

# Arts & Features

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## Classes support enviro-friendly cooking

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Four professors developed the Food for Thought cluster, appropriately enough, during a meal together two years ago. After their second annual Harvest Bounty Shared Meal Sunday night, they said they still approach new ideas the same way: around a table.

"Food is often involved in our meetings," said Karin Peterson, associate sociology professor and co-coordinator of Food for Thought. "The four of us sat down around a meal and chatted about what would be good ways to engage our students and how they could bring the expertise from their discipline to educating themselves and others in the clusters. The great thing about this project is students learn from other students in their group."

The addition of associate biology professor David Clarke to the cluster and the invitation of local farmers and restaurant owners as guests were two changes made to the event this year.

Like last year, students from the cluster courses formed teams and created a meal for 10 people with an assigned constraint. Each group had a constraint of local foods, or-



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The Harvest Bounty Shared Meal celebrated the new Food for Thought cluster. Team jicama won the aesthetics award for their autumn themed table (above). Each of the seven members on the team won a pumpkin from Jafasa Farm (left).

ganic foods, whole foods or limited budget.

"The constraints we chose based on common constraints that families deal with. We tried to pool the different aspects and constraints so the group would have a challenge," said Sally Wasileski, assistant chemistry professor and a co-coordinator for the event. "It wasn't just about them cooking and having a meal together; it was about them really having to think through all the different aspects that go into preparing just one meal."

The result was a diverse range of carefully prepared meals and table decorations, but the students were graded on

more than taste and ambiance. Each group had to analyze the nutritional value of their meal and consider sustainability.

"One of our main goals is to help students reconnect with the source of their food and have an understanding of how to be an informed consumer of food, so it's kind of rolling those pieces back together," said Amy Lanou, assistant professor of health and wellness.

Lanou said her focus, as a nutritionist, was on the health aspect.

Junior environmental economics student Noah Carlson helped prepare a meal for team apple, which worked with the low budget constraint. Carlson said his team

sacrificed sustainability to drive as far as Wal-Mart for supplies, but they did meet budget. Carlson said he had cooking experience prior to his land economics class with associate professor of economics Leah Mathews, but the challenge to feed 10 people for \$30 made him approach cooking in a new way.

Wasileski said the chemistry of food class is the only one in the cluster to incorporate cooking during class.

"In our class, the main learning outcome is to understand chemistry principles and how they relate to our everyday world," Wasileski said.

Several science labs require students to cook

or bake and then analyze the chemistry involved during the process. According to Wasileski, one of the experiments includes a common food.

"In learning about how molecules interact with one another, we make butter, because that's an example of changing the intermolecular interactions between molecules that are in cream to make the solid butter and the liquid kind of buttermilk that comes off," she said.

Team jicama was not obligated to make their own butter for their homemade wheat bread, but it was necessary to cook with only organic ingredients. Senior literature student Rachel Poole said after two courses

within the cluster, her cooking experience is still fairly minimal.

"I don't think it made me a better cook; it just made me more aware of what I'm consuming. I don't think the point is to learn how to cook," Poole said. "It's learning about the process of what you're putting into your body."

Team jicama won the aesthetics award for the execution of their autumn theme. Team leeks, one of the low budget teams, won the most innovative use of food for their homemade ice cream. The prize was a pumpkin from Jafasa Farm for each member of each winning team.

### Personal Ink, Inc.

**Who:** Kimberly Hersey, senior drama student.

**Why:** "The idea of a daisy is from a song from Girl Scout camp. I spent the summer on staff at a GS camp and wanted to commemorate that. It is dripping with raindrops because Raindrop is my counselor name, and I wanted to indicate that it had been through an event that, instead of killing the flower, helped it grow."

I got it on August 11 at Modern Electric Tattoo in Rocky Mount, NC; designed and executed by Cliff Bush."



Want to feature your body art? Send a photograph of your ink along with your name and an explanation to mwagnerh@unca.edu.

