

# Eye-opening play provides laughs, serious message

It got off to a shaky start, but by the end of the evening, the Lab Theater's production of "Coup/Clucks" developed into an enjoyable and thought-provoking show.

Written by Jane Martin, this satirical look at the Ku Klux Klan offers strong, funny characters and some splendidly written dialogue. The story revolves around the remnants of Klan activity in tiny Brine, Ala. The furor starts in the first act, "Coup," when, through the intervention of the liberal, open-minded Essie and some cooperation on the part of providence, the characters in the town's annual "Tara Parade" are replaced by two local blacks.

Needless to say, this interpretation of "Gone With the Wind" does not sit well with the bigoted locals, sending town matriarch Miz Zifty (23-year holder of the parade's Scarlett O'Hara title) into fainting fits and enraging the "good old boys" of the Klan.

The second act, "Clucks," focuses on the Klan's attempts to retaliate against Dr. Kennedy, the black dentist who portrays Rhett Butler in the parade. The klavern membership includes quite a collection of bumbling fools — from Ryman, the lunatic pseudo-Nazi, to Pritchard, the town drunk, to Bobby Joe, who just plain personifies the word "stupid."

Their botched efforts at cross-burning highlight their individual eccentricities and collective stupidity, giving the audience some good laughs but, most of all, a strong realization of the narrowness and inferiority of mind required for a racist attitude. The success of the comedy is

**Kim Donehower  
Theater**

strongly dependent on the character portrayals, and in this area the cast shows varying degrees of ability. Nevaia Graves is notable in the first act for her perfect characterization of Beulah, Miz Zifty's independent, outspoken maid who takes over the role of Scarlett in the parade.

Of the Klan members, James Coley does an excellent job as the volatile yet wimpy fascist Ryman, and Rhetta Wiley anchors the entire production with her strong performance as Essie. The initial scenes had a nervous, rushed atmosphere beyond the tension written into the script, but the actors soon hit their stride and turned in a successful show.

The set, designed by Walt Spangler, served as an understated and appropriate backdrop, working very well in the small Lab Theatre space in its simplicity. The sound crew provided some highly appropriate music in the intervals, and, aside from some minor glitches, the lighting was also effective.

The value in "Coup/Clucks" is in its careful mixture of farce and meaning, and director Allen Simpson maintains this balance in his handling of the show. The comedy is most apparent in the first act, but by the second, the laughs begin to become subordinated to the realities behind the utter stupidity of bigotry.

Like any good satire, "Coup/Clucks" is genuinely amusing but at



In a scene from the Lab Theatre's "Coup/Clucks," the Klan tries to leave a message on Dr. Kennedy's lawn

DTH/Julie Stovall

the same time reveals the unattractiveness of the society it lambasts — a society that lauds the glories of the great Southern antebellum past, a

time when gentility and happiness depended on a strict caste system that oppressed and dehumanized enormous classes of people. This produc-

tion really sends up the "good old boy" and all his values, and is an entertaining and eye-opening show. It will run through this Tuesday.

Coup/Clucks will be performed in 06 Graham Memorial today at 4 and 8 p.m. and Tuesday at 5 p.m.

## Triangle universities to host international Umbria Jazz Festival

By SCOTT COWEN  
Staff Writer

The fifth annual North Carolina Umbria Jazz Festival will bring some tremendous jazz to the Triangle through Sunday, April 17.

The Umbria festival, one of only a few international jazz festivals held in the United States, combines major American artists with leading European musicians. This year the festival features trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, singer Betty Carter, The Dirty Dozen Brass Band, the James Moody

Quartet, singer Carol Sloane, the Pullen and Adams Quartet, the John McNeil Trio, and pianist Paul Montgomery and family.

The Umbria Jazz All-Stars, named for a jazz festival held in the central region of Italy, will also be performing. The group's members are pianist Rita Marcotulli, tenor sax player Pietro Tonolo, bassist Piero Leveratto and drummer Luigi Bonafade.

This year, five Triangle universities and colleges are hosting major concerts: Duke University, the Uni-

versity of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University (NCU), North Carolina Central University and St. Augustine's College. Other concert sites are the Carolina Theater in Durham, the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, the Siena Hotel in Chapel Hill, the Durham Hilton, the Under the Street nightclub in Durham, the North Carolina Museum of Art and Rocky Mount High School.

There will also be a public jam session/master class on April 12 hosted by the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department and the Wake County Arts Council at Biltmore Hills Community Center. The event will feature the Umbria Jazz All-Stars and the Creative Jazz Exchange Orchestra led by Paul Jeffrey.

The event was founded in 1983 by Paul Jeffrey after he returned from Italy, where he directed the Umbria Jazz Festival clinics in Perugia. The Umbria Festival is one of the world's largest jazz festivals. With his Italian connections and his longtime friendship with the founder of the Italian festival Carlo Pagnotta, Jeffrey was able to put together his first festival at Duke University in 1984.

