

Spotlight

Grizzard offers insight into life

Okay, I admit it. I almost didn't read Lewis Grizzard's latest book "Chili Dawgs Always Bark At Night." I almost didn't get past the part about biting the cat's ear off and the jab at liberal Democrats. I like cats, and liberal Democrats aren't all that bad.

But it's a wonder what an open mind and a deadline can do for you. So I finished the book, and much to my surprise, it wasn't bad. In fact, it was quite good—in places.

If you can get past the sexism and the racism, you can find some insightful, even touching, moments in Grizzard's book. But don't take the book too seriously, because Grizzard isn't being serious. He's just being honest.

Grizzard tackles everything from "chili dawg" addiction to teenagers, and he pretty much covers it all. Since literary description probably wouldn't do justice to Grizzard's work, I'll let some of the choicer tidbits speak for themselves.

For example, Grizzard's solution to delayed flights and crowded airports: "Bring back the train! If the French can build one that runs smoothly at two hundred miles an hour, certainly we can."

He even has a way to raise the money for this project. "So let's make peace with the Russians and then use all the money we're spending on missiles to bring back the trains."

And what does Grizzard think of baseball players?

"I'm for everybody making all the bucks that he or she can, but every time I watch a bunch of spoiled cry-baby baseball players, like the Mets, it makes me even more aware of how we need to reward others in our society with a lot more than they are making."

Grizzard even has his own views on personal ads. "Any single white female who has to resort to taking out an ad to find a boyfriend would take a SWM (single white male) who was into yodeling, 'Hustler' magazine,

Hasie Sirisena

Book

Ripple and robbing convenience stores."

Grizzard also takes a jab at Southern Baptists: "Turkeys like that have a lot in common with condoms. You can see right through them."

Of course, Grizzard has advice on international relations. "If John Wayne were still alive he'd know what to do to the Japanese investors — take a seven iron and run them and their checkbooks back home before it's too late and Vanna White has to learn eight zillion characters in the Japanese alphabet to keep her job."

Speaking of John Wayne, Grizzard also has advice for smokers: "Quit, damn it."

As he states in his six steps to quit smoking, "Recall that John Wayne smoked, and cigarettes got him when eight zillion Japanese couldn't."

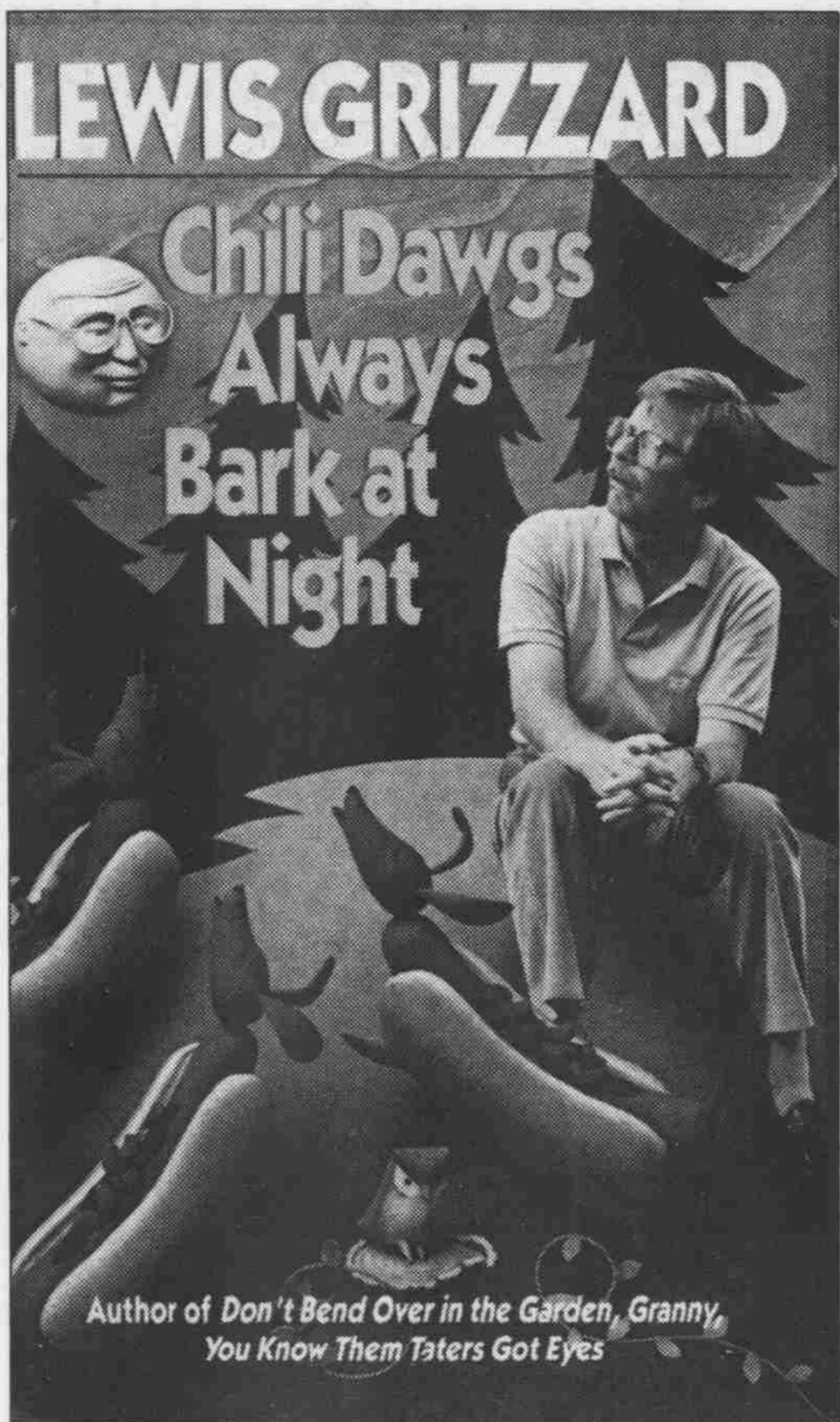
But then there is Grizzard's sage advice in the age of the fitness craze, "Worry kills too. Would someone mention that to the Surgeon General?"

