

Features

From Antarctica to Auckland



By Rebecca Muller
STAFF WRITER

If you've ever wondered about the soil in Antarctica, then Astrid Radermacher is the person to hunt down. This senior, born in Germany, is majoring in biology and German and spent last summer doing research at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Although she did not have the chance to travel to Antarctica

herself, her senior thesis is on the DNA analysis of microbes found in soil from there. "The professor I worked with in New Zealand, who I contacted after finding his name on the Internet, was trying to find out what kinds of microbes could survive and thrive in the soil of Antarctica, and he was using analysis to identify them."

When not overseas, Radermacher certainly manages to stay active at Guilford.

She is treasurer of the German club, secretary of Tri-Beta (the biology club), a tutor for Chem911, a member of Community of Writers, helps students with biology, calculus, and German, and is president of the ultimate frisbee team.



Sie ist sehr gut.

"I love playing ultimate. We have a good team with strong players and many others becoming stronger as they learn more," Radermacher observed. Her other hobbies include canoeing, rock climbing, cooking, hiking, and crocheting—her latest project is an afghan.

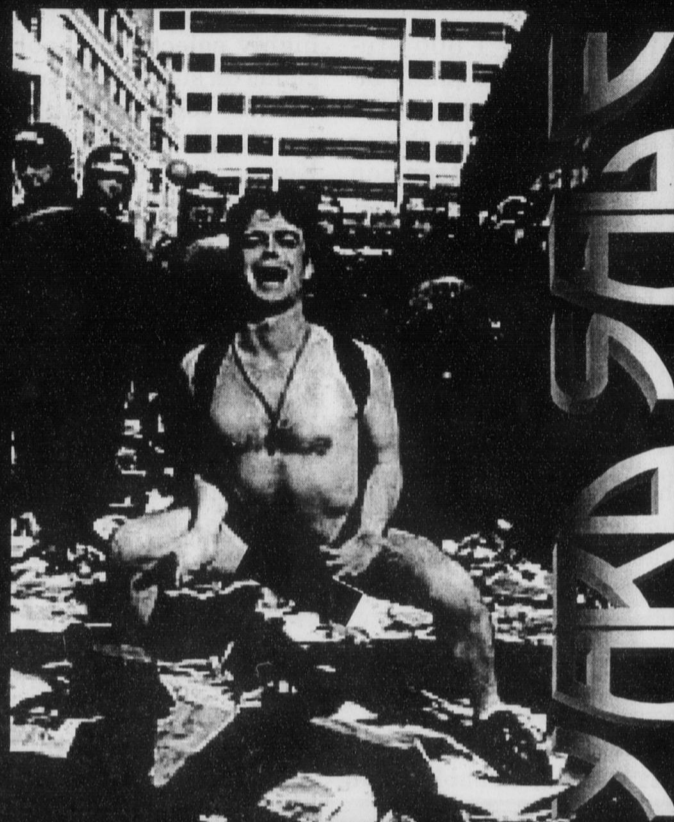
Radermacher also worked as a Binford R.A. for one year, in the Duke print shop and mailroom for two, and at the information desk for three years. However, her jobs

did not stop here—"Working as a camp counselor for three summers also gave me a feeling of having accomplished something completely worthwhile—watching kids grow-up over the course of the summer and knowing that you were a vital part of that process is a pretty satisfying feeling,"

Radermacher stated.

After graduation in May, she plans to work as an emergency medical technician for Guilford County for a year, during which time she will apply to medical school. "Working as an EMT will bring that phase to a whole new level. I mean, what better feeling than knowing that the person was saved because of you?"

don't be like this guy...
put some clothes on.



Clothing and random stuff are
on sale, TODAY Feb. 18th.

Porch of Mary Hobbs.

10 am - 4 pm (or whenever it's all gone)

We are Roots Discovery. This event is to help fundraise money so that students can attend an undoing racism seminar focusing on leadership and community. Call x3245 for any questions.

An adventure in drama: White's *Other People*

By Honor McElroy
STAFF WRITER

We live in a world of systems. We perceive other people and objects. We live on assumptions.

Imagine you are at a bus stop, or what you thought was a bus stop. In the midst of your musings on the important nature of being a cashier, a man approaches. He tells you his name but you never turn to look at him. Just before he leaves, he offers you a million dollars to remember his name. When you turn to find him, he has vanished. After that, all you have are derelicts to verify your knowledge of the man. Maybe you are a derelict yourself now.

This is the scene of Nathan Earle White's play *Other People*. White's play centers on skepticism. The play demonstrates the juxtaposing ideas of order and mystery as well as the complica-

tions of language and communication, and forces the audience to ask, "how do I really have knowledge of anything?"

The power of White's play is in his dialogue. Lines like "What am I supposed to believe? Angels arrive in the morning, and I've read anything is beautiful when you say it is" lingered in my mind after the play was finished. The lines are provoking not only for a poetic use of dialogue, but also for the questions within.

The ambiguity of White's play gives the actors and the audience a fertile ground for interpretation of the play. Theatre Studies Professor Jack Zerbe commented that White "lays out a lot of detail" (in terms of what the characters should be) yet the actors can still "co-create by scripting their characters inner monologue." Actor Gabe Fertman got into his role by imagining the supposed bus stop "was really a state of purgatory just before

hell."

Zerbe felt that "the acting and directing were successful in that they captured the stylistic uniqueness of White's play." They made "the reason for the words seem self evident." The trick of the directing and acting is to make the audience feel the author's purpose; yet at the same time to produce the play as it stands, separate from the playwright.

Fertman, who played Derek, commented that this style of the play creates a tough job for the actors. Without set or a traditional development of character, the actors must really create a strong energy themselves to bring the audience into the play. Fanny Long did an outstanding job as White's mystery woman. I found myself automatically drawn to stare at the ceiling when she said "Meteor shower tonight. Watch closely along the Eastern horizon between 3:30 and 4:30 a.m." She then proceeded to barely look

away from the ceiling for the rest of the play.

Ryan Sloan, as Man With and Without a Hat, was a vibrant and intriguing pull, with smooth dialogue that was easily picked up. I liked the substance of his formal demeanor in the midst of the chaotic surface of the play. Yet other characters such as Woman with Glasses played by Colleen Sullivan added a muddling confusion because I could not find something concrete in the abstract nature of her dialogue.

Other People lost me at moments despite the way it spoke to me. Despite the powerful dialogue, I had a hard time catching all of the words or fully feeling their weight because of lines said too quickly. The confusion in the relationship between the audience and the play's actors is ironic though. It simply demonstrates the problems with language and perception which White's play centers around.