



Artist Nancy S. Brown

DTH/Dan Charlson

Local artist works to shape chaos

By KARA V. DONALDSON
Staff Writer

Some people view or appreciate art. But for Nancy Brown, it's almost metaphysical.

"Art is so many things for me; an awakening of spirit and thought processes. It's about magic and spirit," she said. "Part of what makes us human is our creative urge, beyond biological creation. It's one of the good things about being human."

Brown has been responding to her creative urge all her life. When a child in Ohio, a family friend taught her to paint with oils.

"Mrs. Pereyma was a Polish immigrant. Her art was sort of folk art and abstract expressionist," Brown said. "She worked with shaped canvas, with a sense of object."

Brown moved to Chapel Hill during high school. She returned to Ohio to attend the Cleveland Institute of Art, where she discovered her interest in

sculpture.

"In the first class we worked on the figure. We would build it up from clay and then tear it down. The thing was, everybody's model looked like their own body. It made me think, maybe I'm not seeing anything, it's all so tied up in my own space."

Brown, who has shaped wood, metals and plaster, said sculptures are drawings in space that are put together to show volume. Brown's master's thesis addressed sculpture.

Brown graduated in 1978, returned to Chapel Hill and took a five year break from her art. She became a cook at La Residence restaurant.

"It was fairly creative. The menu changed every day, and I got to experiment and write recipes," Brown said. "I have no lack of ideas now. I thought about art the whole time. It wasn't wasted."

Brown began drawing again nine months ago and is working with pastels. "My art is juxtaposition; finding sense in chaos. It has an abstract base where recognizable objects show up to make some sense for me of that space," she said. "My drawings are built, too, the way my sculpture is. Things are placed not merged."

"I am working with images, both figuratively and dimensionally, so that art can augment my introspection into feelings and life around me. The blank paper acts as a catalyst for my inner logic; the finished work as a debate between structure and chaos."

Brown's sculpture and drawings are displayed in the Chapel Hill area. In 1985 she had drawings in "Through Women's Eyes: 23 Artists at La Residence," and her exhibit at Crook's Corner Cafe in Carrboro ended on Feb. 9.

Peg Palmer of the Ninth Street Gallery noticed Brown's work at the cafe. The pieces are now on display in the Durham gallery.

"Starting out again after five years," Brown said, "I have gotten myself out and about. I realized that the more I worked on these drawings that I couldn't work full time. I work part time now."

"It's not realistic to think you can support yourself with making art," Brown added. "But, I would keep making art whether it supported me or not."

Brown's artwork is also displayed at Cameron Craft Gallery in the University Mall, Chapel Hill.

'Wildcats' raises major issues but relies on Goldie's cute looks to resolve them

Garret Weyr
Cinema

Goldie Hawn is cute. She has a cute little body and short cute blond hair. She could give Mary Tyler Moore a run for her money when it comes to cute smiles. She is not, however, as cute as Richard Gere is beautiful, and therefore has even more trouble carrying a movie, especially one about a high school football team entitled *Wildcats*.

The school is in one of Chicago's worst ghettos, and cute, white Goldie Hawn in mean, black Central High is what is supposed to make this movie funny. It doesn't.

At best, *Wildcats* is a bore. At worst, it's offensive. The movie raises issues such as racism, sexism, single parenthood, and personal independence but never delves into them, preferring to go with Goldie's very cute face and tousled hair.

Hawn plays a divorced mother of two with a life-long passion for coaching football. The head coach at the high school where she teaches girls' track is a man. A man is not a cool thing to be in this movie unless he is black and tough. This man screws Hawn over and will not hire her to coach even J.V. football at nice, white Prescott High

School. Instead he sends her over to mean, black Central High to save their irredeemable football team.

She wins the players' respect by being able to run farther than any of them — very believable. She has them doing what looks like aerobics on the field — even more believable.

Then the movie gets into Hawn's personal life. Her ex-husband barges into her bathroom while she is taking a shower and tells her that her new job is ridiculous. His new wife is in the kitchen smiling while he talks to a naked Hawn — right. Hawn tells him, "I want my opinions to be my opinions, not yours." One guesses this is a theme, but it is hard to figure out what she is talking about.

