

# Students assume power roles in city government simulation

By MARY LEVENSON  
Special to the DTH

At age 20, Dan Zachary is mayor of a city. Six of his peers are city councilors.

Joel Barrier, a UNC senior, is a police chief. Doug McKinney, a senior, is a city manager. Marilyn Ellison, a junior, is the president of a university.

In all, 51 students have new jobs as politicians and citizen representatives in Camelot, an imaginary city of 120,000 people. Their jobs are part of a five-week role-playing simulation of political decision-making that is being conducted by Robert E. Worden's urban government class.

In the simulation, students have assumed realistic roles as citizens of Camelot. The students on the city council abide by the rules of a city charter. Proposals are made and bills are debated and voted on as they would be in a real council meeting. Even the issues discussed by the council are realistic. The issues include the city budget, urban renewal and city growth rates.

"The simulation is an exercise in which the students take on roles commonly found in the political arena," Worden said. "It gives them the opportunity to see in a very concrete case many of the things we have been talking about in the abstract."

The students prepared for the simulation by

spending the first part of the semester studying how city governments operate and how people exercise political power.

"I think the simulation is helpful because it's realistic," Zachary said. "Camelot is filled with people who have different interests and different abilities to express those interests," he said.

As mayor of Camelot, Zachary has spent hours outside of class preparing for his role.

"I spent a very large bulk of time preparing for the first four of five sessions," Zachary said. "I was genuinely nervous and concerned because I wanted to have a well-run council meeting. I wanted to be fair. I wanted people to like me," he said. "I wanted to be knowledgeable of the issues."

Several of the councilmen have spent extra hours doing research on proposals and writing bills. Spending hours working on bills is one way the students' roles resemble the job of Chapel Hill's councilors.

"I'm absolutely flabbergasted at the time it takes to keep up with things you have to do," Winston Broadfoot, a Chapel Hill town councilor, said.

Broadfoot said he spends about 40 hours a week studying the council's agenda, doing research, reading memos, corresponding with constituents and keeping his files up to date.

Rory Young, a former councilor in the simulation, said preparation for meetings was essential.

People who know the issues and the rules of the game are the most successful, he said, noting his victory in defeating an urban renewal project by using a procedural rule that the other councilors weren't familiar with.

"I've learned a lot about the way city governments operate," Young said. "You learn where power rests."

Young, who lost his seat in a recall election, said the Camelot newspaper was one power that influenced his defeat. *The Camelot Daily News*, which is published three times a week for the simulation, criticized Young's character and effectiveness as a councilor.

"The newspaper editor is certainly giving us a good example of how the media interprets events," Worden said.

In the real world of politics, Broadfoot said the biggest disappointment in his political career is the negative attitude and lack of accuracy of the press.

"There's no such thing as an elected official being a friend with a member of the press," Broadfoot said. "They highlight news in a trivial way."

Broadfoot said he believes that the press over-emphasizes personality clashes instead of concentrating on the issues.

"Disagreements should be mentioned," he said. But, "you find quotations that are the most quotable, not the most informative."

Although the press has been an important factor

in the Camelot simulation, Broadfoot said the press has no influence on Chapel Hill's councilors.

"We ignore it," he said.

The simulation helps teach the student politicians how to interact with other councilors and constituents.

"If you want to be effective politically, you have to compromise," Zachary said. "If your ideologies aren't mainstream, it's harder to accomplish what you want without compromising."

"I realize now it's a lot harder to get anything done when there's such a wide range of interests and goals," he said.

As a city councilor in Camelot, Young said he learned an important lesson in politics.

"There's no way to please the people all the time," Young said. "The people elect you to do your job. I have my conscience to fight with — then you have the people's sentiment."

"When you're involved in the political process, you realize the give and take involved."

Young said he least expected the backlash from the citizens of Camelot when he took an unfavorable stand on an urban renewal project. Young, who played the role of a strong conservative councilor, took a stand on the issue and worked for that stand.

"I could point to a lot of things that Jesse Helms does," Young said, explaining that Helms takes a stand on issues and shows the people he's working

to get the job done.

"He's a very hard-core conservative," Young said of Helms. "Yet, when it comes to election time, he seems to always get the voters out."

Broadfoot has experienced some of the same political situations that the student councilors are learning about.

"The way to handle yourself while in office is to do that which will guarantee your re-election," Broadfoot said. He explained that thinking about re-election keeps politicians aware of their constituents and pushes them to do a good job.

"To look for re-election is a sound and ethical way to conduct yourself while in office. You run like hell every minute for re-election."

"You try to reach out and be agreeable," Broadfoot said. "But you don't let agreeableness be misunderstood to mean you agree...."

"A certain firmness is needed. You can't sit there and be nothing but agreeable."

He also said it is important for politicians to vote in a manner consistent with the beliefs that they express to their constituents. It's not a good idea to surprise voters, he said.

Worden said the simulation of city government's decision-making process is a favorite part of the urban government course.

"It's easy to talk about, but you only acquire an appreciation for how decisions are made when you become involved in the process," Worden said.

## 'Hothouse' show not convincing

By JO ELLEN MEEKINS  
Staff Writer

*Hothouse*, a production of the UNC Laboratory Theatre, was performed Monday and Tuesday in Graham Memorial Hall. The play tells the story of three generations of women under one roof who are trying to find happiness with men and with themselves. Although the play itself includes interesting characterizations and many hilarious lines, the production failed to be convincing.

Ashley Dimmette had a few good moments as Roz Duncan, a young mother who still wants to curl up in her mother's lap and be a little girl again. Roz's teen-age daughter Jody was played by Dina Kaler, whose performance steadily improved throughout the show. The pairing of Dimmette and Kaler as mother and daughter was excellent because of their physical resemblance. In contrast, Alton W. Parker Jr. as Jack Duncan was not convincing due to his somewhat immature portrayal of a character who,

before his entrance, is depicted as strong and manly by other characters.

J.M. Fitzgerald III was a little stiff as David Gordon, a stereotypical "college man" who falls in love with Jody but cannot win her away from the "hothouse." Allison Heartinger as Ma Sweetlove had some hilarious lines, but her young lover Banty (David Collier) was hilarious himself, as was the drunken Andy (Jonas Rollett). Penny A. Hager as Doll Jensen was — appropriately — sickly sweet as Roz's "best friend," who tries to steal Jack and testify against Roz in divorce court.

*Hothouse* deals with many controversial themes, such as incest, premarital sex, extramarital affairs, spouse abuse and abortion. The characters are victims of war, poverty and unfortunate living conditions. However, the emotions of these desperate and helpless people were generally not very convincingly portrayed by the cast.

*We do it daily The Daily Tar Heel*

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received unauthorized aid from another student on a Psychology 30 project	UC	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	
cheated on a Philosophy 20 exam	UC	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	
cheated on Philosophy 22 correspondence course assignments	AHO	Guilty	Guilty	Suspension not to terminate before 9 August 1983; F in Philosophy 22
plagiarized History 201 final exam	GC	Not Guilty	Guilty	Suspension - one semester and two summer sessions; F in History 201 UHB dismissed case on basis of insufficient evidence
furnished false information to University official with intent to deceive (false class absence excuse)	UC	Guilty	Guilty	Probation not to end before 21 December 1983
cheated on Math 22 exam	UC	Not Guilty	Not Guilty	
furnished false information with intent to deceive to University Housing official	AHO	Guilty	Guilty	Censure

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