

Billy Howard's work impressive and sensitive

by Donna Sammander

"If it were in book form, I'd buy it," says student Kristen Kennedy about the Paralympiad photography exhibition that was recently held in Belk Main lounge during St. Andrews Centennial celebration. Photography by Billy Howard, text by Maggie Holzberg, the show consists of portraits of people who are physically disabled, some of whom competed in this summer's Paralympiad. As said in the introductory text, the portraits are about the "cultural context in which the disability occurs" and shows the subjects in their work and home environments. The photographs do not focus on a person with his/her wheelchair. Gazing from one portrait and text to another, the viewer gets the feeling of the family or school life each subject was raised in and how those around him/her reacted to his/her physical disability.

The first of the portraits was of artist David Sampson, his face and figure highlighted in the darkened studio. His eyes seem to be elsewhere, gazing at a higher vision, while his hands, twisted with cerebral palsy, hold paintbrush and palette. This is the portrait of an artist in his studio, and his cerebral palsy is almost an afterthought.

By calling the disability an afterthought does not mean that the photog-

rapher has ignored it or tried to obscure it from sight. Billy Howard as photographer captures living moments in each of these vibrant people's lives. He has portrayed their disabilities as a fact of their lives, not as what describes them.

A beautifully portrayed example of this is the photograph of Paralympian Al Mead who stretches his body parallel to a wall, his white clad body pointing in four directions. His supporting leg just happens to be his amputated one, which, as a child, he thought "God would grow back."

Howard captures another vivid moment of someone's life in his portrait of Lauren Mc Devitt, a paralympic equestrian, who is silhouetted nose to nose with her horse against the stables. Also in dark silhouette is the wheelchair she sits in.

What struck me about these photos was their natural setting and natural stance. But they did not appear to be spontaneously taken. When mentioned to Billy Howard, he burst out with, "Ahaah. Important point!" Howard explained that the setting and modelling

of his portraits were definitely not by chance. He controlled the light and dark of the setting, and the modelling of the subject. However, Howard added, his subject's posture was not completely contrived. In order to help them forget about the camera and also, to observe the flux of their thoughts and expressions, Howard spent time chatting with them. Then, he'd snap them in a characteristic moment in order to produce portraits full of depth and story.

Bakefest: Bad weather, good food

by Celeste Day

Friday, Oct. 4th, Mecklenburg Hall put on "Bake Fest," an annual oyster bake for the St. Andrews community. Those who attended certainly didn't go hungry; there were oysters, hot dogs, and baked potatoes on sale, with soda and potato chips for free.

The party was fairly well attended, considering the weather, which was very cold and windy. Because of the weather, many students stayed home or went to smaller parties inside the dorm. This disappointed Mecklenburg residents, since "Bake fest" is one of Mecklenburg's biggest fund raisers. But

the men of Meck persevered and those who came to the party had a great time.

As one student put it, "even though it was cold and wet, Meck's men still got the job done."

Most of the students who attended stayed near the bonfire or the grill, although those who stayed close to each other had a great time on the dance floor.

The official party began at nine, although very few people came until about ten thirty. "Bake fest" ended at one, but the parties in the halls of Mecklenburg continued for most of the night.

Music therapy session sends message about relationships and change

As the song says, "There's a danger in loving somebody too much," but "sometimes love just ain't enough." In fact, popular music often tells more truths than we realize about our relationships, which was the point of a "music therapy" session conducted recently by Dean of Students Marcia Nance for members of PATHWAYS.

A dozen students and staff gathered in Pate Hall to hear Carole King, Don Henley, Patty Smith, Crosby, Stills and Nash and other artists sing about the ups and downs of love. Dean Nance purposefully selected music that would take

the group through the relationship cycle, from the first "whoosh" of attraction, to the break-up period and beyond.

"Every other problem that comes in the door (at Student Life) is about relationships, about communicating," Nance said. "That's because the person you met today is not the same person tomorrow. We change," she said, and because of that, so do our relationships. "How many times have you heard, 'Why can't it just stay the same?'"

It can't, Nance added, because "relationships are a sequence — a cycle, a pattern, a movement. Not a snapshot, but

a movie, and we have to understand where we are in the movement. One of the reasons students have so many relationships at this time in their lives is because they're changing so much." With change, an unequal love may develop, and that, too, can end the relationship, she said.

While listening to the seven songs Nance selected, members of the group were asked to trace the path of their feelings on a piece of paper filled with various shapes. Some of the shapes were smooth, almost round, and connected at the ends. Others had sharp, jagged points with gaps

between the ends.

"Music is a universal language. We all understand music, even though we don't understand ourselves," Nance said, explaining how the various songs conveyed the path of a relationship from beginning to end. The lyrics told the story:

"Give it all you can give it when love comes around."

"I keep thinking something's gonna change."

"Are there things that you wanted to say?"

"I'm learning to live without you now, but I miss you sometimes."

"Now and forever you are a part of me, and the memory cuts like a knife."

"That's what love is for... to help you through it."

"The memory of love will bring you home."

Nance's message was that we can improve our relationships, make them better and stronger, but we need to do it consciously. Her advice: "Feel all your feelings, tell the microscopic truth, and keep your agreements. When we decide that we are the builder, the chooser, our relationships change. We are here to change, and we have to learn to live with and work with it."