Divorced mothers face horrific problems: inadequate support payments, guilt, and serious psychological disturbances in their children, to name a few.

The film's trivialization and simplification of them is outrageous. Hawn's big problem is that her daughter dyes her hair pink when Mommy comes home too late to cook dinner.

The ex-husband, claiming that his wife's new job is damaging his daughters' morality, slaps Hawn with a custody suit. He may have a point, if racism is one of his concerns. The team members are typical racist stereotypes; even the cheerleaders are down-home mamas.

What is this movie trying to say? Hawn doesn't really redeem the boys on her team, and the men in her life are still awful and white.

Fortunately, several supporting actors turn in interesting performances. Swoosie Kurtz is her usual good self as Hawn's sister. Nipsy Russell, who plays Central High's principal, has an appealing spicy quality.

There is nothing really wrong with Hawn's acting. It's just that since *Private Benjamin*, it has been impossible to take her seriously. And for a comedienne, *Wildcats* is just not funny enough.

Snowbound cast in diner reaches out in 'Bus Stop'

By MARY HAMILTON
Staff Writer

Eight undergraduates will present a "slice of life" in the department of dramatic art's production of William Inge's classic play *Bus Stop*, February 26 through March 2, in Playmaker's Theatre.

Bus Stop is virtually straightforward according to director Craig Turner, PlayMaker's Company Movement Coach. The play is cast in a small diner located in a tiny town 30 miles west of Kansas City. The diner serves as a "bus stop" for passengers on a bus which is delayed overnight by a blizzard. During the night, four passengers reveal their dreams and hopes and attempt to work out their individual lives.

Cherie, the backwoods singer, dreams of stardom and a man to love her. Bo is the untamed cowboy determined to win Cherie's love. Virgil, Bo's friend and fellow ranch hand, must determine if he is going to return with Bo. Former college professor Dr. Lyman is a cynic and an alcoholic desperately searching for hope and meaning in his life.

The play is "a story about people trying to reach out beyond themselves," according to Turner. "It is a story about people trying to find their own piece of happiness — what we are all looking for," he said. "*Bus Stop* is real in the sense of theatrical realism."

This is Turner's first time directing

Bus Stop; however, he has directed a number of other university productions and summer stock, including *Dark of The Moon*, *Rainmaker*, *Journey's End* and *Billy Budd*.

In an interview, Turner said he chose *Bus Stop* because he "wanted to get a play that the undergraduates could deal with and handle." However, he feels he has given them enough challenge individually, while enabling them to work together as a group since characters are constantly on stage.

Not all of the performers have acted before. "It is fun seeing people who have had experience and some that haven't," Turner said. "It has been a remarkable experience. They are so full of energy, enthusiasm and have a willingness to

do things. They are all really excited about learning."

David Randy Craig, a psychology and RTVMP major, said he decided to take the part of Dr. Lyman because he had some extra time and some high school acting experience. Craig and the entire cast have been rehearsing three hours a day since the first day of class in January. It has all been worthwhile for Craig, however, for he feels it has been therapeutic. "You find out a lot of things about your character that you can apply to your own person," he said.

Bus Stop will be performed by the department of dramatic art Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.

Highway to be named for woman

A 12-mile segment of Interstate 40 in Orange County will become the first major North Carolina highway named for a woman when it is dedicated to Harriet Morehead Berry on Thursday.

The Harriet Morehead Berry Freeway will be the stretch of the interstate from U.S. 15/501 to Interstate 85, and will be completed in 1988.

Berry, a longtime Chapel Hill resident who died in 1940, was dubbed the "Mother of Good Roads" for her effort in pushing legislation which created the

State Highway Commission in 1921. She was a director of the North Carolina Good Roads Association between 1919 and 1921.

A special construction site dedication will be held by the Orange County Commission for Women at 11:15 a.m. on March 6 at the intersection of I-40 and N.C. Highway 86. A luncheon will follow at noon at the Colonial Inn in Hillsborough.

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