

Former baseball star Reto slowly walks toward recovery

By KIM ADAMS
DTH Staff Writer

When UNC baseball star Joe Reto was paralyzed in a car accident last July 26, doctors at N.C. Memorial Hospital gave him a one-in-a-million chance of ever walking again.

Reto has been walking regularly between parallel bars since December. Then Monday, for the first time, he walked with only the help of a metal walker.

"I can't believe how well I'm doing," Reto said. "They've guaranteed me that I'll be able to walk under my own power, and I hope I can by next January. I can move around on crutches now."

Reto is undergoing rehabilitation at the Kessler Institute in West Orange, N.J., which is close to his home in Brielle. He will be discharged by Valentine's Day and will become an out-patient, living at home and going in for rehabilitation three days a week.

Reto is neither bitter about the accident nor about the gloomy outlook given him in Chapel Hill. He's just grateful to the Kessler Institute, which he said was one of the finest therapy centers in the country.

For a week after his accident, Reto was in a coma. Then doctors at Memorial Hospital performed an operation to stabilize the area of the neck around the fracture. That's when they diagnosed almost certain permanent paralysis.

"When they opened me up in the operation, all they saw were a bunch of nerves," he said. "They didn't know which nerves were shot and which ones were intact. More of them were intact than they thought."

The prognosis was emotional for Reto and particularly for his older brother, Bob. Right after that first operation, a doctor told Bob his brother would never walk again.

"When I started moving my arms in Chapel Hill, they said I was an exception to the rule," Reto said. "When I started moving my legs, I became a total exception to the rule."

Dr. Richard Sullivan has been Reto's doctor at Kessler. He said the outlook was positive and that Reto was in good spirits, coping well with his situation.

"He's had the best solution to his depression — recovery," Sullivan said. "He has more strength in his right leg than in his left. He can move his ankles and toes in his right leg, but needs a brace for his left ankle."

"Lord knows what will happen, but the outlook is very good," Sullivan said. "But I don't think he'll be able to play baseball again."

Reto has no illusions of playing baseball again. In fact, he sounds more sure than his doctor that his playing days are over.

"Putting down sports isn't going to be easy for me when I start to walk," he said. "If you can walk, you can run — and if you can run, you can slide. But I know my baseball career is over."

Baseball is still constantly on his mind, however, and he'll be coming to Chapel Hill for the conference baseball tournament in April. UNC baseball coach Mike Roberts and former UNC star Scott Bradley keep in constant touch with Reto.

"Scotty B. is a great guy; I have the highest respect for him," Reto said. "He came in and told me that if this had happened to anyone else on the team, that he would have felt sorry for them. But he said he didn't feel sorry for me because I was such a flake."

"Then he winked and said that he did feel sorry, but that he knew I could do it."

Next semester, Reto will be returning to UNC to finish his degree. Nothing pleases him more. He said he would probably major in education and that he's also thinking about coaching.

Reto was perhaps one of Carolina's best all-time hitters. His 46 home runs in one season is the second highest total in UNC history.

"No. 1, I'm doing this for myself," he said. "But No. 1-A, I'm doing it for all the people in Chapel Hill. I can't wait to see all my friends. I never realized Carolina was so good until I came up here."

Reto's therapy includes lifting weights for his upper body. He said that when he first got to Kessler he couldn't lift very much, but now his upper body is back in shape.

"I went from weighing 190 to 152 pounds," he said. "Now I'm back up to 180 or 185. I 'pig-out' constantly here."

Reto said that there have been gains from his accident.

"I was a little distant from my mom and dad when I was in school," he said. "I would have been drafted

after my junior year, and I just wanted to blow school off and play pro ball, and my parents didn't want me to do that."

"We have really gotten close now, and they've been a tremendous inspiration to me," he said. "Now my dad tells me that he wouldn't have even minded if I had gone ahead and played baseball."

After having his neck brace removed a month ago, Reto has been struggling to walk. He said the effort was frustrating at first.

"It's tough, and my balance is for the birds," he said. "But a lot of people can't believe how well I've done."

