

# Thornburg to speak to law graduates

By JAMES COBLIN  
Staff Writer

U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburg will speak at the UNC law school's commencement ceremonies in May.

Thornburg was invited to deliver the address by Ronald Link, acting dean of the law school; Chancellor Paul Hardin; U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.; and Gov. Jim Martin, said Elizabeth Furr, assistant dean of admissions and student affairs at the law school.

Jeff Jackson and John Taladay,

representatives of the graduating class, organized the effort to get Thornburg to deliver the speech, Furr said.

The students wanted a well-respected, nationally known figure who was a good speaker, Jackson said.

Thornburg fulfills those requirements and is a very interesting speaker, he said.

Another reason the students invited Thornburg to speak was his strong ethical beliefs, Furr said.

Thornburg agreed to deliver the

address before his reappointment by President George Bush, consenting to come regardless of the appointment. He said he is interested in speaking to law students, Jackson said.

Thornburg has not notified the school of his topic, but will probably speak on ethics or a related subject, Jackson said.

"It reflects very well on the University, through his excellent record of service and his excellent speaking ability," Jackson said. "I do not see how we could have chosen better."

Thornburg earned his undergrad-

uate degree at Yale University in 1954, and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Law School in 1957. He has served as U.S. attorney of western Pennsylvania and assistant U.S. attorney general, and has a strong background in private practice, Furr said.

"It was a coup for us and we are very excited about the U.S. attorney general coming to speak here," Furr said.

Thornburg could not be reached Thursday for comment.

# Nationwide group works to combat multiple sclerosis

By DAVID ABERNATHY  
Staff Writer

Besides providing students with a good conversation topic, this week's measles vaccination did something else — it forced students to realize they are not invulnerable to most diseases.

In fact, there is a disease that hits hardest among 20- to 40-year-olds — multiple sclerosis (MS).

MS is a chronic disease that "short-circuits" the central nervous system. It slows down brain signals trying to reach the muscles, which disables or even paralyzes the victim.

"Immune cells are sensitized against myelin (a substance that facilitates conduction of signals)," said Pierre Morell, professor of biochemistry. "The electrical connections get screwed up."

An estimated quarter of a million Americans have MS, and more than 200 young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 fall victim to the disease each week.

Experts do not know the causes of MS, but some research is finding answers. "The most recent speculation is that it has to do with exposure to a virus in the teenage years," Morell said.

There is no known cure for MS. However, biomedical research supported by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is providing hope. Another nationwide student

organization, Students Against Multiple Sclerosis (SAMS), is assisting in the fight against MS.

"SAMS is a fund-raising and awareness program," said Tracy White, manager of SAMS. "We want to increase awareness of what MS is, because people confuse it with other diseases such as muscular dystrophy."

In addition to fund raising and increasing awareness, SAMS provides services for people with MS through local chapters of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Another major goal of SAMS is to get college students involved in fighting multiple sclerosis.

"One reason SAMS was started was to interest students, since MS often hits people at that age," White said.

In the five years that SAMS has been running, the number of campuses involved has grown from 12 to 200. UNC used to be an affiliate, but there is currently no SAMS group on campus.

SAMS is now raising money for MS by way of a national lip-synch competition sponsored by Maxell and through Pictionary and Balderdash game tournaments, which are being held on campuses across the country.

For more information of how to get involved with SAMS, call 1-800-1-BUST-MS.

# Lab to present Williams' dark tragedy

By CARA BONNETT  
Assistant Arts Editor

Something terrible happened when Sebastian and Catherine went abroad last summer, so terrible that Catherine's aunt would rather subject her niece to a lobotomy than let the story out.

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Such is the premise of Tennessee Williams' "Suddenly Last Summer," the Lab Theatre's latest production, which opens this weekend.

The play, which actress Jennifer Stratman describes as "very dark tragedy," is Williams at his most compelling. "Tennessee Williams is a

poet creating images," said Stratman, who plays Catherine. "You get caught up in his images, and you just have to go with it."

The play is set in the 1930s, when the medical community was just beginning to experiment with lobotomies as a cure for insanity, according to Stratman. However, because the technique was still in its experimental stages, most lobotomy patients ended up catatonic.

Williams himself described the play as some of his best writing, according to director Andrew Edmonson. Williams' own sister Rose was given a lobotomy on their mother's urging, and the play's autobiographical nature makes for intensely personal drama, Edmonson said.

In addition, while the play is written in the tradition of classic American realism, Edmonson said, it also relies heavily on Williams' "poetic, heightened language and big, extreme emotions."

"If it weren't written so well, it'd

be melodrama," he said.

But the language also presents a unique challenge for the company. "You have to find the point where it's real, but where you're also giving the language its full value," Edmonson said. "The world is very dark, and you have to dive into that."

"It's a loaded play," said junior Laurie Dhue, who plays Violet Venable, Catherine's aunt. Dhue described the play as a tragedy of two women. Violet Venable is an elderly woman who sees her own life falling apart, while Catherine is a young girl struggling to tell the truth.

Stratman agreed, saying, Catherine "needs to purge herself and tell her story. That's what makes her strong."

Suddenly Last Summer will be performed by the Lab in 06 Graham Memorial Sunday and Monday at 4 and 8 p.m. and Tuesday at 5 p.m. Come 45 minutes before the performance for tickets. There is no sign-up sheet.

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# Pay your dues before singing the blues

Bo Diddley spent much of his life poor. Blind Lemon Jefferson had a heart attack on the streets of Chicago and was left there to die of exposure. Billie Holiday died of a heroin overdose.

The blues come from an intense

amount of pain — not only emotional, but physical as well. That's why it seemed strange to me to hear of three middle-aged, middle-class women, known as Saffire, who sing the blues.

Saffire — made up of Earlene

Paul Stewart Concert

Lewis on bass, Ann Rabson on piano and guitar, and Gaye Adegbola on guitar and harp — played at the Carrboro ArtsCenter Wednesday night to a crowd of about 70.

While they played well over 20 songs, the majority of their songs were covers, ranging from Patsy Cline to Willie Dixon.

The first problem with doing so many covers is that the band must do one of two things: either play with such intensity that the original performance is not missed or play with such command that the song becomes their own. Overwhelmingly, Saffire missed the mark of each criterion.

This is not to say that they are incompetent musicians; they are not. But none of them played with the sensitivity of a true bluesman/woman. They played the music but

did not feel the music, and blues is based on feeling.

However, the show was not totally lackluster. The group's strong point is definitely its own material. And they do play with enthusiasm; you can tell they enjoy their work. When Adegbola sang her version of the Ida Cox song, "One Hour Mama," the audience got the feeling that this woman ain't just talkin' junk; she can back it up as well. It is unfortunate that the entire evening was not like that.

Saffire has only been on the road since June. They do not have much experience, as is apparent, and for now, their act would be more appropriate in the lounge of the Holiday Inn (they will be at the Siena Hotel) on Feb. 15.)

If these women are still playing the blues five years from now after sleeping on floors, being broke and hungry, and having suffered the other hardships of the road, they may have something to say and the feeling to say it. You gotta pay your dues to play the blues.

AT TIMES the media are like a little boy with a magnifying glass. The passerby may think he's just looking at a bug on the sidewalk, when he's actually frying it to death.

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