

Tar Heel writes promising 1st novel

UNC graduate Randall Kenan presents a tale of uncertainty and troubled souls in his first novel, "A Visitation of Spirits."

Kenan writes about members of a rural North Carolina black family who struggle to come to terms with themselves and their past. The theme that unites his major characters is a sense of doubt that leads to destruction in an overly oppressive Southern setting. However, the sense of doubt is left unresolved — except in the case of the main character — and this is the main flaw of an otherwise promising first novel.

The story focuses on a troubled black teenager named Horace Thomas Cross. In desperation, Cross turns to sorcery to provide an escape from a problem that has troubled him for some time: his own homosexuality.

Horace succeeds in bringing forth a demon who takes him on a tour reminiscent of Dante's visit to hell. In an interesting display of reality vs. fantasy, the demon guides Horace through traumatic moments in Horace's life. It is during this nightmarish tour of Horace's past that his confusion about his sexuality is brought before the reader. The reader gains a clear sense of Horace's struggle to understand himself and how his lack of certainty leads to his demise.

Kenan does an excellent job of intertwining dramatic scenes with narrative prose to develop the characters. The scenes, which reveal only settings and dialogue, show the characters from a totally objective point of view, giving added insight into their true character.

Kenan's use of dialogue in his first work displays strength. The realistic dialogue reveals the nature of the characters without the classic overuse of accents that has plagued Southern novels in the past.

He shows promise as a young writer, but there are a few obstacles the reader must overcome. For one, Kenan goes to great lengths to develop some minor

Glenn O'Neal
Books

characters, but he does not resolve the conflicts they present.

Intermixed with the story of Horace, Kenan tells the story of the Rev. James "Jimmy" Malachai Greene, who became a preacher out of a sense of obligation to his family members, who wanted a man of the cloth to come from their ranks.

The memory of his deceased wife, Anne, further troubles Jimmy. It is unclear whether he really loved her and whether she had any true feelings for him, but the real problem arises when Kenan fails to resolve Jimmy's feelings both about her and about his career.

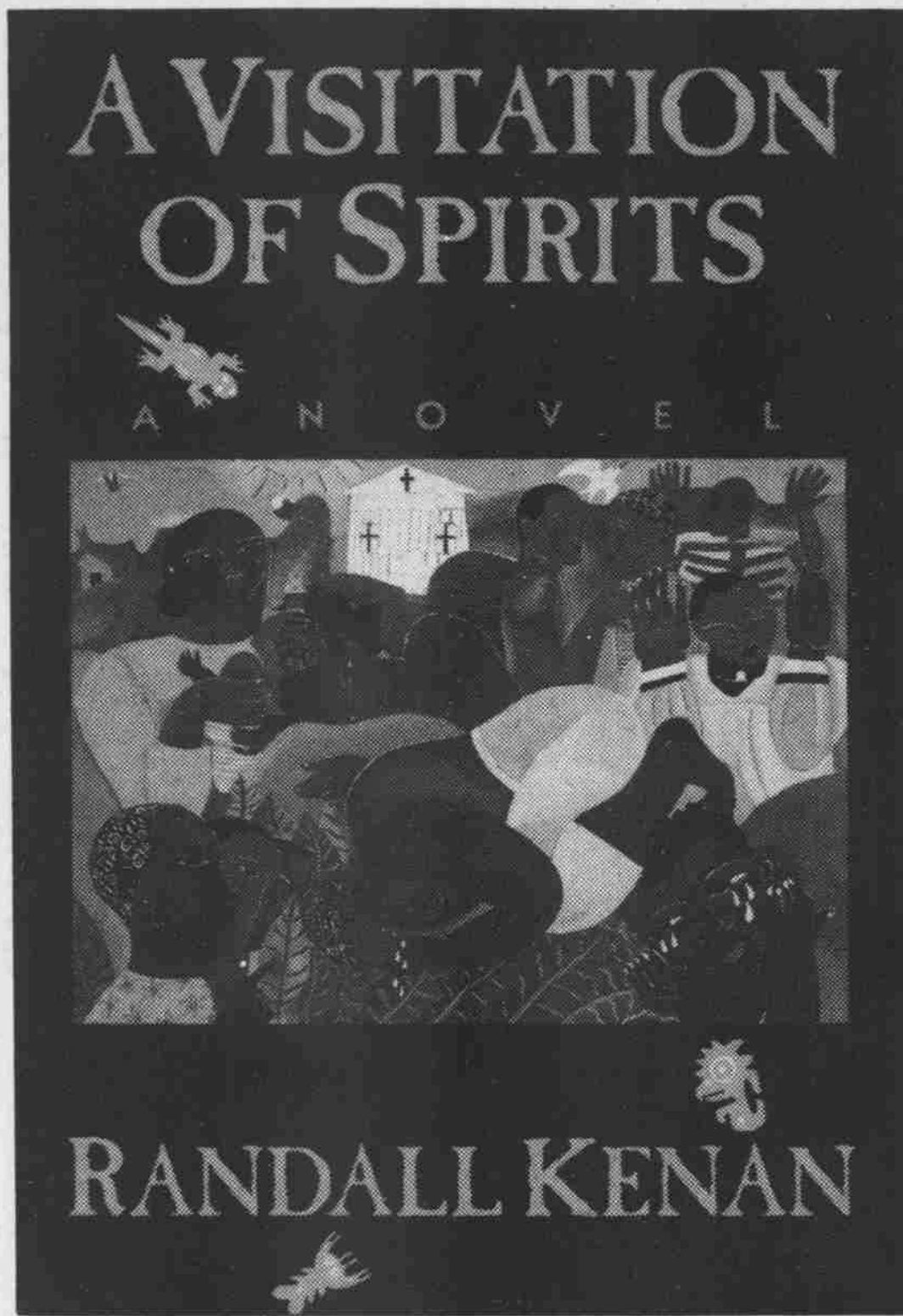
While the reader is left to assume that Jimmy lives with his doubt over his career and former wife, there is no sense of resignation. Jimmy spends the majority of the book acting as a moderator between two of his older relatives, Ezekiel and Ruth.