"If my knees lock I can stand up fine. One time, I got my brother to stand me up behind my wheelchair at my house. My mother came in and spilled a glass of wine all over the shag carpet because she was so shocked. I can't believe she did that."

But Reto can talk now about all the obstacles he has overcome in the past five months. "The emotional side of this whole thing was a hard pill to swallow," he said.

"I was a little bitter at first, but then I realized that I wouldn't get better that way. You can't make everyone else miserable."

His goal for his return to Chapel Hill is simple.

"If I gave anyone enjoyment by watching me play baseball in Chapel Hill," he said, "then I want to give them enjoyment in watching me be able to walk again."



Joe Reto rounds third base ... says playing days over

Dialogue of director, playwright makes for important new movie

By TOM MOORE
Special to The Daily Tar Heel

My Dinner With Andre is an important work, but it's not really a movie, at least not in the conventional sense.

It's a slightly fictionalized dinner debate between Andre Gregory, the famous avant-garde theatre director, who once headed the Manhattan Theatre Project, and Wallace Shawn, the playwright and actor best known for his performance as Diane Keaton's ex-husband in *Manhattan*. They discuss how find meaning in life.

A thin story surrounds the exchange. Gregory, who directed Shawn's first play, wants to see the playwright after a few years' separation. The director dropped out of the theatre almost a decade earlier to search the world for meaning. Shawn has heard rumors, the most recent being that the director was seen running over the east side of New York and weeping over the line in Bergman's *Autumn Sonata*. "I could always live in my art, but never in my life," he fears that Gregory's sanity is not all it should be. But what Shawn finds at his dinner discussion both confirms and dispels such rumors.

Gregory tells him of his roamings through the forests of Poland, through India, through Scotland, through Tibet and through the Sahara. He tells of such things as eating sand with a Buddhist monk, of being buried alive and living among 40 people for a month when neither he nor they could speak a common language.

With his wild tales, Gregory, who looks like a sad-faced clown, a sort of intellectual Stan Laurel, makes a case for how stifling modern culture is, how affluence is slowly killing us all intellectually. He even goes so far as to call New York the perfect concentration camp, "where the inmates are the guards, and are unable to leave," and compares himself to Albert Speer, because both are designers of horrible cultures who think that the rules of ordinary men don't apply to them.

Gregory's views are those of a director

disenchanted with a dying theatre, who feels he must take his theatrical quest for meaning to every part of life.

Shawn takes the keen, analytical approach to life found in most writers. Throughout most of the tale he sits and listens with an obvious look of intrigue on his face. Then he slowly begins to rationally refute Gregory's argument. Shawn, who looks like sort of pudgy, balding and ugly elf, feels Gregory is too steeped in romanticism to realistically assess the world.

Shawn defends the comforts of modern life, such as the electric blanket. They don't cut us off from reality, as Gregory claims, but provide a little shield against a harsh world. Shawn, who presents himself as a sort of Everyman, says, "I'm just trying to earn a living. . . trying to pay my rent and my bills. . . I enjoy staying home. . . reading Charlton Heston's biography."

The debate ends in a draw. But for two hours, what seems like a hopeless idea for the cinema turns out to be fascinating. This is a high amount of wit and intellectual stimulation that the two actors bring to the script, distilled by Shawn and Gregory from about 100 hours of such intriguing dinner talk. Each is brilliant, articulate and able to hold an audience's full attention — not an easy task in a two-man confrontation that goes on for two hours. The skill of Gregory and Shawn as actors is further demonstrated by the fact that they are playing themselves, not as easy a task as it might seem, especially when they are trying to make old lines and thoughts sound completely new.

The brilliance of Gregory and Shawn is enhanced by the unobtrusive direction of Louis Malle, who in a few effects like street sounds of sirens and the background prancing of the waiter and bartender, but wisely doesn't flesh things out much more. He just lets Gregory and Shawn talk, and the result is the most intriguing time I've spent in the movie theatre in some time. *My Dinner With Andre* shouldn't be missed by anyone.

Now at the Carolina in downtown Durham. For more information call 688-1939.

Sports events changed

Times for two coming UNC sporting events have been changed.