And then there is finally his vision of the future, in which everyone has seen every "M*A*S*H" episode 600 times, dogs will talk, the deficit is so huge we have to sell North Dakota and parts of Montana to the Canadians and "Elvis is still dead."

These are a few examples of Grizzard's take-it-or-leave-it humor. The humor can be a little crude at times, and his sexism borders on the offensive.

But before Grizzard insults too many people, he redeems himself. He relates a touching anecdote or makes a particularly funny and insightful observation, and you really can't help but forgive him.

Grizzard has something to offer with his unconventional wisdom. He manages to point out how unfair life is while he laughs at it.



Lewis Grizzard's latest work, 'Chili Dawgs Always Bark at Night'

Pauper Players to add the sound of music to UNC

By D'ANN PLETCHER

Staff Writer

It's automatic. It's systematic. It's hydromatic. It's GREASED LIGHT-NIN! And now, it's here, courtesy of the Pauper Players, a new musical-theater company.

The Players — a group of 40 actors, singers, musicians and dancers — are filling what they call an artistic void on the UNC campus. With their debut production "Grease," the group plans to become the University's first consistent source of musical theater.

Angela Coin and Scott Gold, co-directors and co-producers of "Grease," said they had no problem rounding up some of the most talented people on campus to join the show. In fact, they said many people who auditioned had been waiting a long time for such an opportunity.

Mary Beth Montgomery, musical director of the Loreleis, will play the lead role of Rizzo. Montgomery said she had been checking bulletin boards for signs of musical theater production since her freshman year. "I've always looked for stuff like this around campus. I was thrilled when someone finally put something together."

Laurie Dhue, who has acted in Lab Theatre productions of "Vanities" and "Suddenly Last Summer," also jumped at the chance to play a Pink Lady in "Grease."

Coin said Loreleis and drama majors weren't the only ones who crowded in for the auditions. "We had people from all over the place — math majors, English majors — begging to be Burger Palace boys or Rizzo. Everybody wanted to be Rizzo."

In contrast to Lab Theater productions, which are dominated by drama majors, the Players give the closet ham

a chance to strut his stuff. The lead role of Kenickie will be played by such a student.

"This fifth-year senior named Nick Kiouis walks in and says 'I can't sing and I can't act.' Then, of course, he's so incredible he gets a lead role," Dhue said.

Another difference between the Players and other campus theatrical groups lies in its organization, Gold said. "Our staff is completely student-run, and it's run in a very innovative and democratic manner. There is a hierarchical structure with the director/producer at the top, but this is by no means a rigid structure. For example, if we are deciding on set design, the music director will have a say in it."

"This would be unheard of in most productions... We're all in this together."

Despite ample staff and cast enthusiasm, getting the show on the road has been difficult. While the company practices four days a week on songs, the scripts have yet to arrive. The company also is looking for a place to perform and is waiting for promised Student Congress funding.

After a rejection by PlayMakers Theatre, the group has made tentative plans for a December performance in the Student Union Auditorium.

Despite minor setbacks, the Players are confident that the excitement of musical theater will help them overcome the obstacles.

"Musical theater is a real high," Coin said. "It appeals to people in a different way than strict drama or music. The theme is always light and fun — you know, he loves her and she loves him and then they sing about it. It's shoo bop shoo wadda wadda yippidie boom de boom. You know?"

DTH: the best news on campus

THYROID RESEARCH STUDY

Researchers at UNC-CH are seeking patients with possible mild untreated hypothyroidism for a research study. Individuals (ages 18-65) who have a family history of thyroid illness and/or individuals with history of "borderline" low thyroid functioning, thyroiditis, thyroid surgery or decreased energy and mood may be eligible to receive a free evaluation of their thyroid gland from a medical team at NCMH. Individuals currently receiving thyroid hormone treatment are not eligible. Benefits include \$50.00 payment.

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Pecking Order debuts with unique sound

Put together four guys who bathe regularly, who have good manners and who stay hungry just about all the time, and what do you get?

The Pecking Order, a newly-formed local band that debuted Saturday night in Chapel Hill.

