

Paradoxes abound in Elkin's 'Poetics'

American society is known for its love of excess. What other nation idolizes things like a beer-swilling dog, a horrendously ugly clown with a rhyming name and Twinkies, that tasty and nutritious snack? Stanley Elkin, author of the short story "A Poetics for Bullies," said that "all this crap is the true American graffiti." In keeping with Elkin's view, Paul Ferguson, a performance studies faculty member in speech communication, has adapted the story to the stage. Ferguson's version of "A Poetics for Bullies," which opens tonight, will serve as the inaugural event of the Carolina Union's Cabaret Theatre.

Elkin's story centers around Push, who seemingly symbolizes the archetypical bully. This villain establishes his power over others through "sleight of mouth," which consists largely of "fast talk, word games and marginal violence." But Push's dominion over his conquered companions does not last for long.

Along comes John Williams (David Csizmadia), the hero, who holds his own against Push's word weapons. While most stories have clear protagonists and antagonists, Ferguson explains that Elkin's story blurs these roles in an attempt to make the audience decide for itself just who the villain really is. Ferguson explains, "Push wants to make people face reality, while Williams gives people illusions." This complex view of what is traditionally a given relationship promises to make "A Poetics for Bullies" an intriguing story.

To portray Elkin's love of excess, Ferguson has employed an array of mixed media in the production. The show features three acting areas, computer graphics, front and back projection screens, MTVish video, live video, dance and both recorded and live music. Ferguson explained his use of these varied forms of communication as "a way to make the story phony, fun and believable," as well as to give the production a sense of energy and excess in a postmodern world. Sounds confusing? You bet. The production also features a cast of 12 actors that play a total of 81 roles in the course of the show.

The paradoxes continue. Push is played by two actors. Scott Edlein plays the exterior part of the character, who interacts with the characters in the show. According to Ferguson, the interior part of Push "wants self definition in an insecure world." This part of the character,



Keith Kashiwada (left) and Scott Edlein perform in "A Poetics for Bullies"

Michael Spirtas Theater

who narrates the show, is portrayed by Keith Kashiwada.

With the exception of Ferguson, the production is handled by students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

There is also an element of improv-

isation in the show. In some parts of the production actors interact directly with the audience. This aspect is sure to give the play a different look each night that it runs.

The production marks the opening of the Cabaret Theatre. Alison Sugg, chairwoman of the Union Performing Arts Committee, noted that the Cabaret Theatre, which is not affiliated with the Lab Theatre, Play-Makers Repertory Company or the drama department, will "provide

another way for students to get involved in drama." Sugg also said "Poetics" should be a good opening production for the Cabaret, which aims to provide the University with a diverse source of entertainment.

If "Poetics" is anything, it is diverse. The surrealistic mixed media style will surely be a point of interest, especially to an audience that has grown up in the midst of a media barrage.

Israel

Another sticking point in the negotiation process, Brand said, is that while most Israelis believe the Palestinian Liberation Organization is a terrorist group, the Palestinians think that it is their only legitimate representation and that all negotiations must go through it.

And because of the U.S. commitment to Israel, neither the Israeli nor the U.S. government will set up peace talks with the PLO, she said.

David McClintock, visiting associate professor of political science at N.C. State University, also believes the prognosis for the Middle East isn't very good.

"Basically, on both sides there are political elements that don't want negotiations," McClintock said, "and they have been able to scuttle negotiations."

But Gissen said there is a chance

for a peaceful solution if a peace treaty could be signed between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

"The United States must put appropriate diplomatic pressure on Jordan to sign a peace treaty and also urge Saudi Arabia to support the treaty," he said.

But Bodman said the best solution for Israel is to move out of the occupied territories, have free elec-

tions and turn over sovereignty to those elected.

Kechichian said both sides have to realize first that the violence must be slowed down before it creates a civil war. He believes one of the best solutions would be a United Nations peacekeeping force, although Israel would probably not allow one.

The United States could help to

lower the level of violence, Kechichian said, but it could not "play an honest broker" because of its interests in the Middle East.

Bodman said he wishes for the return of an even-handed policy, where the United States paid attention to the needs of both sides.

