

Energy Department builds billion-dollar Super Collider

By CLAY THORP
Staff Writer

In the world of technology, high-level machines are a dime a dozen, but only once in a while does a machine with the magnitude of a particle accelerator come along.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is currently holding a competition to decide where to put the \$4.4 billion Super-conducting Super Collider (SSC).

The SSC, a highly advanced particle accelerator, is said to be the most powerful device of its kind in the world, said Dr. Eugen Merzbacher, a Kenan Professor of physics at UNC.

Merzbacher said the SSC is very useful for high energy physics. "New particles can be created" with such a powerful machine, he said.

Merzbacher said that the SSC works by ejecting two subatomic particles in the opposite direction in order to have a reaction occur when the particles collide.

"The reason that one wants to make particles collide with one another with equal speed in the opposite direction is that the effective energy that becomes available is enormously increased over what it would be if particles of the same energy hit a stationary target," Merzbacher said.

To be effective, the magnets used must be super-conducting (extremely cold) so that they can hold the particles within their 60 mile ring, he said.

The DOE must receive location proposals from states by August of this year, said Dr. Patricia Poteat, deputy director of the North Carolina Board of Science and Technology and North Carolina's project coordinator for the SSC.

She said that the DOE will narrow the field to three to six states within the next 18 months, and a selection of a preferred site will be made in July 1988. The official site selection will be made in December 1988 or

January 1989 after geological tests have been run on the preferred site.

"North Carolina has a fairly good chance of making the short list of applicants (in the competition)," said Jasper D. Memory, vice president for research of the UNC General Administration.

The August deadline for applications announced in a recent DOE press conference is a handicap for North Carolina because the new date is earlier than the December deadline that the state's project was scheduled for, Poteat said. "By setting such a tight time table, the Department of Energy has, in effect, given a certain advantage to perhaps three or four

states." She said that North Carolina is better prepared than all the states except Illinois, Texas, California and Colorado, because those states have already run geological tests on their land.

The front-runner is probably Illinois, because the state contains the Fermilab, which is currently the most powerful accelerator in the world, Memory said.

The advanced deadline will make the proposal more expensive for North Carolina because geological tests must be expedited, Poteat said.

From a geological standpoint, North Carolina is probably the best

entry. Colorado is also a geologically sound applicant. Poteat said that Illinois and Texas have "bad geology," and California is notorious for earthquakes.

"North Carolina is serious enough about it (the competition) so that they are considering spending \$1 million or more to prepare a proposal for siting in North Carolina," said Robert Potter, manager of information services for the North Carolina Science and Technology Research Center.

Poteat said, officially the state legislature has appropriated \$875 thousand for the proposal project.

Camper Van Beethoven goes into 'overdrive' at Cat's Cradle

They were worth it. Going to see Camper Van Beethoven at Cat's Cradle Tuesday night was worth trekking across glacier-like Chapel Hill while risking life and a bruise on the bum.

The band also risked their lives by driving from Norfolk, Va., in a Volvo station wagon that was pulling their equipment in a U-Haul trailer.

If two groups of people are going to put so much effort into getting

James Burrus
Concert

to one place, then they are both going to expect a reward once they reach their destination.

The rewards at the end of the trail were plentiful. Everyone was rewarded and no one disappointed.

A crowd of about 200 greeted Camper Van Beethoven at the Cradle (certainly an astonishing number considering the conditions). In return, Camper Van Beethoven put on a great show.

It wasn't one of those head banger concerts that really rock. That's not Camper Van Beethoven's style. Instead, it was a laid-back moody show that nonetheless was good.

Camper Van Beethoven only

played a little longer than an hour, tossing into that time frame such songs as, "Joe Stalin's Cadillac," "Take the Skinheads Bowling," and "Shut Us Down."

The best song of the evening, though, was a rendition of Pink Floyd's "Interstellar Overdrive" that was so good it made you want to crawl to the corner of the room and slowly go insane. It was that moody. The various fiddle effects, espe-

cially the psychedelic ones, produced by Jonathan Segel were original, weird and the musical highlight of the show. David Lowery's vocals were clear and simple. Bassist Victor Krummacker, with his long black side burns, should try out for the part of Michael Nesmith on the New Monkees television show. The other two band members, Greg Lisher and Chris Molla, were content to hang loose in the back.

Perhaps more than the music, though, was the band's interaction with the audience that really made the show fun. In their laid-back, mellow mood, Camper greeted hecklers, asked trivia questions and joked with the audience all through the night. The band's sincerity and warmth with the crowd was definitely a big part of the evening's charm.

Whether Camper Van Beethoven can increase their popularity with their humorous songs is still up in the air. However, the band's down-to-earth comedy will certainly keep them at cult status for a little while and make them a great attraction in cozy clubs.

