

Speakeasy: What do you think about the Helms-Hunt race?



David Wood

Who do you think will win the North Carolina Senate race between Jesse Helms and Jim Hunt and what effect will that have on the state and country?

David Wood, freshman, Nashville: "Hunt. A slight tax increase, I would think. I think the youth will go with Hunt due to Helms' extreme right-wing policies. I think people are scared. I know I am."

Kris Combs, graduate student, New York: "I don't know. If Hunt wins it will



Kris Combs

give the country an indication of who dominates the state. Hunt will show we are a progressive state. Helms will show high-handed dictation of morals."

Traci Bingham, freshman, Brevard: "Helms. He will support Reagan's policies. He will be a benefit to the state. He is a lot better than Hunt."

Beverly Shepard, third-year law student, Jacksonville: "Helms. We're in bad enough shape



Traci Bingham

could only get worse."

Joseph Cima, math professor: "I don't know. This election is probably one of the biggest indicators in the country where the issues are so highlighted."

Roger Smith, part-time student, Orange Grove: "I don't really know. If Hunt wins there will be a few changes. If Helms wins there will be no changes."

Speakeasy compiled by Cathy Kury. Photos by Jamie Moncrief.



Roger Smith



Joseph Cima



Beverly Shepard

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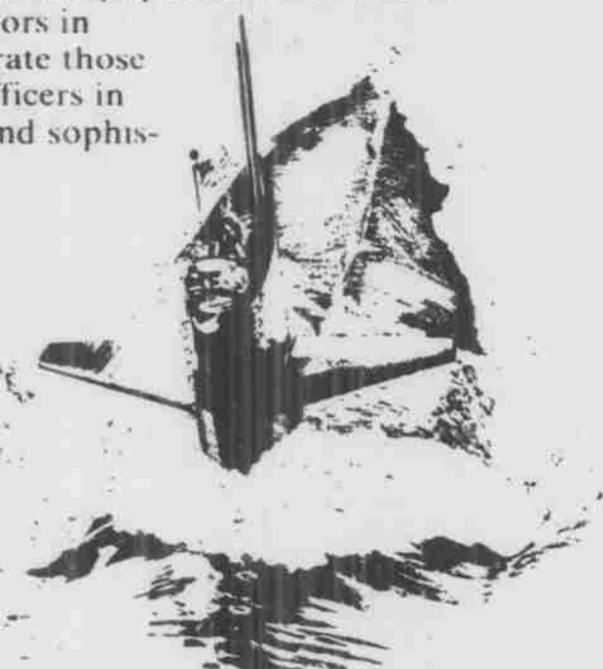
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One-act French play premieres

By FRANK BRUNI
Staff Writer

When *Le Passeport*, a one-act play by French playwright Pierre Bourgeade, is performed at UNC today, it will be a landmark in many senses.

It will stand as one of the rare cases in which a campus production has been performed in a foreign language. It will mark the American premiere of a play that debuted in Paris only last February. And it will bring Bourgeade, a renowned French novelist and playwright, to UNC for post-play discussions.

Director Karine Shoulars, a UNC Ph.D. candidate in French, saw the premiere of *Le Passeport* and met Bourgeade while on an exchange teaching fellowship in Paris last year. Bourgeade has written over a dozen plays, and his most recent novel, *Les Serpents*, was the runner-up last year for the Prix Goncourt, the French equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. *Le Passeport* depicts the confrontation between a Soviet government official and a peasant woman who dreams of crossing the Russian border into Poland to join her dead sister's family.

"I liked the play very much because it... was extremely dramatically intense," Shoulars said. "It's a fine example of contemporary French style because it's both comic and tragic." This seemed to Shoulars an especially good reason to stage *Le Passeport* upon her return to UNC.

While still in Paris, she received from Bourgeade not only a copy of the text

and permission to perform it, but also, to her surprise and delight, his promise of a visit synchronized with the play's performance. She immediately began to think about fellow graduate students to fill the two demanding roles.

