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THE HILLTOP

Volume 65, Issue 5

Monday, November 25, 1991

"Bah-Humbug" -- Danceteller Style

Danceteller, one of the most exciting dance and theatre companies in America, will present their heartwarming dance-theatre rendition of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in Moore Auditorium on Monday, December 9, 1991. The ninety minute performance will begin at 8:00pm.

Founded in 1975, Danceteller has performed for more than a half-million audience members coast-to-coast throughout the US during the past 17 years. The Company's award-winning production of *A Christmas Carol* is now in its seventh season of touring. In the show, the ten performers of the ensemble portray some fifty different memorable Dickens characters, all dressed in Victorian finery.

According to *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Danceteller's production of *A Christmas Carol* is, "A joyful affair that gets to the heart of the story...just as Dickens would have imagined had he been a choreographer."

A Christmas Carol has been told in many forms; Danceteller's is one of the most unusual renditions. On lengthy tours, Charles Dickens himself read his beloved tale aloud to enthusiastic American audiences in the 1860's.

Danceteller's festive production of the *Carol*-- which combines dance with drama, with the dancers speaking the words of their characters much like actors in a play-- is full of high spirits, heartfelt emotions, and exuberant dancing. "Dickens would like Dickens," notes *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, "and the dancing has a Victorian touch in keeping with the period... the two mediums mix with nary a hitch."

Everyone's favorite characters will be there: crotchety old Scrooge, the terrifying apparition of Jacob Marley, the rustic merrymakers at the Fezziwig Ball, the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present (not to mention the towering Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come), as well as bespectacled, shivering Bob

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Scrooge shudders in fear of the Ghost of Christmas-Yet-to-Come in Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*

Shelter from the city

Atlanta: a city with a skyline illuminating a glamorous horizon across the sky; a city of glimmering nights and shimmering nights making many a childhood dream come true; a city full of people hurrying day after day to be successful. Atlanta: a ghost town of some 15,000 homeless people continuously searching for some kind of shelter.

While most students went home over fall break to enjoy some of Mom's homecooking and take a break from campus life, fourteen Mars Hill students, along with Mars Hill Baptist Church's pastor Michael Tutterow, traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, to look beyond the glamorous skyline and magical nights. Instead, they found

themselves looking face to face with reality everytime they looked into the eyes of a man, woman, or child who has found themselves with no place to call home.

Their welcome into the city was a frightening one, to say the least. Fear and anxiety took hold as they witnessed a man beating on a car and chanting loudly for everyone to hear. Excitement vanished and silence overcame them. "When I first got there, it was like a culture shock...my first reaction was to lock the door," remembers sophomore Suzi Holcombe. Tutterow, who escorted the students, remembers the doubts crossing his mind as to whether or not he should even let anyone get out of the van. Senior

Carol Jo Howell
contributing editor

Tammy Condrey comments that the one way to overcome that fear was to know "...there was always a security in having lots of people around that you knew." Though Tutterow at first felt "an apprehension about what was to be found" among the group, he saw no fear in them after their initial introduction to the environment.

The volunteers spread their labor among several locations, each of which had a specific purpose to serve the homeless. The Samaritan House, which sheltered the students during their stay, is a daytime shelter for the homeless that focuses on helping them find jobs. By giving them a place to shower and dressing them up in a suit and tie, they are given the confidence

of walking into a job interview without feeling like someone who just walked in off the streets. Condrey feels her work at the Samaritan House was her most rewarding experience of the trip, commenting, "It was great to spend some quality time with the guys who came there."

The "quality time" each volunteer spent with the individuals they encountered seems to have left a lasting impression upon them all. While working at St. Luke's Soup Kitchen, for example, junior Laura Blakewood observes "how great it was to see how much the people really appreciated it all...they were happy to get anything." The greatest impression left by the

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