

# Commerce champs

## UNC business students capture title

By KYLE HUDSON  
Staff Writer

A group of UNC students brought one of the nation's most respected prizes for business undergraduates back to Chapel Hill last weekend.

The team, made up of four starting members and six alternates, took top honors at the seventh annual McIntyre Commerce Invitational, said coach Nancy Hyer. The University of Virginia hosted the competition.

Hyer, an associate professor of business, said the team's performance was "phenomenal."

"Our performance was far in excess of all our practices," she said.

Hyer said the team members were all seniors from the business school's honors program.

Team member Andrea Sztot from Sparta, N.J., said the UNC team was much better prepared than the other teams. She said the UNC team, unlike the others, had anticipated every question the panel asked and had prepared charts for each.

"After 22 minutes, the judges were silent," she said.

Sztot said that when the UNC team

completed its presentation, one of the judges asked if the team had prepared any charts for questions that had not been asked.

"The audience burst into laughter," she said.

The UNC students defeated teams from the University of Minnesota, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Calgary, Hyer said.

Ken Ehemann from Cincinnati was in the audience as an alternate. "I knew they had won," he said. "Their presentation was so much better than the others."

Hyer said the team's presentation was based on a hypothetical case that the judges posed.

The case involved the president of a small, family-owned oil company. He has to decide whether to sell the business, to acquire a similar business or to continue running the oil company.

The team had approximately 14 hours to propose a solution, deciding the president should sell the oil company.

Kevin Mical from Boone said the

team had to turn in a written report in addition to the oral presentation.

"All four of us presented ideas," he said. "Then we divided up the presentation equally."

Hyer said UNC first sent a team to the McIntyre competition three years ago. She said this was her first year coaching the team.

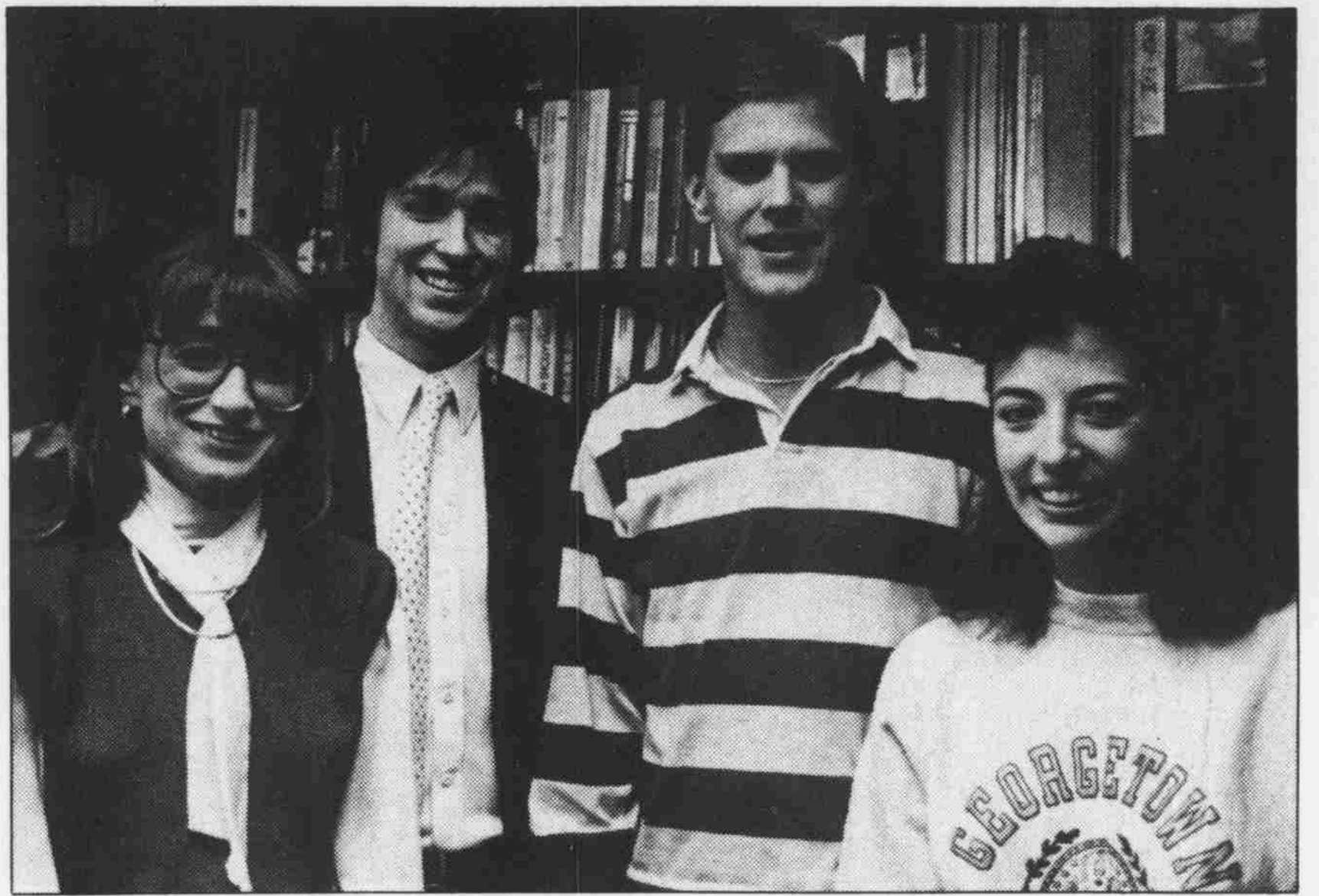
Idalene Kesner, assistant professor in the business school, coached the team that first year and shared the duties with Hyer for this competition.