Some of the festival concerts have already taken place, but there are still many more events to be held through next Sunday. Upcoming events are:

■ Tuesday, April 12 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Jam session with the Umbria Jazz All-Stars and the Creative Jazz Exchange Orchestra in Raleigh at the Biltmore Hills Community Center.

■ Thursday, April 14 at 8 p.m. — James Moody Quartet at North Carolina Central. The concert will be held at the B.N. Duke Auditorium. Ticket information: 683-1709 or 684-4059.

■ Thursday, April 14 at 10 p.m. — The Umbria Jazz All-Stars at Under the Street nightclub in Durham. Ticket information: 286-2647.

■ Friday, April 15 at 8 p.m. — Pullen and Adams Quartet at Duke

University. The concert will be in Baldwin Auditorium. Ticket information: 684-4059.

■ Friday, April 15 — Jazz dinners with the Umbria Jazz All-Stars at the Durham Hilton. The group will be performing in Tipton's restaurant at 3800 Hillsborough Rd., Durham. Dinner reservations: 383-7714.

■ Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m. — James Moody Quartet at St. Augustine's College. The concert will be in the Fine Arts Center Auditorium. Ticket information: 755-0750.

■ Saturday, April 16 — Jazz dinners with the Umbria Jazz All-Stars at the Durham Hilton. The group will be performing in Tipton's

Restaurant at 3800 Hillsborough Rd., Durham. Dinner reservations: 383-7714.

■ Sunday, April 17 at 8 p.m. — The Dirty Dozen Brass Band and the Paul Jeffrey Quintet at North Carolina State University. The event will be held in the Stewart Theater, NCSU Student Union. Ticket information: 737-3104.

■ Sunday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. — The Umbria Jazz All-Stars at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro. Ticket information: 929-2787.

■ Sunday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. — Pullen and Adams Quartet in the Rocky Mount High School Auditorium.

## Sports

### Lyle's last stroke wins Masters; Elliott outduels Bodine at Bristol

From Associated Press reports

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Sandy Lyle, once teetering on the brink of collapse, extricated himself from a fairway bunker on the 72nd hole and then sank a 12-foot birdie putt for a one-shot victory Sunday in the 52nd Masters.

Lyle, a husky Scot who won the 1985 British Open, was tied for the lead with Mark Calcavecchia until the final stroke of the tournament sent the putt downhill and into the cup. It finished off a 1-under-par 71 and made Lyle the first British subject to win this storied tournament.

Lyle had to come out of a yawning fairway bunker on the 18th hole of the Augusta National Golf Club course. He ran hopefully onto the fairway to follow the flight of the ball, which hit beyond the cup and backed up toward the hole while the gallery howled for still more roll.

Lyle, who had blown a two-shot lead and trailed as late as the 15th hole, rolled the winning putt into the back of the cup.

It gave him a total of 281, seven shots under par.

Lyle also became the only three-time winner on the American PGA Tour this season and the first man

### Sports Briefs

to win consecutive tournament titles since West German Bernhard Langer won the Masters and the Heritage Classic in 1985. Lyle came into the Masters off a victory in the Greater Greensboro Open.

Calcavecchia, a man from the wrong side of golf's tracks and a caddy as recently as three years ago, finished second with a 2-under-par 70 in the bright, warm sunshine. He had a 282 total, six under par.

Craig Stadler, the 1982 Masters winner, once had a share of the lead, but dropped back with a 16th-hole bogey and finished third at 283. Stadler, who bolted into contention with a 12-foot eagle putt on the eighth hole, had a closing 68.

Another former champion, 1984 winner Ben Crenshaw, followed at 284 after a hard-won 72. He was Lyle's playing partner in the final two-hole play over the flowered hills and valleys of the course Bobby Jones built.

Greg Norman, the white-haired Australian who was runner-up in the last two Masters, started the day 11 shots back but burst into contention with a record-matching 30 over the front side.

But the putts stopped falling with the same regularity on the back nine

and, although finishing with a 64 that was the best round of the tournament, he actually expressed disappointment.

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Bill Elliott survived a late-race scrape with Geoff Bodine to post his first Winston Cup short-track victory as he outpaced Mark Martin to the checkered flag in Sunday's Valleydale 500 at Bristol International Speedway.

Elliott grabbed the lead on the 379th lap and held the front until Bodine tapped Elliott's Ford Thunderbird on the left side as he attempted to pass on the inside between turns three and four.

Bodine sneaked through on the inside as Elliott spun, but the Dawsonville, Ga., driver was able to straighten his car and remain on the lead lap.

A quick pit stop under the race's 12th caution flag allowed Elliott to pick up four new tires and he went after Bodine when the race went back under green on lap 497.

Taking an inside line, Elliott tested Bodine for a lap before diving underneath Bodine's Chevrolet on turn four of lap 498.

Martin, who posted his best finish in 64 career starts, also went past Bodine, but was unable to make a serious challenge for the lead in the final two laps.

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