

## Oktoberfest means fun for a day

by Rena Mauldin  
Arts/Entertainment Editor

In the days of old, the Germans created Oktoberfest to celebrate their heritage which embodied the spirit of the people of beloved Deutschland.

The Student Union Board (SUB) along with the Intramural department will create a new approach to the old tradition of Oktoberfest.

They plan to combine a German celebration with a new dimension that will enhance the spirit of Oktoberfest and make it fun for all.

Maureen Dougherty, advisor to SUB, said that the main purpose for Oktoberfest is to build the community on campus. "It's a chance to allow students and faculty to join together and have a good time."

Dougherty said that the idea of Oktoberfest came from last year's Elon Olympics. The Olympics provided students with the opportunity to develop their own team and participate with each other.

However, Elon Olympics required the interest and

enthusiasm of participants for a week of scheduled events. Dougherty and many others believed a week of scheduled events was tiring to the body and to the mind.

They decided to condense the events from a week to one day. Dougherty said that by doing this, participants should maintain their eagerness and pursuit of the events.

Dougherty said that they welcome the opportunity to have Greeks involved, but in order for it to not become a team of Greek competitors, only three Greeks from the same organization may participate on each team.

The teams are composed of six members. Teams can be no more or less than that required number. All team members must participate in at least one event.

The events will take place rain or shine. A map of the location of each event will be provided, along with alternative locations in case of rain. A live WSOE remote will be at the Fine Arts Patio.

Intramural officials will be at each station for participants to

sign score cards. All teams must complete the event by 3 p.m. and must have turned in the score sheets.

Each team member must bring large sweat pants, a large sweat shirt, tennis shoes, a bathing suit, a towel, and a sense of humor.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place teams. The first place team will receive \$300. The second place team will receive a \$75 gift certificate to the Cutting Board and the third place team will be given a \$35 gift certificate to the Back Door.

All team members must be present at the Awards Ceremony in order to win. Awards Ceremony will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Yeager Recital Hall.

Sign up forms and Oktoberfest information are available in the SUB Office in Long Student Center between 12 and 3 p.m. from Monday through Friday. Interested persons may call 584-2334.

Dougherty said that this is Oktoberfest Elon style --- no beer allowed.



Paul (David Nisbet) tells his old friend Colin (Michael Gregory) to stop reminiscing about his dead fiancée.

## 'Absent Friends' a comedy of ordinary people

by Wilma Dixon  
Staff Writer

The Missouri Repertory Theatre will present the British comedy "Absent Friends" Tuesday, October 3, in the Fine Arts Theatre at 8 p.m.

The comedy uses eight characters, but you only see six. Although two are "absent" from the audience's view, so much is said about them that they become major characters as well. This nearly flawless cast turns what could be a moment of tear-wrenching tragedy into a savagely funny comedy, according to Dennis Rosa, the director.

Beginning his theatrical career as an actor, Ayckbourn has managed a small theater in Scarborough, England for the last 20 years. He has written 35 plays and has more hits running anywhere in the world than any contemporary playwright. His plays have been translated into 16 different languages to play in 23 different countries.

Best known for his broad humor and comic revelations of human problems, Alan Ayckbourn is characterized by Americans as "the British Neil Simon". His comedies are about English suburban life: marriage, marital problems, divorce, and relationships between the formally married.

Even though they are slightly sad, the plays still evoke humor. For Ayckbourn, producing "Absent Friends" was a terrifying risk because he had never pitched anything in such a low key before. Surprisingly, this play has become a benchmark in his evolution as an author from farce to serious comedy.

Written in 1974, this comedy deals with friendship, but it's even more about marriage. Three couples are trying to help a friend over the grief they presume he is suffering since the accidental death of his fiancée.

Each character's preoccupation or bias prevents him or her from fully "connecting" with the others, although they have come together as friends for precisely that purpose. Colin, the main character, misreads his friends' marriages and turns the situations pathetic and hilarious at once.

"Absent Friends" exemplifies the Ayckbourn theory. The most extraordinary career in contemporary English playwriting is built entirely of the stuff of ordinary lives.

Tickets are \$10 or free with a student ID and can be picked up at the Fine Arts Box Office, Monday through Friday, from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

## Talent show: giving it your all

Rena Mauldin  
Arts/Entertainment Editor

The student talent show featuring comedian emcee David Naster will be Friday, September 29 at 8 p.m.

Naster has opened for artists Barbara Mandrell, the Manhattan Transfer, and Steven Landesburg.

He is presently creating new characters in conjunction with Sesame Street.

There will ten acts in the talent show. The most prominent act will be vocal. A keyboard player, a guitarist, a piano/chello player and three bands will also perform.

The judges will be selected by members of the Student Union Board (SUB) which will consist of students, faculty, and staff.

According to Maureen Daughtery, advisor to SUB, stated that if a person arrives late for the talent show and there are no seats available, that person will not be allowed to stand

during the show. The theatre will not exceed its seating capacity.

Daughtery said that last year's talent show was extremely overcrowded and that she wants to prevent the same occurrence from happening to this year's talent show.

"The efforts to planning the talent show is perceived as having a big turnout, especially since it is Parents Weekend," said Daughtery.

SUB advisor said that they anticipate a large crowd; however, they do not want it to become an evening of displeased audiences due to the non-available seats.

Daughtery said that the talent show should provide interesting and enjoyable entertainment and encourages everyone to come out for the occasion.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners. The first prize is \$100 given by the Parents' Relation. The second prize is \$60 and the third prize is \$25.

**MISSOURI REPERTORY THEATRE**

presents a coast-to-coast tour of

ABSENT FRIENDS

by Alan Ayckbourn

You'll squirm and giggle at this delightful, hilariously awkward comedy of ill-fated marriages and absurd friendships as the Missouri Repertory Theatre coast-to-coast touring company presents *Absent Friends*.

Don't miss out on the fun. Everyone will be talking about it!

Some performances are made possible in part by funding from Missouri Arts Council, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Arts Midwest, Western States Arts Federation, North Carolina Arts Council, Southern Arts Federation, and Louisiana State, Inc.

Tuesday, October 3  
Fine Arts Theatre