Hyer said the 10 team members and alternates were chosen from a large pool of business honors students for their analytical abilities and presentation skills.

UNC will send a team back to the University of Virginia next year to defend the title, Hyer said.

All of the members of this year's championship team are seniors, so they plan to prepare a report to help the students who will compete next year.

"This way, they won't have to come in cold," said team member Cheryl Oliver from Charlotte.



DTH/Elizabeth Morrah

Associate professor Nancy Hyer (left) and business students Kevin Mical, Ken Ehemann and Cheryl Oliver

The team's starters were Stephen Lewis from Mooresville, Mical, Oliver and Sztot.

The team alternates were Ehemann, Holly Austin from Clover, S.C.; Dave Karger from Stamford, Ct.; Mark

Rockwood from Greensboro; Wendy Thorne from Cary; and Marinn Wyke from North Wilkesboro.

## State

defense, and at the 7:58 mark, Ranzino Smith scored on the fast break to give the Tar Heels a 57-47 lead, their biggest of the game.

"I think we just lost our poise," State center Charles Shackleford said. "We just seemed to lose our intensity."

Shackleford was one of the main sinners in this regard. The enigmatic big man, who drifts in and out of games without rhyme or reason, was scoreless for the final 34 minutes, and was as inactive offensively as he was on the defensive end, where he was often caught upcourt.

Reid's offensive disappearance, on the other hand, contributed to his fine work defensively. Reid played ferocious pivot defense in the second half, and helped shut down State's inside game. Chucky Brown was 1-of-9 from the field after intermission, while Shackleford was a woeful 0-for-5. Reid also had his most impressive game of the year rebounding, yanking down 13 boards.

"I was really into the flow of the game tonight," Reid said. "State wanted to make the other guys score, so I tried to concentrate on defense and going to the offensive and defensive boards. We played good team defense on Shack. I don't think he likes to run too much."

Shackleford was at a loss to explain

his troubles. "I don't remember catching the ball much in the second half," he said. "If it was the defense, I don't know. But I didn't get the ball much in the second half."

Brown didn't have many problems getting the ball, but he found dropping it through the net much more difficult. The Tar Heels gave Brown the wing jumper, but he was unable to hit that, or anything else for that matter.

The entire Wolfpack was afflicted with the shooting blues, hitting just 38 percent from the field after the break, while the Tar Heels ripped the net cords to a 71 percent tune. "I thought the UNC defense was terrific," Valvano said. "Our offense struggled in the second half. That was mainly due to UNC's defense, not because we weren't putting out the effort."

And yet, somehow, out of the anarchy that was the State offense, a comeback emerged in the last two minutes of regulation. Monroe nailed a trey from the right wing to make it 67-63. Reid was quickly hacked and missed the front end, and Brown followed with a baseline jumper that cut the lead to two with 0:41 left.