The most important function Jimmy has in the book is to be a witness to the demise of Horace, which is fitting since Horace confides his homosexuality to Jimmy early in the story.

The conflict between the characters Ezekiel and Ruth is another area of concern. The two characters fight throughout the novel only to become close family members again on a rainy day in a gas station. This quiet resolution leaves too many questions unanswered.

The last problem Kenan has with his novel is the fact that he has conspicuously tried to make the novel Southern by using techniques developed by William Faulkner — the figure who made Southern literature famous outside the South.

Overall, Kenan's book has much merit in the central story. Having one's



troubles manifest themselves into a demon that reveals the tragic moments of life is a fear shared by many. By overlooking the minor characters that tend to clutter the book and by concentrating on the main story, the

reader can appreciate Kenan's talent.

Randall Kenan will read and sign copies of "A Visitation of Spirits" at the Bullshead Bookshop today at 8 p.m.

Concerts abound in Triangle area for weekend fun

By CARRIE McLAREN
Staff Writer

So all the cool kids are going to see 10,000 Maniacs Saturday night. Big deal. Who cares? Twenty bucks?! They must be out of their minds. Just think, you've got all these choice bands in local watering holes at your mercy. Besides, who wants to be just another face in an endless sea of fans?

The heyday begins tonight at the Brewery with Raleigh's Eight or Nine Feet. The band has just returned from an East Coast tour supporting the Connells. Since the release of their *Flint* cassette, Eight or Nine Feet has recorded enough new material to fill another album. After endless efforts to cope with the label sweepstakes, the band has decided to release a record/CD/cassette themselves. Manager Godfrey Cheshire said the homemade label would humbly call itself Wonderful Records.

If the new effort sounds anything like *Flint*, expect catchy, guitar-infected pop. And when you get to the Brewery, make 'em sing Buddy Holly's "Well Alright" without those wood things in the way.

For reggae fans and immobile campusheads, Richmond's Awareness Art Ensemble (AAE) will play Great Hall tonight from nine to midnight. AAE has been making rounds to the Triangle for over six years. The six-piece group writes 75 percent of its material, much of which appeared on the sole vinyl outing, 1988's *Coming Home*. The band has since added several songs to its repertoire, which it shared with Chapel Hill during a summer visit to the ArtsCenter. Although lyrics tend to concern politics and spirituality (Rastafarian, naturally), the band has no problem getting an audience on its feet. UNC students can buy tickets for \$3. All ages will be admitted, but only those with valid ID's may tote alcohol. Everyone should bring dancing shoes.

Friday night, the Sex Police invade the Brewery. Three-fifths of this band played in the Pressure Boys at some point prior to the band's day of reckoning in August 1988. Since April, the Sex Police have patrolled fraternity parties and the local club scene. With the crucial horn section of the Pressure Boys (Stacy Guess and Jay Widenhouse), the band specializes in a jazzin' funk hybrid. Not just a few people will hit the dance floors when the Police (the Sex ones, that is) take the stage. Don't believe me? Call XYC and ask them to play "On the Side of the Truth." And if you're still using the trek to State-land as an excuse not to go, rest assured you can catch the group next

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weekend when they play the Cradle. Saturday night, while Natalie's crooning about child abuse and war, Snatches of Pink and the Flat Duo Jets will celebrate new record releases at Cat's Cradle. Jefferson Holt's label, Doggone Records, will release both works. The Jets, who have allegedly broken up, are reuniting (temporarily?) for the record's sake. Rumor has it that the band has also made a video. *Dead Man*, the Snatches' album, follows the group's 1988 effort, *Send In the Clowns*. Cocteau Twins guitarist Robin Guthrie produced the album. The band included former Let's Active drummer Sara Romweber. (Hmmm. That name sounds familiar.) Despite the fact that Holt manages R.E.M., neither band plays a r.e.m. of jangle, and both bands play their guitars loud. Expect an evening of rowdy raunch 'n' roll.