The women's basketball game with Clemson scheduled for 3:30 p.m. today has been moved back to 3 p.m. The women's game and a subsequent men's junior varsity game must be completed in time for the 7:30 varsity start against Clemson.

A fencing meet scheduled at Ohio State University this weekend will be held Saturday, not Friday as incorrectly reported in *The Daily Tar Heel*. Tri-State and Illinois will participate in that match with Carolina and Ohio State.

Campus Calendar

Public service announcements must be turned into the box outside DTH offices in the Carolina Union by noon if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

The UNC Squash Club will hold its first meeting at 6 p.m. at the Squash Courts. All past members and those interested in joining should attend. All standards of play are welcome.

A meeting of AIS will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the International Student Center to discuss pot-luck dinner with AIS at Duke.

The Sports Club Council Candidates Forum has been changed to 6:15 p.m. in 222 Greenlaw.

Union Gallery Committee will meet at 4 p.m. in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge of the Union. Members who cannot attend call Nancy Bolish at 962-1157.

The IM Use it and Lose it Club will begin today at 5:30 and 6 p.m. Fetzor Gym C and will run Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from now on. For more info, call the IM office at 962-1006.

ECOS will meet to organize for Earth Day 1982 at 6:30 p.m. in the Union.

The Women Lacrosse Club's organization meeting is at 4:30

p.m. in 217 Union.

May Stevens, New York socialist/feminist artist, will give a slide talk on her work, "The Artist in Her Times," sponsored by the art department, at 8 p.m. at 115 Ackland.

An organizational meeting of the Wrestling Club will be held at 6:30 p.m. in Fetzor Gym wrestling room with Coach Bill Lam. All are welcome. If unable to attend, call 933-6148.

United Christian Fellowship General Body meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Upendo Lounge. Members are urged to attend.

Kenneth Thompson, Orange County manager, will lead a new series of short talks sponsored by the department of city and regional planning at 1 p.m. in 102 New East Building. The talk is on "Background Experiences of the Orange County Manager in Planning."

Anglican Student Fellowship Holy Communion is at 10 p.m. in the Chapel of the Cross. All are welcome.

The Ebony Readers/Orators Theatre will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Craze Rec. Room. Bring all play possibilities, and if you plan to perform in "Hello Blackness," attendance is mandatory along with 2 copies of your performance piece.

Dr. Eduardo Stein will speak on "How the Mass Media Inform about the Central American Region in the United States" at 2 p.m. in 307 Manning Hall.

The LDSA sponsors Institute at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Dey Hall. This is a scripture study and anyone is welcome to attend.

COMING EVENTS

The Campus Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration has been rescheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday in Great Hall of the Union. Dr. Prezell Robinson, president of St. Augustine will deliver the first annual lecture.

There will be an organizational meeting for all those interested in participating in the Campus Y Tutoring program this semester at 7 p.m. Thursday in 08 Peabody Hall. There will also be a meeting at 3:30 p.m. in 08 Peabody for those who cannot attend Thursday.

Pi Delta Phi, the French Honor Society, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the front foyer of Dey Hall. They will have short discussion of Jean Luc Godard then go to the 7 p.m. showing of his "The Weekend." They will then retire to the Phi in New East for refreshments. All French students are encouraged to attend.

The Poverty Action Committee of the Campus Y will have its first meeting of the semester at 4 p.m. Thursday in Jim Smiley's office of the Y Building. Plans for a placement service for student volunteers in social agencies will be discussed. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Women's Volleyball Club is meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in 303 Woolen Gym. If interested in playing this season please attend.

UNC Pre-Law Club's first meeting of the semester will be held at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in 217 Union. Plans for the semester will be discussed. All members please attend, interested students welcome.

Come to KaffeeKatch from 3 until 5 p.m. this Thursday at the Newman Center. Relax, warm up with a cup of coffee and speak German. All German speakers are welcome.

The International Center will host a guitar recital by Dr. Eduardo Stein. All interested persons are invited to attend the recital at 4 p.m. Thursday in the International Center.

