

Telling tales is her job

By KATHY HOPPER
Staff Writer

"Hey. Hey sky spirit. I want you to send me a rock," Louise Kessel said, as she contorted her face and gazed toward the heavens.

Kessel's face grew solemn, and in the thundering voice of the sky spirit, she said, "I'm too busy to give you a rock, old woman."

Kessel is a professional storyteller. She makes her living by telling stories to a wide range of audiences, including women's clubs, emotionally disturbed teen-agers, nursing homes and elementary school children.

She described storytelling as "a special kind of sharing event, because people are essential to storytelling, and I react with my audience. Storytelling is so simple, but it requires the audience to use their own imagination in order to make the story happen."

She said a desire to share is one quality a storyteller should possess and added, "You have to believe that the story is true whether it happened or not because the whole medium is belief."

There was no specific moment when she decided to become a storyteller.

"I just sort of got started. I got involved in creative writing and I also did street theater and performed as a clown," she said.

In 1978 Kessel began telling stories on the Hudson River sloop *Clearwater*. The boat, which traveled up and down the Hudson River, was used in environmental education programs.

Kessel later began volunteering to tell stories in elementary schools. In 1979, she developed a storytelling workshop and was hired by the Vermont State Depart-

ment of Education to conduct the workshop throughout Vermont. The workshop was designed to help teachers learn to tell stories.

Kessel is now back in Chapel Hill, where she grew up. She performs mostly at elementary schools, which pay her—usually with parent-teacher organization funds.

Kessel said she also enjoys telling stories to adults. "People think storytelling is for little kids, but adults are very responsive and can concentrate and some stories require this."

She said there has been a revival in storytelling and attributed this revival to adults' feeling that they missed out on storytelling in their childhood.

Kessel said she gets her material from a lot of different places. "I listen to other storytellers and read books."

Some of her stories explain natural phenomena in unusual ways. One explains that ocean tides are caused by an old woman who takes a rock from the bottom of the sea twice a day.

When asked how people respond when they find out her profession Kessel said, "People say, 'Yeah, but what do you do for a living?' A lot are surprised and some don't know what I mean. Others are delighted."

"I like storytelling because it's accessible; you're not on a pedestal. It's a way to communicate an idea. Stories aren't like a speech. It's a way to talk without pounding people in the head. It suggests things and lets people figure them out."

What are the storyteller's plans for the future?

Kessel said her idea of living happily ever after would be telling stories for the next 80 or 90 years.



DTH/Jeff Neuville

Storyteller Louise Kessel says she has to believe tales ... she sees storytelling as a type of sharing experience

Pilot acts as reporter

By TOM CAMACHO
Staff Writer

When Mike Allen, pilot of WRAL-TV's news helicopter SKY 5, arrives at work in the morning, he's never sure where his job will take him. Allen and SKY 5 are always on call, ready to speed to a breaking story anywhere in the state.

Last year in May, Allen and SKY 5 were called to the Cape Fear River near Lillington to help search for three lost boaters. The day before, the boaters had been kayaking when their boat overturned. Allen spotted them clinging to some bushes in the middle of the river where they had spent the night.

"I've been on many search and rescue missions in my life," Allen said. "Not all of them were successful. It was a real thrill for me to help save three lives."

At WRAL-TV, Allen is both a reporter and a pilot. He flies SKY 5 to a story, usually taking a photographer and sometimes a reporter from the news room with him. Allen works with the photographer to get pictures of the scene and then sends back reports giving the details of the story himself. Most of Allen's reports are given live from above the incident.

When WRAL-TV broadcasts a live report from SKY 5, Allen and several members of the news crew work together on the report. As SKY 5 and its crew race to a breaking story, engineers maintain a constant fix on the helicopter's position and frequency. Writers and reporters work to get information on the story and construct a coherent report for Allen to give. The director, producer, anchorman and Allen organize when and how the report will be given.

"The idea is to be as quick as we can in showing the viewer what is actually taking place," Allen said. "The helicopter gives us a great advantage. We can jump on stories faster than we could otherwise."

SKY 5 itself is a small, relatively light helicopter capable of flying as fast as 200 mph. When taking pictures for a story, it can fly as slow and as low as necessary to get a good picture, sometimes five to 10 feet from the tree tops. Due to its light weight, SKY 5 maneuvers well and is able to reach places other aircraft cannot.

"SKY 5 lets us show the viewer what is actually happening," Allen said. "We want to take you, the viewer, and put you in the cockpit with me."

Since it can reach a scene in a matter of minutes, SKY 5 can get pictures of the incident while it is happening. For example, a picture of a fire still in progress is much better than one of a smoldering building, taken two or three hours after the fire has been put out, Allen said.