As if that's still not enough to make your head spin, the Union Cabaret begins to provide convenient entertainment this weekend. For my money — which is, of course, no money — the biggest timely treat arrives Wednesday. Roger Manning, an important part of the New York anti-folk scene, brings only his acoustic guitar and highly conspicuous attitude to his shows. While Manning's self-titled SST debut provides a safe introduction to the semi-chaotic music, he saves his soul-baring for public appearances. Without limiting himself to set lists or lyrical absolutes, Manning ad-libs, interjects extraneous comments and chats throughout songs. The show starts at 8 p.m., so there's plenty of time to study afterward. (Or, you could swing by the Cradle and see the Lemonheads.)

OK, OK, OK. I'm getting ahead of myself. There's no reason for anyone to mope about this weekend's possibilities. Besides, Natalie only looks good in pictures.

Planetarium explores mysteries of space

By LISA ANTONUCCI
Staff Writer

Space — the final frontier.

It sounds like an old cliché from "Star Trek," but nevertheless, our knowledge of the heavens is largely dependent upon our ability to physically explore the surrounding universe.

Of course, vast amounts of information are collected each day, and astronomers have begun to unravel or at least hypothesize about the many mysteries that lie hidden with the stars.

The Morehead Planetarium, with its sky shows, feature films and special workshops, is the perfect place for interested stargazers to learn about these mysteries. The planetarium, founded in 1949 by John Motley Morehead, has served nearly 4 million people since its opening and has provided its visitors with a passageway into the unknown.

The planetarium's newest show, "Galaxy," will headline the fall agenda. As the "powerful eyes of modern as-

tronomy" probe farther into our galaxy and beyond, this show, which debuted Sept. 5, explores the many secrets of these star systems.

"Galaxy" focuses on some of the greatest marvels and mysteries in modern astronomy," said Austin Guiles, assistant planetarium director and author of the show. The new program will discuss topics such as black holes, quasars and the "missing mass problem."

"Galaxies often look so grand and elegant that it is easy to forget that they are colossal systems containing billions of stars," Guiles said. "These star cities are scattered across space. No two galaxies are exactly the same and some are quite peculiar."

The planetarium's main attractions run for about 11 weeks and, like "Galaxy," are usually topical in nature. Other features include Saturday morning children's shows, live-narrated "tours" of the night sky and films. Also offered

at the planetarium are courses teaching everything from sky watching to astrophotography to celestial navigation.

When natural phenomena like the recent lunar eclipse occur, the planetarium is the perfect place to observe them. Although the first part of August was frustrating due to cloud coverage, Voyager II — with its information about Neptune — brought a week of excitement and activity, said Lee Shapiro, director of the planetarium.

"Most of the time we were filled beyond capacity," Shapiro said. "We were open to the public for six afternoons and four evenings, and we showed either live feeds or playbacks from NASA."

Because of Voyager II, the planetarium already has scheduled a new show for summer that will cover the legacy and journeys of Voyager spacecraft.

Also located in the planetarium are various exhibit halls that display and help teach certain concepts of the sci-

ence of astronomy. A permanent collection of art masterpieces — mostly 17th- and 18th-century portraits — is housed in the Morehead Art Gallery, along with changing exhibits by contemporary artists.

A science shop located in the planetarium handles the books, star maps and other supplies needed for all classes taught by the planetarium. It also stocks various science-related materials and science "toys" such as telescopes, prisms and radiometers.

"People make the mistake by thinking that if they've seen one (planetarium) show, they've seen them all," Shapiro said. "There is more to Morehead Planetarium than just the star projector."

Show times for "Galaxy" are at 8 p.m. daily, with weekend matinees at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more information, call 962-1248.

Sports

Women's soccer crushes Spartans; unbeaten streak at 73

By SCOTT GOLD
Staff Writer

When you play women's soccer for North Carolina, you don't just beat your opponents.

You outclass them. Faster feet. Harder heads. Stronger legs. Quicker passes. Better organization.

These are a few of Anson Dorrance's favorite things.

In Greensboro Wednesday afternoon, the Tar Heels crunched the UNC-Greensboro soccer team, pouring in four goals in the first half en route to a 7-1 victory. All seven tallies were knocked in by different players, encompassing what was obviously UNC's most complete win yet.

"I was extremely pleased with both halves of the game," Dorrance said. "One thing I was very pleased with was the rhythm that the starters established and kept throughout the game. It was definitely a fine performance."