But this wasn't really the first time these guys have played together. The Pecking Order formed from three members of Teasing the Korean, with the addition of bassist Jim Miskell.

According to John Ensslin, vocalist for the group, the band wants to make a point to be civilized.

"We're a band that's not afraid to be glamorous and not afraid to be romantic," he said. "We're kind of scary, but we believe in manners."

While making their debut at a private party this weekend, police ordered the band to grind their romantic dance tunes to a screeching halt at midnight.

"Young people go to college, not old people," guitarist Greg Cain said. "I'm surprised Chapel Hill is turning into a retirement community so soon."

With Cain on guitar, Tom Maxwell on drums and John Ensslin on vocals, these former members of Teasing the Korean in July joined with Miskell to

Leigh Pressley

Band Profile

form the Pecking Order.

The band's sound has changed somewhat while the form has remained the same, Cain said. "The sound is less bombastic. It doesn't sound like the world is coming to an end. We have the same drummer and the same singer, so it's the same in that we have a similar style."

Cain described the Pecking Order's sound as "rhythmical and tight." With four different musical backgrounds coming together, Cain said, four different styles result. Cain, who enjoys jazz, also plays bass, church organ, piano and several brass instruments. Miskell, on the other hand, is more into heavy metal, Cain said.

"It doesn't sound thrashy or anything. It's not heavy metal or hard rock," he said. "I can't help being romantic when I'm playing guitar. I'm not out to kill anyone. I'm more interested in being attractive."

The Pecking Order plays about 10 original songs. According to Ensslin, who writes the lyrics, the band's philosophy is "the fakier, the better."

"In rock songs, you illustrate one facet of an emotion — one simplified facet that says more than the whole world of emotion," he said. "Our songs illustrate one feeling to a particular point."

Some of the band's influences include the Virgin Price, Sid Barrett, Terry McInturs, the Shags, the Hi-Lows and a Killing Joke.

Ensslin said he must consider his vocal talents rather than his musical tastes when he chooses songs. "I have to think of how my voice is constructed, how my throat is and what my voice is like. I like the way a lot of people sound, but I could never sing them."

The band's name stems from the anthropological intimidation system among birds, Ensslin said. "It doesn't make us out to be the aggressor or the victim. We're not the good guys or the bad guys," he said. "It's just a nice sound."

Although the Pecking Order formed only three months ago, its predecessor

Teasing the Korean, which formed in 1986, gained widespread recognition traveling throughout the state and the Southeast.

As Teasing the Korean, the band played at the Cat's Cradle, the Hardback Cafe, La Terazza and the Arts Center in the Chapel Hill area; and at the Brewery and the Fallout Shelter in Raleigh.

Members of the Pecking Order have high hopes for a future album and East coast tour. "We should be touring outside the state by the end of the year," Cain said. "But we're a local band; our roots are here."

Ensslin said that the band's immediate goal, however, involves bringing the music's sound to where it should be.

"We're most interested in how we put together songs and how they're sounding. Getting the music to the way we want it to sound is very satisfying in itself."

The Pecking Order spends a lot of time on small details that often go unnoticed, Cain said. "We're best at being clever with arrangements. We put the pieces together and work with the timing and with the endings. We spend a lot of time getting the presentation right."

Chicago ensemble to kick off Union arts series

From staff reports

The Chicago Symphony Chamber Ensemble, an eight-member branch of the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra, today will fill Memorial Hall with rich melodies from a variety of classics in the first performance of the 1989-90 Carolina Union Performing

Arts Series.

The program will include Boccherini's Quintet No. 9 in C Major for Guitar and Strings; Bolcom's "Fancy Tales" for Violin and Piano and his "Sessions III" for E-flat Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Piano and Percussion; and Mozart's Quintet in A major, K. 581, for

Clarinet and Strings.

Since the organization of the chamber music series in 1965, ensemble playing has been encouraged among the orchestra's members because it adds a new dimension to the orchestra, providing the individual musician with an opportunity to highlight virtuoso abilities through a challenging chamber repertoire.

The members of the 1989 Chamber Ensemble are Albert Igonnikov, violin; Nancy Park, violin; Richard Ferrin, violin/viola; Loren Brown, cello; John Bruce Yeh, clarinet/basset clarinet; Patricia Dash, percussion; Mary Sauer, piano; and Jeffrey Kust, guitar. They come from as far away as the Soviet Union and Seoul, Korea and from as close as New York and Wisconsin.

All the members have trained at diverse universities and conservatories, including a variety of institutions such

as the Julliard and Eastman schools of music, and Peabody, St. Louis and Leningrad conservatories.

Donald Henahan of The New York Times observed, after the orchestra's appearance at Carnegie Hall, "We sometimes speak of musicians seeming to breathe in unison with a conductor and one another, but rarely do we come upon the phenomenon."

"In fact, if there could be any conceivable complaint about the performance, it might be that one sometimes could be so astonished by the finesse and control of this orchestra that attention was fleetingly distracted from the work itself."

The Chicago Symphony Chamber Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. today at Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$7 for students. Call 962-1449 for more information.

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October 17, 1989

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