In the case of a crisis like a fire, although getting the story is important, SKY 5's first and foremost duty is to serve the public, Allen said. In situations such as forest fires, floods and tornadoes, Allen and SKY 5 work with officials before getting pictures for the story. Last year, Allen and SKY 5 participated in nine search and rescue missions, finding seven victims.

Working with fire and police officials is nothing new for Allen. After learning to fly in the army, he worked for the California Parks Service fighting forest fires. Later he held the position of deputy sheriff, doing his police work from the air.

Allen, 35, came to work for WRAL-TV early in 1982.

"That (piloting for a television station) is what I've always wanted to do, because normally, flying helicopters is like a gypsy experience. You live and work here, and when this job is over with, you go somewhere else with another job, and it goes on like that," Allen said.

The idea of flying across the state to important events everyday appears very exciting. But Allen said that the excitement of the actually flying had gone away.

"I don't want to just fly helicopters anymore," Allen said. "That doesn't excite me. When you take off in a helicopter for the first time, it's a real thrill. But you see, I figure I've made over 32,000 take-offs and landings in a helicopter. The 32,001st takeoff and landing is no longer exciting."

Allen said he loved his job. "I think what motivates me is my desire to share my experiences with people," he said. "When I come upon an accident, say like a train wreck, I'm experiencing that train wreck. I feel my job is to share my experience of that train wreck with viewers."

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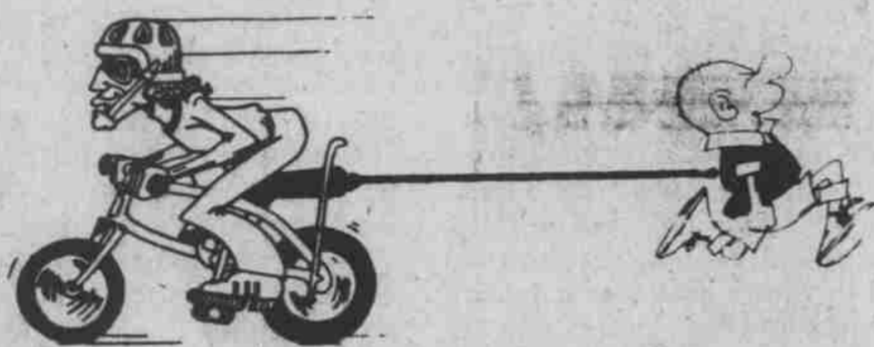
Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Relax...

Faster than any of us realize, the spring semester is coming to a close. But don't worry, the IM-Rec Program is going to take this semester down to the wire—there's plenty IM activities left to come.

For running enthusiasts, look for the Team Biathlon (formerly Ride and Tie) race and the Ersatz Boston Marathon. The Team Biathlon race scheduled for Sunday, April 10 beginning at 1:00 p.m., on the front steps of Woollen Gym. Associate IM Director Marty Pomerantz says strategy is the key to winning this race, which is a cross-country event that involves two people, a bicycle and 13 miles. Don't miss this chance to show how athletic you are, as well as how fast you can come up with a strategy to win.

While many lesser knowns are warming up for that run in Boston, Alberto Salazar and Frank Shorter will be leading the crew down here in Chapel Hill during the Ersatz Boston Marathon. Well, keeping with tradition, we don't really know if Salazar and Shorter will be here, because every runner in this marathon has to compete under an alias. Starting at high noon, come out for this 2.6 mile, 38.5 yard run.

Volleyball nuts have one more chance to take out their frustrations through bumps and spikes with the Volleyball Triples Tournament. In this favorite tourney, each match consists of three



Team Biathlon

games to 11 points and a 30 minute running time limit. The competition begins with one night of pool play followed by a single-elimination playoff.

If you want to stay outside in the warm weather, then compete in the Volleyball Triples Tourney at night and practice for the Frisbee Golf Tourney during the day. "The Frisbee Golf competition is set for next Friday over a scenic 18-hole course starting from the Fetzer Gym Country Club," says Rob Frye, assistant IM director and coordinator of the tourney. He added, "And you thought Sawgrass was hard." T-shirts will be awarded for both low gross and net score.

Residence hall units and fraternities should also keep their eyes on the point totals, as the Super Teams Invitational gets closer. In this battle of the point total powerhouses, the IM office extends invitations to the top four point total teams from the residence halls and fraternities to compete in softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis and cross country. The winning fraternity team will face the winning residence hall team in a tug-of-war on the last day of classes for T-shirts and the Super Teams plaque.

If, after all of this, you're not satisfied, try some racquetball and free-play basketball, or check out the outdoor pool, which opens soon.