"So long as the Israeli government stonewalls and uses solely military means of addressing a 21-year-old problem, the U.S. will continue to apply pressure to the Israeli government," Bodman said. "I'm just not sure that the pressure will be effective."

To Remember in March and April

(These dates were revised after the Carolina Week-by-Week Calendar was printed. They are incorrect in the calendar. Please go by these dates.)

Pre-registration for General College students March 14th-April 18th at 10:00 a.m.
Pre-registration for all others April 4-8
Easter holiday April 1

BSM

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Donella Crosland, now assistant dean of the office, has been asked to fill this position, according to Cell.

The proposal also created an assistant director position.

Perry said Tuesday at the protest that students were not satisfied with Cell's proposal and that she ignored student concerns.

"The response that we did receive concerning the Office of Student Counseling was in direct conflict with these proposals," Perry said. "We do not want to see the Office of Student Counseling moved under another academic service." His words were followed by applause from the crowd.

When students asked if she was willing to change her proposal, Cell said, "No, my proposal stands."

Perry told Cell that unless students receive a response to their submitted concerns by 5 p.m. Friday, he will hold another general body meeting Monday and will take further action.

Fordham told the students that the University administration is not against them.

"We all want the same thing," he said. "We all want our students to succeed."

When pressed to respond to Cell's proposal, however, the chancellor stressed that he would not make an immediate decision.

"I am not going to publicly overrule my dean," he said. "I just won't do it."

Cell said the UNC administration had held several meetings with students about the Office of Student Counseling.

"As a result, we see a very clear need to expand the services that office has been providing," Cell said. "There is no intent to reduce or destroy the services being provided to minority students. Our intent is to expand these services."

Her words were followed by murmurs of protest from the crowd.

"When a chancellor resigns, you replace him with a chancellor," one student said. "We are the people that position is going to be serving, and we want it replaced as it was. We can't really accept anything less than that."

The students said the office should have direct access to Cell; without an associate dean solely in charge of the office, direct access would be eliminated.

Cell emphasized that a job description for the position of director has not been written, so the duties of the position are unclear at this time. She did say no reduction in power is intended.

"There's no intention to weaken that office in any way," she said. "It will not be reduced in leverage, because I am committed to no

reduction."

Other students also said it was important that one person be selected as head of the office, and Floyd would not be the best choice because he has other responsibilities.

"We want the most qualified person in there," said freshman Corey Cornwell. "We don't have people in this office who can address our concerns."

"We want the right amount of people, the people with the right leverage, and Dean Cell's proposals don't do that."

After the rally, Fordham said administrators will look at the problem this week and decide if further action is necessary.

"What they (the students) want is very hard to deliver," he said. "Perhaps we can bridge this lack of understanding."

In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Perry said Cell had made black students very angry with her refusal to reconsider her proposal.

"I think she has solved the problem of black apathy on this campus," he said.

Perry said the structure of the office must not change.

"We don't want anything radical, we don't want anything crazy, we just want to know that the office will remain the same as it was when Dean Renwick was here," Perry said.

Floyd said Tuesday that he felt much of the problem was caused by a misunderstanding and that the proposals do not represent a negative response from Cell.

"The dean has always made a commitment to retain the programs and services provided by the Office of Student Counseling," Floyd said, "and I don't think there's been any lessening of that commitment."

Floyd said the restructuring that would take place beneath him would not affect the quality of services.

"If that is the way it's going to be, it will not (affect quality)," he said. "We will still be delivering services at the highest level we can — for all students at the University; and that includes minority students."

Crosland could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Finalists

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student, who also asked to remain unidentified. "He talks to students, he's been very accessible and he loves NYU."

Oliva takes part in many activities, including attending all the basketball games, the student said. He once traveled 15 hours during a snowstorm by bus with the team to see a game, he said.

Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities, sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations; officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, Union 104. Items of interest lists on going events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

Wednesday

- 11:30 a.m. **Greek Week Committee** is sponsoring the Lorelei and the Four Corners in the pit.
- Noon **Career Planning and Placement Service** will hold Job Hunt 102: Resume Writing Workshop in 306 Hanes Hall.
- Institute for Environmental Studies** presents "Biotechnology and the Third World: Implications for Diversity and Sustainability" by Cary Fowler in 05 Mitchell Hall.
- 12:30 p.m. **Department of Health Policy and Administration** presents the CONTEMPORARY ISSUES FORUM in the Rose-nau Hall Auditorium. The topic for discussion is "Treatment Settings for AIDS Patients."
- 2 p.m. **Students Taking Action for Nuclear Disarmament** presents "SDI: Lemon in the Sky," anti-Star Wars demonstration in the Pit.
- 3 p.m. **Career Planning and Placement Service** will hold Job Hunt 105: Off-campus job search and interviewing workshop in 210 Hanes Hall.
- 3:30 p.m. **Undergraduate Philosophy Group** presents "Intentional Failure," a critique of Daniel Dennett, by Seth Holtzman, in 208 Caldwell Hall.
- 4 p.m. **Industrial Relations Association** will meet in 226 Union. Guest speaker is Cindy Hall, Personnel Representative for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Last chance to sign up for elections.
- Media Board** will meet in 220 Union.
- Carolina Athletic Association - Publicity Committee** will meet in 208 Union. Those interested in working on this committee are welcome.
- UNC Six-Week French Immersion Program** will have an informational meeting in Dey Hall 301 for persons interested in living with a French family in Chicoutimi, Quebec. Earn six hours of credit. Prerequisite: French 2.
- 5:30 p.m. **Wesley Foundation** will meet at the Newman Center at 218 Pittsboro St. for a Passover Seder.
- Newman - The Catholic Student Center** welcomes all to its annual all-denomination Seder meal. Center located at 218 Pittsboro St.

6 p.m. **STV's Off the Cuff** will meet in 226 Union.

AIIEEC will hold a general members meeting. Check Union desk for room number.

7 p.m. **Career Planning and Placement Service** is sponsoring a presentation by University Directories in 210 Hanes Hall.

American Studies presents a new documentary film about a 1930s inter-racial movement to form the first truly integrated union.

"Our Land Too: The Legacy of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union" will be shown in 101 Greenlaw. On hand to discuss the film will be H.L. Mitchell, co-founder of the STFU a half century ago.

Carolina Indian Circle and the Carolina Union will show "Broken Rainbow" in the Union Film Auditorium as part of American Culture Week. Film also shown at 9:30 p.m.

Carolina Symposium will present a talk by Floretta McKenzie, former superintendent of public schools for the District of Columbia on the subject, "When The Minority Becomes The Majority: What Happens To Your Schools?" in Memorial Hall.

Carolina Surf Club will meet in upstairs lobby of the Union. Topics: California trip, team jerseys, Hatters?

All skill levels welcome. Interested in joining, call Eran at 968-8624.

Auckland Art Museum will sponsor a free lecture in the Hanes Art Center auditorium. Curator Dean Walker will speak on "Francois Girardon

and the Bronze Statue under Louis XIV."

Greek Week Committee and Carolina Union Sports and Recreation are sponsoring Team Charades and comedian Leroy Seabrooks in Hamilton Hall. No admission fee and open to everybody!

Campus Y is now taking applications for co-chair positions. Pick up applications at the Union desk or at the Y Building. For more information, call the Campus Y at 962-2332.

Student Part-Time Employment Service is a volunteer, free service available to students to help locate part-time jobs. Please stop by 217 E (Suite C) at the Union or call 962-0545.

The Carolina Population Center Library will be closed the week of March 28th because it is moving to the third floor.

Delta Phi Epsilon and Greek Week are sponsoring a balloon lift-off in the pit. Come out and help a good cause!

Student Part-Time Employment Service will host the Employment Securities Commission every Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to help students locate part-time and summer jobs. Or go by 217E (Suite C) Union or call 962-0545.

Carolina Indian Circle is exhibiting Native American crafts and artwork in the Union in celebration of Native American Culture Week.

Industrial Relations appointment sign-up sheets for summer and fall pre-registration are posted in 230 Hamilton Hall and 3rd floor Steele Building.

Career Planning and Placement Service needs all proposals for academic credit by March 31 from SPCL 91 Internship to experiential learning coordinator in 221 Hanes Hall.

English Department has posted appointment sheets for pre-registering for summer/fall with your advisor on the bulletin board opposite 212 Greenlaw.

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