Opening for Camper Van Beethoven was Contocook Linne, from Richmond, Va. They named themselves after an Indian trail near their hometown. Contocook Linne did some recording in Chapel Hill last fall and are hoping their EP will be picked up by a record company this spring. Judging from their performance at the Cradle, the EP is worth searching for.

Looking back, there's no doubt Camper Van Beethoven and even Contocook Linne were worth risking a bruised bum.

Mexican food to arrive on Franklin Street soon

By BRIAN LONG
Staff Writer

As rumored a few months ago, Taco Bell is coming to Chapel Hill to occupy the space left vacant by Revco Discount Drug Centers last Fall. The question is when.

Spero Dorton, owner of the building that Taco Bell will occupy on Franklin Street, said one reason

it is taking so long for Taco Bell to move in is that remodeling must occur before the restaurant can open.

"(Taco Bell) is involved with architects, plumbers and electricians," he said. "They're going from A to Z... and practically remodeling the building."

Dorton said Taco Bell originally intended to open by March, but it will probably be April or early May before the restaurant opens.

"There haven't been any problems that I know of," Dorton said. "It's just a complicated thing (when you open a restaurant)."

A secretary at Taco Bell's area office in Greensboro said no definite opening date has been set as of yet. She did say that a decision on the opening will probably be made within the next month.

Chapel Hill Appearance Commission member Arthur Jackson said there have been no major problems with Taco Bell's sign and building plans. "They presented their plan to us last month, and we asked them

to make a few changes," he said. "They agreed to the changes at the meeting."

According to Jackson, the changes centered around Taco Bell's sign and the entrance to the restaurant. "We suggested that they use the

minimal lighting needed to make their sign visible," he said. "We also looked at the Mexican tile they use for the entrance to the restaurant and asked that they use a more subtle tile. We issued them a permit based on these changes."

Shakespeare company returns to UNC

By RENE MEYER
Special to the DTH

The last time the actors from the Royal Shakespeare Company came to UNC, it was an event that anglophiles and indifferents alike raved about. Much to the delight of those who missed the last go-round, five London actors are on campus this week exploring the interpretation possibilities of Shakespeare in classes, doing poetry readings and culminating their visit with performances of "The Tempest" and "Pinter This Evening."

The London actors have been collected by ACTER (the Alliance for Creative Theater, Education and Research) from the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theater and BBC Shakespeare Series.

Bruce Alexander, who will be

portraying Caliban, Gonzalo and Juno in "The Tempest," explained that the Royal Shakespeare Company was created under a Royal Charter "to perform and promote Shakespeare in England and is supported by money from the Arts Council." There are a number of theaters which are part of the RSC in London and Stadford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, including mainstages and smaller theaters for experimental work.

"Sure, the common plays come around on a regular basis," Alexander said, "but they also change the productions a lot. Shakespeare is so rich, there's really no right way to do it." Sometimes a production will be unsuccessful when there is change for change's sake, he said, but essentially the company has an obligation not only to perform but

to keep the works vital.

The amount of time needed for preparation is a major difference between acting in England and in the U.S., according to Tom Minnion, another member of the traveling troupe. "We tend to have really short rehearsal periods compared to most stage productions," he said.

He added that microphones were also a major difference. In one production that he saw in New York, the actors' voices faded in and out as they moved past the microphones on stage. He clarified that the troupe never uses microphones in England or while traveling.

With only five actors to cover the 12 roles in "The Tempest," it is clear that each actor has to take on a number of roles. Alexander said it was a challenge that enticed him and most of the others to do the tour. Sara Berger, who plays Miranda, the only female role in the production, also plays the spirit Ariel.

Tom Mannion will play Ferdinand, the prince of Naples, as well as Sebastian, the king's brother, and Trinculo, an inebriated jester. Geroge Raistrick will perform as Alonso, King of Naples, the drunk-

ard Stephano, and the spirit Iris. Prospero will be played by Trevor Baxter.

All of the actors have worked in various media beyond their stage work, from television to radio. Mannion can be seen in the film "Return of the Jedi." Baxter has appeared in some 17 British Television productions, and both Raistrick and Berger have been on episodes of "Dr. Who." to mention a few of their credits.

Involving minimal props, the Pinter production will be a reading from Harold Pinter's plays including "The Birthday Party," "The Caretaker," and "The Dumbwaiter."

The Carolina Union and the Department of English are sponsoring this not-to-be-missed opportunity to experience Shakespeare and Pinter performed by top-quality actors.

The Tempest will be performed by Actors from the London Stage tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Pinter This Evening will be performed Friday at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

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