

N.C. Outdoors

Environmentally concerned hold exhibition

By CLINTON WEAVER
Staff Writer

Right now, there is probably only one place you can find a one-humped camel, a cluster of pine trees, an octopus and a pair of lumberjacks working a two-handed saw into a log. That place is the Raleigh Civic Center, host to the second annual N.C. Outdoors Exhibition.

More than 200 groups, with concerns ranging from conservation and environmental issues to selling trailers and encyclopedias, are participating in this year's show.

Though there are sidelights such as homemade fudge and balloon art, Expo '83 is designed to raise awareness about the state's natural sights.

"We try to give a slice of what's available all through outdoors North Carolina," said Mike Davis, director of public affairs for the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

It is a big slice. There is a large exhibit by the N.C. Zoo in Asheboro, complete with a llama, a pair of porcupines and other wild animals from all over the world.

Two large parrots, one blue and red, the other green and gold, chatter from a tree. Wild ducks swim in a marshy pond beneath a wooden bridge. A boa constrictor coils in the corner of its glass case.

It's like walking in a shadowy, green forest and wondering how the people made this recreation so realistic.

"We've got some real magicians," Davis said. Groups bringing the outdoors indoors include the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Eno River Group and other nonprofit public interest groups. State agencies such as the Department of Cultural Resources have also made contributions.

There are brochures, booths and representatives from various industries concerned with environmental issues such as water management and pollution problems.

One exhibit has headphones through which can be heard recorded sounds of waves breaking on the shore, sea gulls, hawks, elephants, folk music, people walking in the snow and other noises. The tape contains sounds from the coast to the piedmont to the mountains in offering a taste of the state.

Other exhibits offer the real thing. There are aquariums with crabs, turtles, clams and other sea creatures, which children are allowed to handle.

One boy holds a starfish in his hands gazing at its strangeness. Another child apprehensively touches the underside of a horseshoe crab and smiles, as the crab's many legs churn slowly in the air.

The exhibit from the U.S. Forestry Service consists of a condensed woodland area. Smokey the Bear stands outside the exhibit, which includes a secluded spot where people play bluegrass music on a wooden porch. Next door, a man builds a single-room log cabin using pine trees, an ax and a free other crude tools.

Off to the side, a woman makes paper from wood chips and water. Louise Norris, clerk, stenographer and secretary for the forestry service, strains the white mixture as people crowd around the table to watch. She presses it and lays it on a heat roller to dry.

"It's the exact same process they used 2,000 years ago," she said, "only they didn't have a press and steamer." A coarse, grainy sheet of paper is ready minutes later.

Other highlights include a log-rolling show in a large water tank and a log-sawing contest between a chain saw and a hand saw. The hand saw wins.

It may seem superfluous to have the outdoors brought indoors and to pay to see it. But the point of the show is not simply to point out the obvious, nor to make money. Concern for the environment and appreciation of it are the primary objectives for Outdoors North Carolina.

"Unless we protect and preserve our natural resources, we won't have any," Davis said. "Our message is: 'Enjoy what we have,' but we have got to be good stewards about it, otherwise we won't have it."

Most of the revenue from admissions goes to the civic center. "All this is being done, frankly, with no money," Davis said. "We just eek it out of the budget."

"What we receive is a great opportunity to inform and educate the public about our programs."

The exhibition runs through Sunday, March 27.

TV comedy pokes fun at programs

By MARY LEVENSON
Special to the DTH

Did Santa Claus make the proper career choice? Can a commercial be made half as dumb as a real commercial? Is public TV "full of it?" Will a hopeful young terrorist fare well in today's job market?

These are the questions that will be answered in the first episode of *BS Magazine*, a new TV comedy that will premiere on Durham's public access channel 8 p.m. today.

"It's a half-hour satire of *PM Magazine*," said show creator Patty Bily, a UNC graduate who lives in Chapel Hill. "We're aiming for a local *Saturday Night Live* effect," she said.

Bily, 23, an RTVMP graduate, combined the formats of *PM Magazine* and *Saturday Night Live* and added a heavy dose of satire to the comedy skits in the show.

