

New Millennium Same Cosby

By Carmen Scott

"I brought you into this world and I'll take you out!" How many times have we heard those words come out of our mothers' or fathers' mouth growing up? It's the classic angry parent line and we've all heard it at least once.

The originator of that classic declaration recently paid the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill a visit. Dr. Bill Cosby gave a performance of his timeless comedy for two packed crowds Sept. 21 in

Memorial Hall to benefit the building's renovation. For the handful of students willing to dig deep for a \$35 ticket, the show was certainly a treat.

Our generation was raised on "The Cosby Show." We remember Vanessa's fight with the pep club girls, the funeral for Rudy's pet fish in the bathroom and Denise's sorry attempt to recreate a Gordon Gortrell original for Theo just as vividly as if they had been events from our own childhoods.

It was unheard of to be anywhere but

right in front of the television screen on Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. during those years.

Each fall, on the night when the season premiered, one flicker of the streetlight would send every child in the neighborhood racing home to catch the show's new opening credits. Don't we all remember how let down we were that year the credits stayed the same as the season before?

Ahhh "The Cosby Show." Thursday night was the one night when the whole family could get comfortable around the T.V. and share laughs together.

After all, after "The Cosby Show," we were treated to an episode of another Cosby brainchild and everyone's second-favorite show on television, "A Different World." There it was, a full hour of quality family time compliments of Bill Cosby.

These days you can only watch a prime-time television show with your parents if you're at that point where you can bear to hear sexual innuendos and mild profanity in their presence. I, personally, am not there yet.

Much of Cosby's comedy centers around the family, specifically the African-American family. His material comes from his own experiences as both a father and a son.

During his Memorial Hall performance, Cosby recalled the time when he was six years old and he asked his parents for money.

Growing up, Cosby said his parents were "broke," not poor, "broke," but he was sure they could spare their son a few pennies so he could show his friends that he had money and avoid being made fun of.

"We don't have it," they told him, sending him into a stomping fit that culminated in his slamming his bedroom door and locking it.

Now, as kids we all knew never to slam the bedroom door. We also knew never to lock the bedroom door. During the routine Cosby claimed demons living in his stomach had instructed him to do these unheard of things.

Then Cosby gave a dramatic reenactment of his father's enraged reaction, which sparked shouts of laughter among audience members who were recalling their own childhood memories of, we'll

