



**CLASH OF VIEWPOINTS** — Alan Felton (left) and Todd Waters battle over Julie Salkeld during the play *Rashomon* in Coltrane Theatre, produced as part of last week's Symposium. (Photo by Beth Sherrard.)

# 'Rashomon' gives glimpse of different sides of truth

By CECILIA CASEY

Can three or four people tell different accounts of the same event and all be right? That is, could all four be telling the truth? In watching the play, *Rashomon*, a person cannot help but ask that question, not just because the drama re-enacts four different accounts of one man's murder but due to the outstanding acting of the key actors.

The play starts with a disheartened priest, played by John Hearne, arriving at the Rashomon gate. The priest has decided to leave his monastery after having to give testimony in police court concerning a Samurai who was murdered. Then a woodcutter (Sam Bell), who also had to give testimony at the court, and a wigmaker (Carol Gay) join the priest and begin to talk about what has happened. The story is re-

## Review

vealed through the woodcutter's telling the wigmaker what was said in the police court.

The woodcutter starts with the bandit's account of the murder. The bandit, portrayed very well by Todd Waters, has killed a Samurai (Alan Felton) after the bandit had raped the Samurai's wife (Julie Salkeld). The bandit said the wife had asked for a chance for her honor to be restored, therefore the bandit and the Samurai had to fight.

The Samurai lost, the wife ran off, and the bandit was arrested. No questions would have been asked if it were not for the wife's saying that she had killed her husband after he had rejected her be-

cause of the rape.

To further the confusion, a medium (Debbie Rithman) speaks for the Samurai, who claimed that the bandit ran off right after he refused to kill the Samurai as his wife had asked the bandit to do. The Samurai claims to have killed himself, and that his wife never loved him.

After the woodcutter gets through telling these accounts to the wigmaker, he goes on to tell his own version of the murder, which is that the killing was an accident after the Samurai and the bandit fought, not in defense of the wife's honor but because she provoked the fight.

The scene with the medium was one of the best that the Coltrane Theatre and Vaughn Schütz have produced in three years. The sword fight in the first act also was well worth seeing. The stage was impressive and well worth seeing, due to the patterned lights which projected shapes like bamboo leaves.

Jean Almond, who was in the audience, said, "It was wonderful. I thought that the actors showed great skill and the fight was breathtaking."

Bonnie Kane said, "I had always wanted to see *Rashomon* live, and I was happy to see it so well done. I also like the lights and sound, and Jim Singleton did a wonderful job choreographing all of this."

# Pell grants fall victim of deficit

(CPS) — College students who expected rapid improvements in financial aid under President Clinton's administration will be disappointed by the most recent news coming out of the nation's capital.

Education Secretary Richard Riley said budget problems will prevent the government from increasing the current \$2,300 Pell grants to individual students right now.

In addition, President Clinton's play to let students work off college debts through community service, the proposed National Service Trust Fund, likely will be phased in gradually over a period of time, rather than launched in a massive program, White House assistants said.

Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said the new administration is facing a deficit that is \$60 billion to \$100 billion higher than it was last year when Clinton proposed the National Service Trust Fund. The president "had to reconsider a lot of his options based on the higher deficit numbers," she said at a Feb. 4 news conference.

Riley didn't make too many friends on the collegiate level in one of his first public appearances when he warned that his department will probably be unable to

offer much financial aid immediately because of budget deficits.

"I don't want to bear sad tidings," Riley said at a meeting of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), which represents about 1,600 private colleges. But that's exactly what he did.

Raising the maximum grant to needy college students from \$2,300 to \$4,000, as recent proposals have suggested, is "not possible under the current circumstances," he said.

During his campaign, Clinton promised to increase dramatically the amount of financial aid for higher education. Clinton also said one of his top priorities was to give any person, regardless of income, the opportunity to go to

college. Working in public service after graduation would be a means of paying off college loans.

But Riley said those plans will have to be phased in more slowly than the new administration had anticipated.

"I don't like it — you don't like it," he said at the meeting.

Riley's sobering news came on the heels of a congressionally mandated report that called for a plan that would require about \$7 billion in government funding to enable every college student to get some form of financial aid.

According to reports in *The Washington Post*, the Education Department has been one of the most neglected in the federal government, and some of its computers are so outdated they are nearly useless.

## Student Government Association ELECTIONS!!!

Dates to Remember:

March 1 ..... Campaigning begins

March 15 ..... SGA Open House

March 16 ..... Candidate Forum

March 17 ..... ELECTIONS!

Remember — Your vote makes a difference!

## Campus Security Log

**Feb. 11** — Attempted robbery near Spruill Building. At approximately 10:45 p.m. a female student was assaulted in an attempted robbery by an unknown assailant. She was walking toward the north end of campus. The case is under investigation.

**Feb. 14** — Larceny, North Hall. A North Hall resident reported the theft of a dress from the laundry room. There are no suspects at this time.

**Feb. 19** — Larceny, Nash Hall. A Nash Hall resident reported the theft of a designer shirt and sweat pants from the laundry room. There are no suspects at this time.

**Feb. 22** — Vandalism, Bauer Athletic Field. On Feb. 20 some unknown persons vandalized the baseball field, causing over \$1,500 worth of damage. The case is under investigation by the Rocky Mount Police Department.

**Crime prevention tips** — All students are encouraged to walk in groups or call Security for an escort at 977-7374. Students are urged to remain with their laundry.

(This information was compiled and provided by the Director of Campus Security. Anyone with information about any of the above crimes should contact Deborah Pittman at 985-5180.)