If there was a hint to everyone on the sidelines as to what the tone of the game was going to be, it took place about a minute and a half after the beginning of the game, when cries of "Just relax!!!" came floating out of the backfield.

Unfortunately, when you play a team like UNC, relaxing is not the best strategy. Shannon Higgins scored the game's first goal only 3:44 into the game, shaking three of four defenders on her way to the goal, striking a shot into the right side of the net.

Once the short-lived scoreless tie had been broken by Higgins, the match began to grow steadily out of control. Freshman Christine Lilly, who had two goals in the team's first two games, dumped in another, on an assist from Tracy Bates. With her assist in last Saturday's match with Hardin-Simmons she now has seven points.

Bates was probably responsible for at least four of the Tar Heels' seven

goals. In only her third game back after missing last season with injuries, she turned in an outstanding performance in the match, methodically yet spectacularly setting up plays and directing traffic from her midfield position.

"She's awesome," said forward Chris Huston. "She was all over the field today. She makes playing so easy."

Huston also made it look easy, heading one in from five yards out, rebounding a Mia Hamm shot off the crossbar.

After Ava Hyatt scored a goal to make it 3-0, it was sophomore Emily Rice's time to have her turn in spotlight, scoring her first collegiate goal, an unassisted drive off the right side, to make it 4-0 before halftime.

Dorrance left his starters in for a short while in the second half, but it was quite clear by this time that they were not needed, and most were taken out for the rest of the game.

"Games like this are very healthy," Dorrance said. "Tough games every

time would be unhealthy, even suicidal. We got to get a lot of the younger players in today, give them some action and give the starters a rest. Everyone played really well."

Just after the second half began, UNC showed two amazing shots to tie up the match and leave their mark on Greensboro's squad for the year.

At the 45:32 mark, Hamm drove down the right side, closely guarded by Spartan defenders. A half step ahead of both, she brushed the ball in slow motion across the field, past Laura Mussulman, the UNC-G goalie, and two diving defenders. Untouched, the ball slowly rolled into the opposite corner of the goal.

Senior Julie Guarnotta took over as the Tar Heels' next act. On a feed from Hamm, she drove down the right side as well, nearly to the end of the field, where she lifted a shot across the entire length of the goal, just over the outstretched fingers of Mussulman, nestling into the net.

This is not sport. This is art.

Men rebound past Catawba, 5-3

By JASON BATES
Staff Writer

It was hard to tell who had won the game.

Both benches looked disappointed and exhausted, the Catawba bench because they had blown a 3-1 lead with 10 minutes to go, and the Tar Heel bench because they had not expected the Indians to extend them to overtime in their 5-3 victory.

"The third goal was the heart-

breaker." UNC head coach Elmar Bolowich said. "The team showed a great mentality, to come back from already being beaten."

Derek Missimo's second consecutive hat trick helped the Tar Heels storm back to win the nail-biting contest.

For 80 minutes UNC had its way in everything but the scoreboard.

From the opening moments of the game, it looked as if the Tar Heels would breeze through this game and avenge the 4-2 loss they had suffered the previous year. After several near misses early in the game, Missimo opened the scoring at 21:42 of the first half off an assist by Chad Ashton. With the assist, Ashton tied the career record for assists by a UNC player.

Less than three minutes later, Catawba rebounded as Michael Wakeman tied the score on a breakaway. Seven minutes after that, Wakeman sneaked through again to give the Indians a 2-1 halftime advantage.

The Indians spent the second half

playing a defensive game, usually keeping at least nine players in their half of the field and double-teaming Missimo. Catawba made the score 3-1 with 20 minutes to go and the very vocal Indian supporters were going crazy.

But the Tar Heels turned it up a notch with 10 minutes to go. Adam Tinkham brought the score to 3-2 at the 80:23 mark. Then five minutes later, Andrew Cohen tied the score with an assist by Missimo. Cohen put in a header from one yard in front of the goal, deflecting it off the Catawba goalie.

Missimo took control in overtime. He put in the game-winner at 101:48 with an assist from Cohen. Then Missimo added an insurance goal with a breakaway at the 106:12 mark. The assist was credited to Tinkham.

"We're pretty upset with the effort," said Ashton, the team captain. "We should've killed them, but we were lucky to come back and tie them."

Missimo was quick to credit his performance to the play of the whole Tar Heel team.

"My job is to score," he said. "But every goal is attributed to the team. All my goals come from great passes."

Coach Ralph Wagner of Catawba praised the play of Missimo individually as well as the entire UNC team.

"We had our best marking back on him," he said. "But he was completely effective."

"Carolina showed they can come back," Wagner added. "They are a very dangerous team. They can be one of the top five teams in the nation. They just have to concentrate on their finish."

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TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

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