having learned something," she said.

"Daughters" opens with a preview at 8 p.m. Saturday in the basement of Graham Memorial. Other performances will be at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday and at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Admission is free.

## TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

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**Men's Tennis - Rolex Region II Championship**  
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Sat. Nov. 6 - vs. Virginia - 2:00 pm  
Carmichael Auditorium

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# THANK YOU, TAR HEELS!

Dear faculty, students, and staff:

Your strong support of the University Improvement Bond issue in Tuesday's referendum will redound to the benefit of all who learn and work on our campus and all who live and work in our state for decades to come.

You have helped make possible:

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- ◆ more space for patient services, teaching, and research in our School of Dentistry.
- ◆ more room to study the causes of cancer and develop new treatments at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Research Center.

Other schools and departments needing space on campus will occupy facilities vacated by units gaining new structures.

Off campus, the Carolina Living and Learning Center for Autistic Adults will get new residential and service units, and our network of nine Area Health Education Centers across North Carolina will get much needed new space for training medical students and other health professionals.

All this will allow us to enhance the quality of our educational enterprise and the workplace environment for our faculty and staff.

I am pleased that so many of you joined with our friends all across North Carolina in authorizing state government to make this investment.

Thank you for your vision and your vote.

**Paul Hardin**  
Chancellor

This message paid for by North Carolinians for Our University, Our Future.

### PHARMACY

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did not reflect what was taught in class.

"A lot of students want to make sure he's fired," she said.

"Nobody can follow what goes on in class. He just puts up overheads."

The student said Smith had told the class he would not curve the grades.

In a telephone interview Thursday, Smith said that in the end there would be a curve. Smith said that he was unable to attend the meeting with the students because of prior commitments.

Pollack said that although Smith's teaching style was different from what the students were used to, he thought Smith used a valid educational approach.

Smith said he thought it was unusual that scores in other classes in the pharmacy school averaged in the 90s.

"Students are coming off of a honey-

moon period," Smith said.

"This is a required course, and it is usually not an easy course in the curriculum."

Smith said he taught a similar course at the University of Texas at Austin twice a year and found that the grades averaged from 60 to 70, but that it all evened out in the end with the curve.

Pollack said that in the pharmacy school, test scores typically were curved by taking the class average into consideration.

J.P. Grumbles, assistant to the dean of pharmacy school at the University of Texas, said the current dissatisfaction among UNC pharmacy students would give some indication as to why Smith left the University of Texas in July 1992, but was hesitant to discuss Smith's case in detail.

"It is an awkward situation that would be unwise to discuss," Grumbles said.

Smith said his reasons for leaving the University of Texas included the better research environment at UNC and a career opportunity for his wife in the Triangle.

William Campbell, dean of the UNC School of Pharmacy, said holding an open meeting for students to voice concerns was not an unusual occurrence at the school, because it provided an opportunity for communication.

### WEST

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Another element to valuable public communication is an all-embracing moral vision, he said. "An all-embracing moral vision is being able to say to your neighbor, 'What are you going through?'"

Self-critical, courageous stands — no matter how difficult — also are fundamental to public communication, he said.

Citizens need to be open to learning something every time they enter a conversation, he said. "When you enter a dialogue, you are one person, and when you leave it, you are slightly altered."

Finally, in order to reach a radical democracy, citizens must have a sense of audacious hope, West said.

"I come from a tradition of hope," he said. "(To act as fellow citizens,) we need hope that there's something else."

"Can we overcome the cynicism and pessimism?" West asked the audience.

"I think yes," he said. "(It's possible) with time, energy and people keeping alive the vision of hope."

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### Campus Calendar

**FRIDAY**

11 a.m. Carolina Union Activities Board will sponsor a lecture by choreographer Bill T. Jones in the Great Hall of the Student Union. There also will be a dance demonstration at 2 p.m.

Alpha Chi Sigma will hold a hot dog sale in Kenan Lobby.

6:15 p.m. N.C. Hillel will hold Shabbat services followed by a vegetarian dinner (\$5) and a guest speaker.

6:30 p.m. CUAB will sponsor a journey through Asia in Great Hall.

**SUNDAY**

8:30 a.m. N.C. Hillel will sponsor a hiking trip to Raven Rock State Park for graduate students. Meet at Hillel. Bring water and food.

10:30 a.m. Campus Christian Fellowship will hold worship at campus house.

7 p.m. Newman Catholic Student Center will have mass at Newman.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

The Rainforest Action Group will sell raffle tickets and T-shirts in the Pit today.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority will celebrate Founders' Week next week.

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