## Risque comedian lounges in Asheville

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Offensive, funny, rude, talented and perverted are a few words that describe the lounge singer Tony Clifton, a performer who comedian Andy Kaufman discovered. Just don't mention that to Clifton.

"Someone asked me the other day what I thought Andy Kaufman would be doing if he was alive today," Clifton said. "You know what I said? He'd be scratching at the inside of his coffin!"

Andy Kaufman and Bob Zmuda first introduced Tony Clifton in 1969. He opened for many of Kaufman's shows and appeared on Letterman, among other talk shows. After Kaufman died, Clifton continued to perform solo. He also appeared in the movie "Man on the Moon," starring Jim Carrey.

"I've been doing this my whole life," Clifton said.

One theory suggests Clifton was an alternate persona for Kaufman and that Zmuda appeared as Clifton on occasion.

"There is a good chance it's Bob Zmuda; there's a good chance Bob Zmuda passed the torch on to someone else. It could be that Tony Clifton was always Tony Clifton, and people were just made to believe that it was Bob Zmuda and Andy Kaufman," said 21-year-old David Howard. "The question is, do you know who Tony Clifton is?"

During the show at the Orange Peel last week, Clifton sang famous lounge songs such as Lonely Girl, Kick in

the Head, Goldfinger and Swearing to God. When he wasn't singing, he insulted the audience, the South, religions, nationalities, Andy Kaufman and anyone else that came to mind.

"I think he does what he does for shock value, and it works," Howard said. "I was splattered with water, beer and asked to dance by this drunk chick. It was interesting. But he balances it out pretty well."

Clifton performed with the Katrina Kiss My Ass Orchestra, which formed in New Orleans.

Like any lounge act there were costume changes and stylish outfits as well as a burlesque troupe that was put together by Trixie Minx, a New Orleans native.

"We've been working with Tony Clifton since May and our first performances were in June. All of the girls are professional dancers in my troupe, which is now part of Tony's troupe," Minx said.

The constant shifts on stage were difficult for some performers.

"At first it drove me crazy," the 26-year-old said. "It's not a regular show at all. It's not run at all like anything else I've ever been a part of, but the more I'm in it, the more I fall in love with it. It's so off-the-cuff."

Minx offered a great deal of praise for the talent of the performers as well.

"We all had different gigs and talent scouts came down to where we were playing in little clubs and said, 'hey, you're really good,'" said Joshua Paxton, the pianist for the band. "I



ERICA GRABON - ARTS & FEATURES WRITER

Comedian Tony Clifton showcased at the Orange Peel last week. His act included the Katrina Kiss My Ass orchestra and a burlesque dance troupe.

said, 'yeah, ok, whatever.' Then he said, 'I'm from Comic Relief. How would you like to come play for Tony Clifton?'"

Musicians like drummer Alfred Salvant have nothing but praise for Clifton and the show.

"It's the best damn thing in the world. You have Tony Clifton, just don't care what he says," Salvant said. "You got a 10 to 15-piece band orchestra, you got burlesque dancers and singers. What more could you want? I mean it's the greatest damn show on earth."

Clifton's antics can be hard to deal with at times for some performers.

"It's Tony being Tony, and people react to that in different ways. The emotional content is very real and people had just had enough and ended up leaving the stage. When we finished the show the twelve piece band was reduced to four members," Paxton said.

In the end, not all the members who left the stage quit the band but a few did, so the band



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Tony Clifton continues to quip with the audience as he changes into a glitzier ensemble.

is now in a transitional period, Paxton said.

"It's an incredible experience. Tony is everything he seems and more," Paxton said.

Though the band travels with the dancers on two buses, Clifton travels alone. Occasionally, he goes out afterward to

party with the band. Yet no matter where he goes, the report from the band is always the same.

"Tony Clifton is Tony Clifton," Minx said. "I don't know about Bob Zmuda or Andy Kaufman, but Tony has always been my No. 1."