

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

November 6-8

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Broadway Series South: South Pacific, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium

November 6-22

Snoopy! The Musical, Raleigh Little Theater, Gaddy-Goodwin Teaching Theater

November 8,

Dane Cook, RBC Center, 8pm

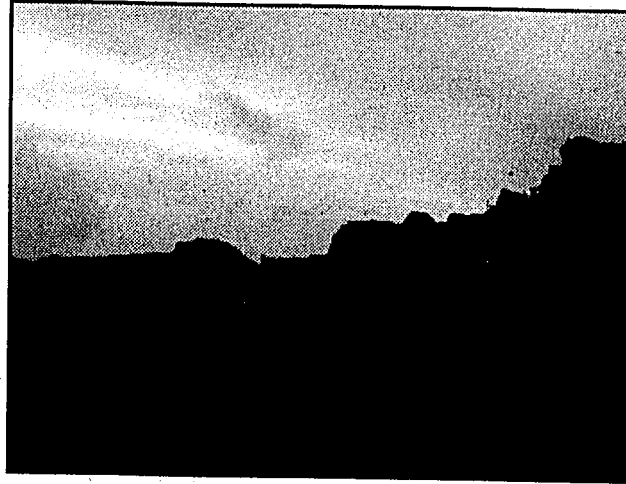
BRACE YOURSELVES

Chelsea Stith
Contributing Writer

Brace yourselves...this was the weekend when I and my redoubtable travel partner, Lauren, trekked deep into the notorious south of Italy.

Before I go any further, I must explain something. Those of you in the US may have never heard anything about the south of Italy. If you only take a quick glance in an Italy guidebook, however, you will soon understand what I'm talking about. There are a whole lot more "be careful" and "can be dangerous" phrases about Napoli (Naples) than there are about Firenze (Florence). This stereotype is not limited to the international tourist industry. I mentioned my travel plans to a several Italians here, and the responses were "watch your bag" and "be careful down there." Added on to all this frightening hype was the unpleasant news that there was to be a train strike on Sunday. Rather than cancel our trip, we threw caution to the winds and decided to risk getting robbed blind and, what was worse, missing class on Monday!

Even so, it was with a bit of trepidation that Lauren and I began our trip south. The actual train ride on the way down was something I'd never want to go through again.



All I can say is that I'll be buying my ticket at the desk instead of the self-service machines. I'd like to have seats for a four hour ride and avoid the "incorrect price" fine next time. However, that was the worst thing that happened the entire weekend.

Granted, the area around the Bay of Naples is certainly rough around the edges, noisy, and dirty. Catcalls abound (especially when you're walking around with Long-Legged-Lauren), and you have a feeling that you have to be a "rough, tough, fighting dog," like Otis describes himself to Milo. It's said that the best and the worst people live in Naples. Perhaps we just got lucky, but I think we found the best. The owner of our B and B came out and found us when we were wandering around Piano

di Sorrento trying to find the place at 10:00 at night, a courteous police officer on the metro/train found us seats without us asking, and the ladies at the tourist office reassured us that they could get us home by Sunday night.

What with good planning, friendly people, and buon fortuna, we had a marvelous trip. We went to the ruins at Pompei (If I understand this right, it's spelled with two i's only outside of Italy) early on Saturday morning. The excavations were so much bigger than I expected. I was thinking of a little Roman village, and boy was I wrong. The temples and villas and the giant amphitheater really gave an idea of just how grand the Roman architecture and infrastructure was at the time. The amphitheater was my favorite. Walking down the tunnel, it was so easy to imagine myself as a gladiator, steeled for the mortal combat that awaited me in the arena. Aren't ruins wonderful?

After our tour of Pompei, we caught a bus that took us most of the way up Vesuvius. We were told

continued on page 8

WHAT WE LOVE WEDNESDAY

Amy Hruby
Staff Writer

Art: The Craft Revolution—In the 90s, mass production was in full swing. Products from cups to cars to cards were produced in factories and shipped around the world, and many local merchants were run out of business by Walmarts and IKEAs. The new millennium's response to this depersonalization of creation has been a craft revolution of sorts in which the emphasis on handmade, one-of-a-kind goods has resurfaced. Suddenly, it's en vogue to make your own jewelry, clothes, stationary, etc. and to buy from other crafters in your area. Two weekends ago at Raleigh Wide Open, there was an Art Raleigh exhibit in which local jewelers, sculptors, painters, and screen-printers sold earrings, headbands, paintings, t-shirts, posters and hand-crafted goods galore. But this is all just the beginning; to get involved in the Raleigh area you can frequent local stores like Ornamentea (a

fantastic bead store) or visit the Handmade Market (an upcoming trunk show from local crafters) at the Marbles Kids Museum on Saturday, November 7th from 10-5. To celebrate the national movement, visit the new online craft community, Etsy (www.etsy.com): a kind of Facebook for crafters, Etsy allows anyone to sell their handmade goods by providing easy-to-setup online stores. Let these places inspire you to join in all the fun and create something!

Television: So You Think You Can Dance—While reality television may not be for everyone, SYTYCD is one of the few shows that puts a true emphasis on talent, gleaming the top 20 young dancers from across the nation and pitting them against each other for a chance to be named "America's Favorite Dancer." This season there are two dancers from the Raleigh area in the Top 20: Ariana Debose and Noelle Marsh. Both were members of CC & Co. Dance Complex (located on Six Forks

Road) and are featured as contemporary dancers on the show. SYTYCD airs Tuesdays from 8-10 on Fox. Be sure to tune in and support the Raleigh-area talent!

Books: The Hunger Games and Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins—If you combined the brutal teenage competition of Lord of the Flies with the totalitarian government of 1984 and the epic adventures of the Harry Potter series, you would have something close to the first two books of Suzanne Collin's new trilogy. Originally written for young adults, these books have become popular with all age groups for their gripping story and fast-moving plot. Centered on Katniss Everdeen and her participation in a yearly ritual called the "Hunger Games," these books are the beginning of a story of bravery, triumph, hardship, and rebellion. I don't want to give too much away, but you should go to the library and check these books out now; you won't be able to put them down until you're finished.

