

Critics give "Bone Chiller" a rating of "YES"

AUSTIN LUTON

"It... It... It's... Yes..." That's what Daniel Silverman said about the fall play, *Bone Chiller*, at rehearsal on Sunday. I was a bit confused after talking to Daniel, so I asked Director Megan Stegall what the play was about.

Megan: "Yes"

Austin: <blinks>

Thoroughly confused, disturbed, and now rather afraid for my sanity, I sat down to watch one of the rehearsals. It was the cast's first rehearsal without scripts, but everything went smoothly thanks to the hard work of the cast and directors.

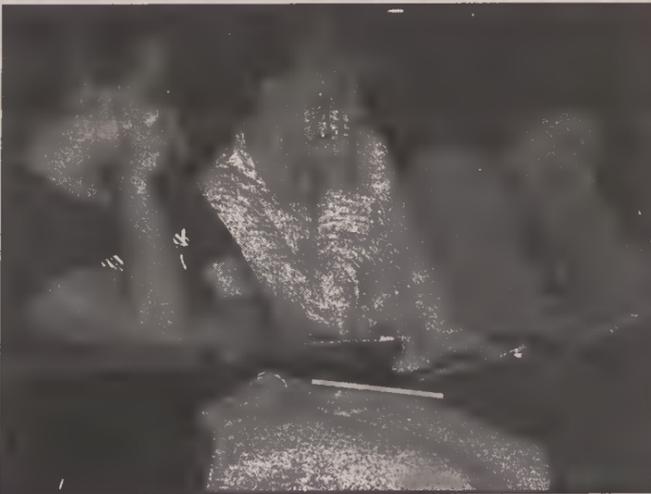
The plot centers around a group of people from various backgrounds and relations

who are attempting to decipher the will of a dead, rich, old guy.

The will is a puzzle that explains how to inherit his fortune and also gives insight into the "piece-ful" nature of his death. I was quickly drawn in as I tried to solve the puzzle before the characters did.

The inclusion of murder and foul play, with a charmingly morbid element of intrigue, was offset by the fast-paced, punny dialogue.

Mysteries are one of my favorite forms of drama, but I don't think that I've ever seen a mystery that engaged me in so many different ways. If you enjoy puzzles, humor, or are tired of doing physics, be sure to go see *Bone Chiller* Nov 8, 9, 10, 15, and 16.



Austin Luton

Anna Goldstein and Megan Stegall, directors of the fall play, sit absorbed in a practice with Robin Magee, the drama coordinator.

GreenPower

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Power, the average home in North Carolina uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours each month.

The fee will be paid to the participating utilities who will then give the revenue directly to Advanced Energy, a non-profit organization run by the NC Utilities Commission. Advanced Energy will use this money to support development of the new cleaner (but more expensive) technologies. The GreenPower plan was released on May 31, 2002 and is expected to be approved and go into effect in January 2003. Other programs of interest for North Carolina's energy policy are public benefit funds, portfolio standards, and net metering.

Student groups on university campuses have succeeded

in purchasing, sometimes even generating, their own renewable energy. The University of Colorado at Boulder increased their student fees by one dollar per semester so that they could build a wind turbine. Wesleyan College raised money to purchase over ten percent of their energy from renewable sources. Other schools have applied for grants or encouraged energy conservation in order to buy green energy.

The message of the move towards sustainable energy is this: activists and politicians have to breathe the same air. If these groups can cooperate and work towards a common goal, there may come a time when human development and environmental protection are not opposing forces.

AIMing for better chat options

ALBERT REN

For many NCSSM students, instant messaging has become an integral part of life. Many of us have not yet explored all the instant messaging world has to offer. The de facto standard is the AOL Instant Messenger (AIM) network, with over 100 million people worldwide signed up, including most of NCSSM. This review will take a look at the various choices for AIM clients.

First up is the official AIM client, now at version 5.0 (<http://www.aim.com>). The new feature touted by AOL in this version is "AIM Expressions," otherwise known as themes. Examples include "Patriotic" and shameless plugs for various movies, as well as the default AIM theme. The best new feature is probably a minor one: a message-typing indicator, similar to the one seen in MSN Messenger. Unfortunately, this feature only works if your buddy is using AIM 5.0 too.

Probably the second-most popular AIM client is Trillian (<http://www.trillian.cc>), available for free as version 0.74. Trillian's claim to fame is that

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it connects to AIM, ICQ, MSN, and Yahoo all at once, in one application. The functionality is essentially the same as if you were using the official clients from all the companies, so you don't gain much for getting the combination. The downside is that Trillian connects to the AOL servers without AOL's consent and AOL occasionally blocks Trillian from connecting, although Trillian is usually quick to fix this.

Netscape 7.0 comes with a customized version of AIM, which includes all the usual AIM features normally found. The twist is that AIM is integrated into the browser to show up in the sidebar, so you can keep an eye on your buddy list whenever you browse the Internet. It also integrates into the mail program, allowing you to know if a person who has sent you an e-mail is online and available to chat.

Gaim (<http://gaim.sourceforge.net>) is an AIM client with its roots in Unix/Linux, and it shows. Gaim is able to connect to MSN and other networks using plug-ins specific to Linux. Interesting features include "buddy pounce," which is a bit like an enhanced version of the AIM Alert. For instance, you can play a sound, start a program, or send a specific message to a specific person if he comes back from idle or away, or even signs on. The Windows version is labeled as alpha-quality, which means it is not considered to be very stable or full-featured and is run at your own risk.

Mac OS X 10.2 users have another option not available to anyone else: iChat. iChat is an authorized AIM client, so it was developed with AOL. The interface is stylized to work well with OS X's interface. Chat messages show up as bubbles, and the buddy list is color-coded. A new feature called Rendezvous lets you see other iChat clients on the local network.

With all these options for instant messaging clients, your best bet is to try out some of them and get a feel for what works well for you.

The Physics department: Physucks or Physrocks?

ERIN McDONALD, BRYAN BUTLER, AND VANESSA BARNETT-LORO

The Physics department has always been known for its oddities on the Science and Math campus. A law unto itself, the department creates and enforces its own rules.

Everyone knows about the honesty policy - after all, it is plastered on every test. For those of you have never been exposed to the lengthy, hernia-inducing pledge, its basic message is that if anyone breathes a word about a physics test - even to someone who has already taken it - some sort of vengeful physics goony is going to spring (with constant acceleration) out of the woodwork and stuff recycled PFM mystery meat down your throat until you beg for mercy.

Another oddity is the infamous 5:00 deadline for

graded Physics assignments. Many students, such as Charlie Stone, find this policy annoying: "In the wee hours of the morning, it gives you the false hope you can finish it the next day. Then at 4:57, you realize you can't, and your hope is crushed. You really need to do it early."

Sure, the mad chaos of the 4:59 stampede up the Bryan stairs/elevator has resulted in the occasional lost limb, but for some last minute students, the adrenaline rush is a natural high unparalleled by any other departmental experience.

Finally, the Physics grading scales are amazingly benevolent. For Physics with Topics students, 83 and up is

an A, 70 and up a B, and 60 and up, a C. In any other class, the sight of a 63 on a test would cause cardiac arrest, but in Physics, this number grade translates into a friendly "C" - bringing to mind chocolate, cuddles, and Care-bears. Parents who might otherwise have zapped your Cosmic spending money instead applaud your glorious achievement in the pursuit of

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Physics scholarship.

So whether you adore or abhor the policies of the

Physics department, you have to admit: the Physics experience will include numerous ups and downs, pushes and pulls, sines, cosines, and tangents. Speaking of tangents...may the force be with you.