In the first episode, TV news is the target of Bily's satire in the skit "Death of a Terrorist."

"If it weren't for television cameras, terrorism wouldn't exist," said Bily who wrote the skit.

"I've tried to combine those funny little gags that make you laugh with a satire that is pretty serious with a message," Bily said. Using satire "is the best way to bitch about anything."

The other skits in the first show satirize public television programming, housewives in commercials and money-grubbing Christmas shoppers.

"*BS Magazine* is all very weird," Bily said. In the second episode, Mr. and Mrs. Blah, Muffy, Brad, Captain Squint, and Joe Cop fight a killer vacuum cleaner in a spin-off on horror movies.

"With *The Shining*, *The Exorcist*, *Jaws*, and *Halloween* all mixed up into one 15-minute skit, it's got to be wild," Bily said.

In the third episode, "we're going on location in a big and bad way. We're going to downtown Chapel Hill during the lunch hour," Bily said, laughing.

Some of the skits may seem controversial. "That's what we're trying to do," Bily said. "Satire is a very sophisticated form of entertainment. There's no reason to be realistic if you get your point across," she said.

"There's no nudity and none of the seven dirty words... It's pretty calm stuff compared to what we could be doing," Bily said.

"There's not that much going on in television in general," Bily said, criticizing the mediocrity of television programming. "So anything you can get people involved in gets them pretty psyched," she said.

Bily, who spends more than 20 hours a week writing, filming and editing the show, said the most frustrating part of the television experience has been the "shoestring" budget she works with.

"Not being able to pay people is frustrating," she said. But Bily said she did not mind working for free. "There may not be pay as far as money is concerned," Bily said. "The pay is the viewers."

Actress Debra Duncan, a UNC sophomore, agrees. "The experience is worth it," she said. "If it helps my career, I don't mind not being paid." Duncan appears in the skit "Death of a Terrorist."

Bily said she opens auditions and jobs on the crew to anyone who is willing to dedicate time and enthusiasm to the show. "I've worked my butt off on the show," Bily said. "Our production is limited in many ways. But, I think we have the ham actors and enough to the show to make people laugh," she said.

As for the title *BS Magazine* — "It describes the show perfectly," Bily said. "So you pretty much know what you're getting."

The show will premiere on Durham cable Channel 8. Bily hopes the show will be aired on Village Cable in Chapel Hill soon.

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snow

Chapel Hill's flower ladies expressed concern about the weather's effects on plants. "If it freezes we're lost, we're just lost," Dorothy Farrington said. "We were afraid this was gonna happen in the spring of the year because we haven't had any winter."

The N.C. Highway Patrol Thursday afternoon reported no weather-related accidents in Orange County, but there were more than 50 accidents reported in the Troop C area, which

includes Wake, Durham and eight other counties east of Chapel Hill. Sgt. Cecil Wilkins of the highway patrol said the accidents were "mostly due to not being a defensive driver and not being alert out there on the snow and ice."

The Associated Press reports that elsewhere in the state, six inches fell in Polk County by 4 p.m. and in Charlotte an hour later — the largest accumulations then reported by the Na-

tional Weather service. Many areas were reporting 3 to 4 inches. Charlotte's forecast called for 8 to 10 inches by late Thursday night.

The mountains and northwest Piedmont reported traces while rain mixed with snow flurries hit eastern North Carolina. Snow fell as far east as Goldsboro, Fayetteville and Wilmington and tides up to 3 feet above normal were reported on southeast beaches.

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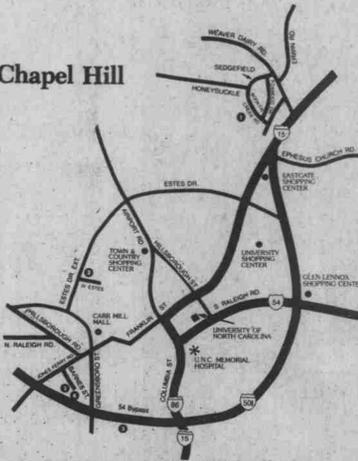
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