

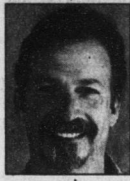
'Big Fish' author pens guide

Carrboro officials requested article

BY LAURA OLENIACZ
SENIOR WRITER

UNC professor Daniel Wallace spends most of his time making stuff up — writing fiction, that is. His first published piece came out in "Cellar Door." In 1998 he wrote "Big Fish," a story about a young boy and his imaginative father, which was adapted to film in 2003. But now he's getting back to his roots with "Getting to Know Carrboro — a Step-by-Step Guide," a piece he wrote in July about the ins and outs of the town. Laurie Paolicelli, executive director of the Chapel Hill Orange County Visitors Bureau, asked Wallace to write the article as a publicity stunt to bring in tourists. Wallace had written a similar article about Chapel Hill for "Delta-Sky Magazine," the airline's in-flight magazine. Paolicelli thought Wallace's big name and writing ability would bring national atten-

tion to the town. Paolicelli is shopping the 2,700-plus-word article around to similar publications while Wallace is awaiting the summer 2007 publication of his newest novel, "Mr. Sebastian and the Negro Magician." "We're in the process of pitching this Carrboro story to national media," Paolicelli said in an e-mail. "Because of Daniel's name, people are biting." And while Wallace spends most of his time writing fiction, the article about Carrboro is all fact. For example, Wallace points out that "opposites exist together in Carrboro." He writes, "New Age crystal-packing spinach eating sandals wearing peaceniks share the sidewalks with tobacco chewing coveralls wearing Sunday go to meeting farmers." And when these ideas seem a little extreme, he owns up to it. "I wish I knew if this were true," he writes about Carrboro's foreign policy. "It sounds true." Using his clever wit and sound knowledge of the town, Wallace covers everything from Carrboro's



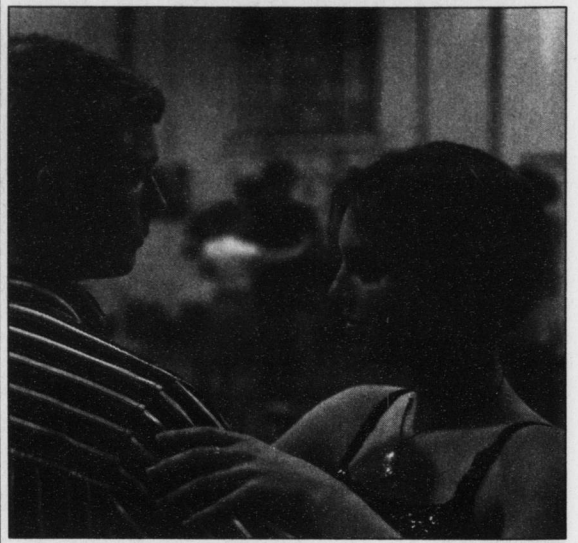
Author and UNC professor Daniel Wallace wrote a step-by-step guide to the town of Carrboro.

restaurant scene to its love of arts to its history. The point Wallace makes about Carrboro's past, as well as its up-and-coming future, is perhaps one of the more important aspects of the piece, he said. It started as a railroad depot in 1882 and went through a string of names that just highlighted its nearness to its sister city, Chapel Hill. Wallace's own history with Carrboro goes way back — he first moved to the area in 1982 as a student at UNC, transferring from Emory University in Atlanta. Wallace grew up in Birmingham, Ala., but he said going into any of his childhood would require a "Special Daniel Wallace Edition" that would take up all of The Daily Tar Heel. After living in the Chapel Hill-

Carrboro area on and off for about 20 years, he's been here to watch Carrboro grow and change. His second house in Carrboro was on Main Street two houses down from the PTA Thrift Shop. Eventually, he said, it was turned into a business, forcing him to leave. Later when he was looking for a job he got one in that same building, working in his old room as an office. Wallace said his experience living in Carrboro was key to the writing process for the article. For him, getting to know the town was like learning a foreign language: You can only really learn from the people who speak it. "Just from being a part of it, it's the only real way you can learn about it." And students can learn to speak Carrboro too. It's a great place for students to live because of the freedom of expression, Wallace said. "The spirit of Carrboro, even more so than Chapel Hill, is much more open to students."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE?



DTH/TIMOTHY REESE

Freshmen Jason Needham and Morgan Edwards attend the free dance lesson night of the Ball Room Dance Club and Team in the Women's Gym. The club meets every Monday night from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and is hosting a free salsa dance at 8 p.m. Friday in the Carmichael Ball Room.

DTH Deals

Club Nova Thrift Shop
Clothing, Books & Music, House & Kitchen, Gifts

Buy one item of clothing, get one item of equal or lesser value free with this ad!
One coupon per customer - \$10 maximum value.

Tues-Fri 10 AM-6 PM • Sat 10 AM-4 PM
(919) 967-6985 • 103 C West Main St., Carrboro
(Downtown Carrboro behind Wendy's)
www.clubnovashop.org

Club Nova promotes and provides opportunities for individuals living with mental illness to lead meaningful & productive lives of their choice in the community. Club Nova is a not-for-profit 501(c)3. All donations are tax-deductible.

PAINT THE EARTH
the paint-it-yourself ceramic studio

Fall Special
Bring this coupon & a friend in before October 10th & take
30% off studio fees
May not be combined with other offers.

Open Late Six Nights
316 W. Franklin Street • Chapel Hill • 968-0400 • www.painttheearth.com
Hours: Tues-Thurs noon-9pm; Fri noon-10pm; Sat 11am-10pm; Sun 1pm-7pm

LOW FAT • NO MSG

35
Chinese Restaurant
Chapel Hill

WITH UNC STUDENT ID GET
\$1 OFF
DINNER BUFFET!

35 Chinese has the best variety of Chinese food around. You can choose from over 50 items on our Super Buffet, or order from the extensive menu.

Lunch 11am-2:30pm
Friday/Saturday Dinner 4:30pm-10pm
Sunday-Thursday Dinner 4:30pm-9:30pm

University Square • 143 W. Franklin Street • Chapel Hill • 919.968.3488 • www.citysearch.com/rd/35

O2 FITNESS
A full service health club with discounted student rates.

\$0 Enrollment \$0 Processing

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AT SOUTHERN VILLAGE
919.942.6002

1.866.o2fitness(623.4863) • www.o2fitnessclubs.com
O2 Fitness ... Finally, Refreshing Fitness

The Agora
at Granville Towers

A Fresh Marketplace Approach to All-Inclusive Dining

You don't have to live here to eat here...
Come check out The Agora, Granville Towers' fabulous dining room!

\$1 OFF Lunch or Dinner!
EXPIRES 10/3/06

THE AGORA AT GRANVILLE TOWERS
University Square • 370-4599 • www.granvilletowers.com

Lowfat **Healthy Mex!** big.cheap.late.great

HEALTHY LOWFAT LATE NIGHT Cosmic Cantina
(It's what we do best!)

\$1 FF ANY ORDER OF \$5 OR MORE EXPIRES 10/2/06

\$2 FF ANY ORDER OF \$7 OR MORE EXPIRES 10/2/06

fat free salsa
fat free beans
low-fat rice

NOW healthy ment options

MENU SAMPLING:
various menu items..... \$2
old school veggie burrito..... 2
veggie burrito deluxe..... 4
chicken burrito..... 5
quesadilla..... 3
chicken quesadilla..... 4
...and more plus...
all mexican beers \$2 on Mondays

DURHAM: 286-1875
on 9th street and Perry street
across from the post office

CHAPEL HILL: 960-3955
across the street from the varsity theatre at
133 franklin street (at the end of the hill)