"I've always been able to look at a student's personality and tell if he would be a good actor," Shoulars said. Indeed, the first people who came to her mind when she was in France, Ph.D. candidates Bill Allen and Mari O'Brien, eagerly accepted the challenge early this fall and bring to their roles previous experience in theatre.

Allen, who has studied and taught French at UNC for five years and now coordinates the program for French 3, has performed in myriad productions in Raleigh and Fayetteville. His work in a Fort Bragg presentation of *Equus* won him a regional theatre award. Allen is writing his dissertation, and the flexibility of his schedule has allowed him time for daily rehearsals which began Oct. 1.

"I'm hoping the play will bring a lot

of excitement to the department," Allen said.

So is O'Brien, a student of comparative literature who sees the play as an opportunity for herself, Allen and Shoulars to get out of the "rut" in which graduate students often find themselves.

O'Brien is nervous about her performance in *Le Passeport*. "This is a tremendously challenging role because there's only two characters and that's a pretty intense situation," she said. "I just don't want to disappoint Bourgeade."

All agree, however, that the phenomenal opportunity this production provides for students of French is far more important than Bourgeade's reaction.

Shoulars said, "There is a need for people studying any foreign language to see that language in use outside the classroom."

Le Passeport will be performed at 4 and 8 p.m. today in Playmakers Theatre. English synopses of the play will be available.

Let's Active plays Brewery tonight

By EDDIE HUFFMAN
Staff Writer

A local legend will appear in the Triangle area tonight. Let's Active, a band led by producer whiz-kid Mitch Easter, will play two shows at the Brewery in Raleigh.

Let's Active formed in 1981 under the guiding hand of Easter, producer of such pop notables as R.E.M. Easter attended UNC in the early '70s and has been a musician since he was in junior high school in Winston-Salem.

"I've been playing guitar since 1967," Easter said in a telephone interview. "I've been in a lot of bands: the Sneakers (with Chris Stamey), the H-Bombs — they were sort of semi-legendary in Chapel Hill. Then I was in a couple of New York bands: the Cyclones and the Crackers."

Jay Peck, a former Cracker, joins Let's Active tonight, in fact, replacing drummer Sara Romweber. Additional guitar and keyboard support will be provided by Tim Lee, a member of the Windbreakers. Easter and founding

bassist Faye Hunter complete the lineup.

"This is the world debut of this lineup," Easter said. "We've been working really hard to get things together in the past couple of weeks. We've worked up just about all the songs the band has recorded. In fact, this version of the band has more songs than we've ever had before. I'm real excited about that."

Tonight's shows, the only ones in North Carolina, are the first on a nationwide tour.

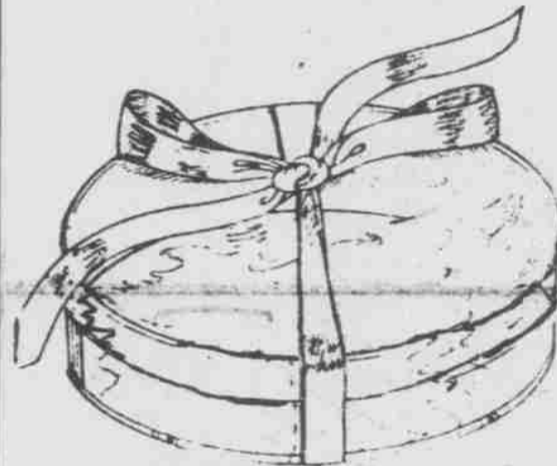
Let's Active has released two records, *afoot*, a six-song EP, and *Cypress*, a full-scale album.

"The EP was sort of purposefully light," Easter explained. "Everybody said the other stuff I'd done was too heavy. On the album, we did more of what we wanted to. We tried to go by instinct and not really plan what we were going to do."

Let's Active will perform at 8 and 11 p.m. at The Brewery. Call 942-5273 for ticket information.

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