The Wolfpack capped the rally when Vinny Del Negro tipped in a

missed Brown layup that had been set up by a Kevin Madden turnover. UNC called timeout with 18 seconds left to set up a final play, but Jeff Lebo threw up an airball to send the game to overtime.

The final five minutes were cleaner than the previous 40, and the Tar Heels in particular seemed to find the offensive groove. They discovered Reid again and the big man chipped in two baskets, including the key hoop, off a dish from freshman King Rice, with UNC up 71-69 and just 0:37 left in the game.

The game's most important sequence, though, came immediately before Reid's bucket. With State down by two, Del Negro, who had 16 on the day, was short with a 17-footer. Shackleford grabbed the rebound and bricked the follow shot, and soon after Reid quelled the Wolfpack's upset hopes.

Actually, those hopes remained alive just a bit longer, but Rice made a phenomenal pass to Williams for an uncontested jam with 11 seconds left, and some creative timekeeping ensured State could only get one more shot off.

"In overtime, we really had every opportunity to win," Valvano said. "But time really flies in Chapel Hill."

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# Student actors to present Simon's 'Biloxi Blues' drama

By MICHAEL SPIRTAS  
Staff Writer

Archetype alert! Neil Simon, one of the most renowned playwrights of the present generation, could have written "Biloxi Blues" right out of the coming-of-age archetype dictionary. The Lab Theatre will present its version of this tale this weekend in Graham Memorial Hall.

The storyline of "Biloxi Blues" follows the life and trials of Eugene Morris Jerome. Eugene first appeared in Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs," which chronicled his experiences while growing up in New York City of the 1930s. "Biloxi Blues," the second play in Simon's "Brighton Beach" trilogy, picks up after Eugene has been drafted to defend his country in World War II.

The audience observes as Eugene, recently separated from his protective Jewish family, is forced to grow up in the midst of basic training in Biloxi, Miss. In addition to the rigors imposed by a tough drill sergeant, Eugene must also learn how to get along with the other enlisted men, who prove to be quite a diverse group. Tom Ballard, director of the

production, chose to present "Biloxi Blues" because he sees Simon as a major voice in theater today. Ballard, a senior from Selma, noted that he found this particular piece appealing because of its "growing up themes." Ballard also mentioned that the play is written in such a manner that it allows him a great deal of leeway for creativity as a director.

Todd Devries, a freshman from Greensboro who will portray Eugene, said that he will attempt to bring a feeling of naivete to the role. As Eugene has left everything behind, Devries feels that the young man is at a "crucial moment in his evolution."

"What is right and wrong is not set in his (Eugene's) mind," Devries said. Eugene's indecision, rooted in his immaturity, is a characteristic that Eugene is forced to discard during his evolution into an adult.

All of this heavy talk of evolution does not mean that Eugene is an overly serious character, however. Simon has added a healthy dose of humor into the role, which was originally played by Matthew Broderick. Devries admitted that there are

times during the show where he finds it difficult not to break out laughing along with the audience.

Devries was also quick to point out that the show is "very much an ensemble work." Eugene is backed by a cast of extremely diverse characters from a variety of backgrounds.

One of these characters is Sergeant Toomey, a gruff disciplinarian with an expertly camouflaged heart. Chris Briggs, who will portray Toomey, said he is playing the sergeant as a mix between Lou Gossett in "An Officer and a Gentleman" and Clint Eastwood in "Heartbreak Ridge."

Briggs, a freshman from Lexington, also pointed out that although Toomey may seem heartless, he really cares about his men. Toomey plays an important role in Eugene's maturation by singling out the young New Yorker and forcing him to act, instead of merely observing.

Robert Corbett plays Epstein, another character important to the production. Corbett, a sophomore from Greensboro, described Epstein as a mechanical person with a lot of moral fiber. Eugene identifies with Epstein, a Jewish intellectual, because of their similar backgrounds. Epstein encourages Eugene to pick a side and make tough decisions.

Army basic training represents a time of change for anyone who endures it. Simon uses this experience to highlight Eugene's maturation. In the course of the play Eugene falls in love and loses his virginity (not to the same girl, however), confronts an eccentric group of fellow recruits, battles with Army food, prepares for war, and ultimately grows up. The result is a humorous and introspective look at one of man's most universal archetypes.

"Biloxi Blues" will be performed by the Lab Theatre Sunday and Monday at 4 and 8 p.m. and Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the basement of Graham Memorial Hall.

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