AISSC Marketing and Fundraising Training Workshop general office orientation at 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the AISSC office in the International Center.

The UNC Squash Club will meet from 4-6 p.m. Thursday at the Squash Courts.

An organizational meeting of Campus Girl Scouts will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in 206 Union. For more information call 933-4296.

Campus Christian Fellowship will continue a Bible Study on Romans at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Union. Check Union desk for room number. Call 942-8952 for information. All are welcome.

Catholic Campus Ministry is holding a potluck dinner to bring friends together and discuss upcoming activities at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Newman/Catholic Student Center.

The Baptist Student Union will have a worship service at 5:45 p.m. Thursday at the Battle House.

The Christian Science Organization at UNC-CH will meet at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Union. All are welcome to attend.

The UNC Water Polo Club will have an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in 205 Union. Beginners and experienced men and women are all welcome to join in the "sport of the future."

Come and demand to be heard on housing and other matters at 9 p.m. Thursday in the Tague basement.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in the Union. Danny Lotz will speak. Bring your Bibles and have a good time. Mark Camacho will be there to smile.

The Aviation Society of UNC will hold an organizational meeting at 4 p.m. Friday in 102 New East. Plans for the semester will be discussed. All with an interest in aviation and airports are invited to attend.

Campus Y Dinner Discussion, potluck dinner and chamber music by a Student Ensemble at President Friday's home at 5:30 p.m. Friday. Please sign up at the Campus Y.

University Placement Services will have evening appointments available by pre-arrangement on Tuesday evenings. Contact the receptionist in 211 Hanes Hall, 962-6507 for an appointment.

Sign up this week in the Campus Y office to interview for Co-director of the 1982 Campus Y Freshman Camp.

University Counseling Center offers group programs to improve the quality of your life at Carolina. Topics include speech anxiety, assertion, time management, career planning, weight control, single-parenting. Drop by Nash Hall or call 962-2175 for more information or pre-registration.

The Cedar Door needs a business manager to finish this year. Send a letter, resume, and three letters of recommendation to Box 13, Union, by Jan. 29.

WYVC second annual 60's dance with Dan Greenfield and Ken Friedman will be from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m. Friday. Dress and dance contest. BYOB.

Representatives of the Work in Britain program will hold an informational meeting for all interested students at 3 p.m. Friday in 226 Union.

Chamber music by a student ensemble will be the Campus Y Dinner Discussion at 5:30 p.m. Friday. Please sign up at the Campus Y for this potluck.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Learn to Sail on a field study trip in the Bahamas in May. Slide show and information at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 in Fetzor Gym. For more information contact IM-REC Sports in 203 Woolen Gym or call 962-1153.

Application for the North Carolina State Government Internship Program is Feb. 12. Information and applications available at the Pre Career Experience Program, second floor Nash Hall.

Pre-Med/Pre-Dent/Pre-Vet students: Come to an interviewing skills workshop from 5-7 p.m. Monday. Be prepared for your professional school interviews. Sign up at 201-D Stude Building.

Intramurals: Lifetime Leisure Activities Program has resumed for spring semester. UNC students, faculty and staff members can attend these introductory clinics in 15 different activities.

Students who wish to vote by absentee ballot for the Feb. 9 election must present a written request to the Elections Board by 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 1 in Suite C.

SHE is out. Pick one up at the Union or the Library.

If you have signed up to volunteer at North Carolina Memorial Hospital this spring semester, don't forget the required orientation at 5 p.m. Thursday in the 4th floor Clinic Auditorium. You must attend the orientation in order to be a volunteer.

Cedar Door, UNC's student literary magazine, is accepting poetry, fiction and graphic submissions until Feb. 12 for the spring issue. Submission guidelines and drop box are near the Union desk. Questions: call 962-0373 or 967-9757.

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THE MEDIA BOARD will be interviewing editor/business manager teams for the **Carolina Quarterly, Cedar Door, Yackety Yack, and The Alchemist** on February 8 & 9. Candidates for these positions should submit an application, resume and three letters of recommendation to Box 13, Union by 5 p.m. February 4. Ask at the Union Desk for more information.

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