

# UNC Alumnus Creates Town Murals, Invites Schools, Public to Participate

BY JOHN MCLEOD  
STAFF WRITER

Using the sides of buildings for canvases, Michael Brown has made Chapel Hill and Carrboro an art gallery as well as an art class for the masses.

Brown said a visit to Mexico after graduating from UNC in 1977 had inspired him to do mural work. He used skills he had as a set designer, house painter and artist to begin his work in a community outreach program sponsored by the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

"It seems like it is so difficult to get people to see what you are doing," said Brown, who has painted many murals in the area. "There is a stranglehold of expense and pretense with the galleries that interpose themselves between art and the people, and it has always bothered me. That is why I got into painting murals."

The art major returned from Spain six years ago and painted a mural of a building outlined by an evening sky on the back of the NationsBank Plaza.

"It was always the most popular," Brown said. "Everyone loved it."

Brown's newest creation, which is almost finished, is located behind the plaza next to his first work in Chapel Hill. It shows a ladder-high view of people walking below, casting long shadows on the ground.

"The concept of the mural is what I see while I am working," he said.

Splattered in different colors of paint, Brown works as he talks to curious people who stop to ask him questions about his work.

"This person walks by. That person walks by. It goes on all day," said Brown. "Someone is talking to me 50 percent of the time I work."

Brown said he enjoyed this interaction and had even sought community participation for many of his projects.

The hand mural located on the side of the Yates Motor Company is the most popular mural among teachers and social workers because of its obvious element of community involvement, he said.

According to Brown's master plan, local high school students and children placed their individual handprints on the wall, creating one giant hand.

Art classes from local schools come to help him paint, as well. "Chapel Hill school kids are great," said Brown. "They are easy to work with, and they are smart."

Brown, who attended Chapel Hill High School, also has painted murals in local schools. "Most of the public schools either have one, or they are waiting in line to get one."

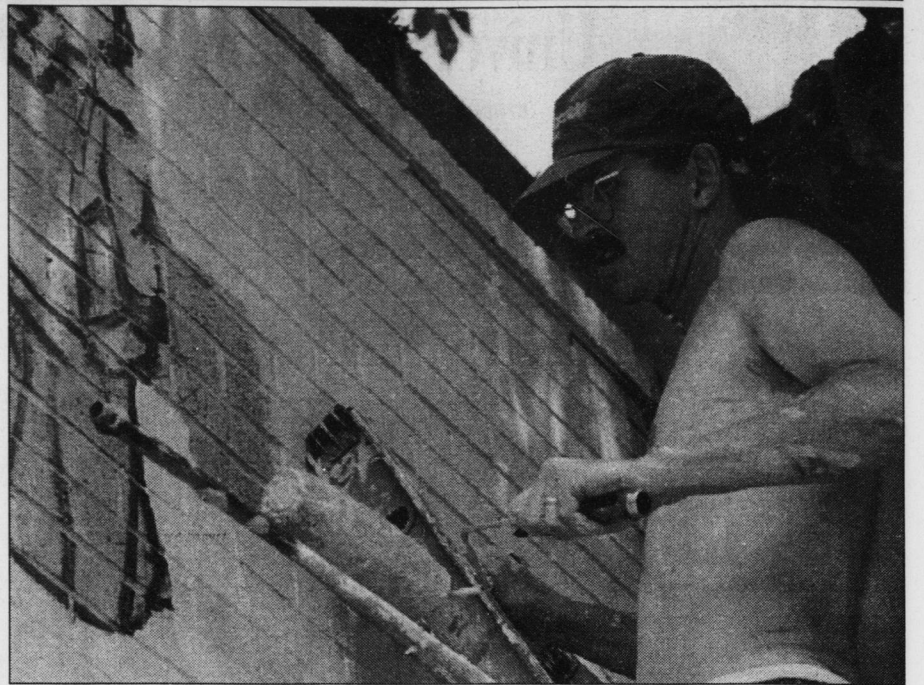
His designs must meet the approval of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Downtown Commission, which disperses funds that Glaxo donates for a student arts festival.

Students from local high schools show their own work and help Brown with his murals during the festival.