Important Dates

Thursday, April 7—TONIGHT starting at 6:00 p.m. in Bowman Gray Pool, the IM-Rec Swim Meet starts. Event coordinator Michelle Langan says all contestants must be there at six on the dot or face disqualification. Drop by the pool if you get a chance; it's going to be a real exciting time.

Friday, April 8—Entries for the Team Biathlon (formerly Ride and Tie) race, Volleyball Triples and Frisbee Golf events must be in the IM office by 5:00 p.m. The spring semester is winding down fast, so get those entries in—this may be your last chance.

Sunday, April 10—Team Biathlon-race begins at 1:00 p.m. on the front steps of Woollen. See above for all the details.

Monday, April 11—Yes, here is your chance to run in an actual marathon—well, sort of. Compete under an alias in the Ersatz Boston Marathon starting at high noon on the front steps of Woollen.

Wednesday, April 13—Competition in the Volleyball Triples Tournament starts. The first round will be pool play followed by single elimination playoff. Be there.

Friday, April 15—Super Teams organizational meeting at 4:00 p.m. in 304 Woodlert. Teams will be contacted. The Frisbee Golf Tournament begins at 2:00 p.m. from The Fetzer Gym Country Club. Remem-

ber, you must play with someone who'll attest to your score. Softball playoff pairings will be posted outside the IM office—check out when you play.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thoughts while shaving: Mr. Weather just won't leave us alone. Under no conditions is anyone allowed on the Ehringhaus Fields—they're just about ruined. The bad weather has also pushed back the Grail Soccer season to April 18, and the Team Golf Tourney until April 21.

Just for the heck of it: Why not enter a logo in the IM-Rec search to find a logo that best fits the intramural program. If the IM staff picks your logo, you'll receive an IM T-shirt for your efforts.

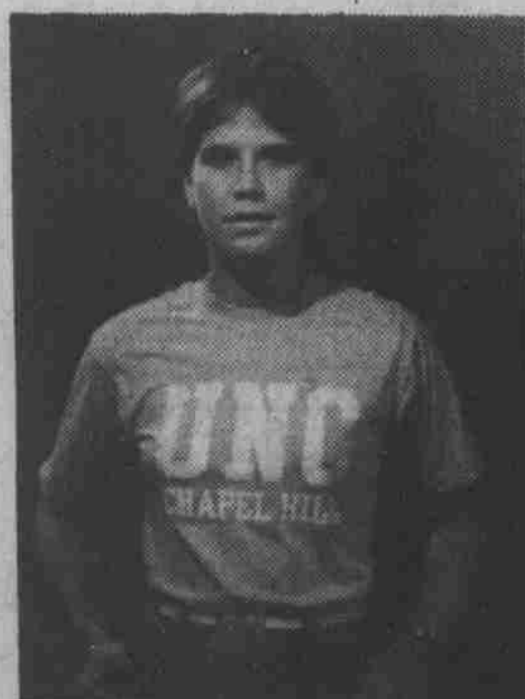
One More Time: The parking area adjacent to Carmichael Field #4 (next to the Institute of Government) is off-limits to IMers. You can get ticketed or towed! John Moore took Trivia Question #10; he correctly answered Tom Heinsohn of the Boston Celtics as the only NBA player to win both the Coach-of-the-Year honors and Rookie-of-the-Year honors. John now has two points toward his T-shirt.

Trivia Question #11: The last time the American League won two All-Star games in a row was before most of us were born—name those two years.

Softball Rankings

Residence Halls	30	Men's Recreation	40
Alexander Hit Men	30	Knock-Down Pitching Wedges	30
Lewis Sleehrats	20	Mustard Seeds	30
Mangum Madmen	20	Pittsburgh Pyrites	30
Teague A Bearded Clams	20	CW Snot Puppies	20
Fraternity		Grad/Faculty	
Kappa Psi Kiliowatts	50	MBA Base Invaders	30
DU Blue I	20	Dental Fishheads	30
Sigma Chi Master Batters	20	OB Experts	20
Kappa Psi Milliequivalents	31	Phuds	20
Independent		Co-Rec Competitive	
Refugees from Tin Top	30	Hooligans	20
Bud's Esso	30	The WDS	20
Main Coursers	30	Alex Co-Rec	10
Seniority System	30	Snaful	10
		Team Incaulguaire	10
Women's Recreation		Co-Rec Recreation	
KE Refills	20	Mustard Seeds	20
Kappa Diamond Girls	20	APO Hot Tickets	20
Lucky Ladies	20	APO Co-Operators	20
Women's Competitive		Wild Weasels	21
Parker	20	Pub People	32
Bad News	10		

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