The artist said his personal taste tended to lean toward the avant-garde and abstract, but that his murals were intended to have more mass appeal.

An exhibit of Brown's paintings is on display in the N.C. Arts Gallery in Carrboro, he said.

A design for a mural in the new Student Activities Center, which formerly served as UNC's indoor track, has just been approved, and Brown will begin that after the budget has been worked out.



Local artist Michael Brown works on completing the final figure in his latest mural, which is located behind the NationsBank Plaza. Brown says this mural was inspired by what he sees while he works.

# Home Health Firm to Lease Old Breadmen's Building

BY NANCY JANE JOYCE  
STAFF WRITER

The old Breadmen's building, which has been vacant since the popular restaurant moved across Rosemary Street eight months ago to the old Western Sizzlin building, will soon take on a new role.

MedVisit, a home health care organization serving North Carolina, has rented the space and plans to move there in July from its current location on South Estes Drive.

Of the prospective tenants who considered the prime downtown location, MedVisit was the most professional group, said Roy Piscitello, one of Breadmen's owners.

"We felt they were very stable and very professional and would make the best ten-

ants," he said. "Some people looked at it for a club, but then we thought of the problems it would cause for our neighbors."

Also considering the building were a laundromat owner and several restaurant owners, Piscitello said.

MedVisit's president and founder, Jack Pleasant, worked for the UNC School of Public Health from 1980 to 1983.

The new building will provide more space than the old one, said Sue Clifton, MedVisit service coordinator. "We've definitely outgrown our bounds here," she said. "We need more room."

MedVisit's services include physical, occupational and speech therapy; social work; patient care services; intravenous therapy and skilled nursing.

Yvonne Cothran, intake coordinator for MedVisit's Chapel Hill office, said services were available to anyone with physician's orders.

"Anyone may call us, and we will be able to get to them right away. We have no waiting list," she said. "And, contrary to popular belief, it doesn't have to be a doctor who calls — it can be a family member of the patient, a pastor, a friend."

MedVisit nurses will come directly to the patient's home, Clifton said. "Home care is an alternative to nursing homes," she said. "People would rather stay in their homes if someone is available to care for them."

MedVisit's headquarters are in Durham, but the group provides health care for 14 North Carolina counties. "We have served

Orange County since 1985 but did not get an office here until August of 1992," Clifton said.

MedVisit's other locations include Burlington, Henderson, Louisburg, Oxford and Boone.

Home care is a growing field, Clifton said. "People are now being discharged from hospitals sooner; therefore, home care nurses are in greater demand," she said.

This demand makes home health care nursing a good field for students to consider, Clifton said.

MedVisit is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., but someone is on call 24 hours a day.

Services will be available at the South Estes Drive location until MedVisit moves to Rosemary Street.

# Council Allocates \$30,000 For Local Visitors Bureau

BY KATHRYN HASS  
STAFF WRITER

The Chapel Hill Town Council made two decisions regarding the hotel-motel occupancy tax and the bus fare increase in its 1994-95 budget work session Tuesday night.

After almost an hour of deliberation, the town council voted 6-3 to allocate a fixed amount of \$30,000 to the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau.

The debate was over whether to give the bureau 20 percent of the occupancy tax collected on hotel and motel stays by visitors.

In the 1993-94 budget, 20 percent of the \$335,000 collected by the tax amounted to \$66,000.

Several residents representing local hotels had requested in Monday night's council meeting that the money be allocated to the visitors bureau, stating that the money would be used in marketing to draw even more tourists to Chapel Hill and Orange County.

Council member Joe Capowski said he had a problem with allocating more money to one specific group in town when cultural groups such as the ArtsCenter were asking only for about \$25,000.

"What we're looking at here is an absolutely massive request in comparison with what we've ever done before," Capowski said.

"Why should we make a special case out of this one request?"

But council member Lee Pavao said that the visitors bureau had less funding to draw from than in the past, which created a need for the council to allocate sufficient funds.

"The visitors bureau has been in exist-

ence for two years," Pavao said. "I think their success makes us successful."

The town manager's proposed budget had allocated money in one lump sum of \$50,000 to the bureau and to cultural organizations requesting grants, such as the ArtsCenter.

Mayor Ken Broun proposed a compromise that involved increasing the amount of money donated to these groups by using the council contingency fund.

The fund is reserved for the council to use if unexpected costs come up during the year.

Broun's solution was to add \$16,000 from the contingency fund to the town budget allocation of \$50,000 for a total of \$66,000.

The council voted to give \$30,000 of that amount to the bureau and to disperse the remaining \$36,000 to other groups asking the town for aid.

The council also voted unanimously to pass council member Mark Chilton's plan to increase the price of bus passes and to cut some route services instead of the manager's plan to increase single bus fares from 60 cents to 75 cents.

Chilton proposed cutting three of the four midday runs of bus route A, cutting Saturday services on the G route and increasing the price of bus passes by 17 percent.

Chilton said his plan would save the town about \$94,000.

"We could offset that by not having a fee increase (to 75 cents)," he said.

Town Manager Cal Horton said the biggest downside to the plan was the decrease in services to the northern side of town, which was primarily a low-income area.

## BCC FROM PAGE 1

the provost was about to announce a search committee.

"I was within a day or two of naming a committee, and the advisory board met and recommended (that we delay the search)," McCormick said.

"We're likely to do better with more money in hand."

Matt Kupec, associate vice chancellor for development, said the Bicentennial

Campaign had already raised \$500,000 in commitments. "By the end of the summer, we'll have a clearer picture," Kupec said.

The fund-raising campaign for the BCC could take anywhere from one to five years, but Kupec said he was reluctant to predict how long it would take to reach the \$7 million goal.

"We're still looking for a couple of lead gifts," he said.

Leadership gifts are individual commitments of \$500,000 or more. Kupec said he was hoping to finalize a few gifts which would allow the fund raising to take off.

The BCC fund-raising chairmen have been selected and will be announced soon, Kupec said.

McCormick said that, depending on the pace of donations, a permanent director could be in place by July 1, 1995.

The advisory board hopes the new permanent director of the BCC will be "nationally prominent," Amana said.

"We asked the provost to consider delaying because we felt it would be difficult to get the kind of thing we wanted before certain things were in place."

## CRIME FROM PAGE 1

said lowering the crime rate was not the sole purpose of gun control.

If the ordinance prevents one child from accidentally being killed or prevents one suicide, the ordinance has served its purpose, she said.

Kawalec, along with Barbara Schutz and Lisa Price, wife of U.S. Rep. David Price, started organizing NCGC a month before Lodge-Miller was killed.

The group probably received more support than it would have otherwise because of the tragic event, Kawalec said.

"The whole community wanted to do something in response, something positive," she said. "And that was to decrease the number of handguns on the street."

Price said that although enacting gun control measures had been unsuccessful in the General Assembly's crime session this year, she was encouraged by the increasing number of organizations supporting the measures.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen has

appointed a committee to look at existing state, local and federal ordinances and make its recommendation, if any, to the board by late summer, said committee member Jacquelyn Gist.

Lodge-Miller's murder was also one of the reasons that residents formed the Buy Back the Hill task force, which collected 100 guns in two buybacks held this month.

Since the murder, people who never met the 26-year-old woman continue to decorate the site with flowers and artwork, so no one forgets the tragedy.

A permanent marker is planned for the site. The Orange County Women's Center and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center and the property owners plan to mark the site with a brass placard giving Lodge-Miller's name, her date of birth and the day she was killed.

Local self-defense classes have been overcrowded since the shooting, said SafeSkills owner Kathleen Hopwood. "July and August are usually slumpy months because everybody goes on vacation. But last year, we were filled to capacity and put two extra programs in."

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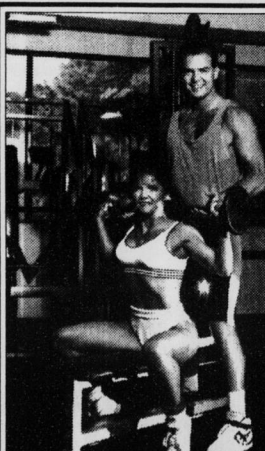


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