

Performances, Intelligent Writing Benefit Sometimes Slow 'College'

My affection for all things "Pulp" won out over my disdain for this play's title, and I found myself anxiously awaiting Lab! Theatre and UNC's John Travoltas and Uma Thurmans to come and remind me why I loved the film so much.

TODD GILCHRIST
Theater Review
'Pulp College'
Lab! Theater

"Morass," written and directed by Daniel Kois, tells the story of, well, ... nothing. Reveling in nihilism and pop culture references (often one and the same) is the college student's favorite pastime, and the two principals, Matt and Abby (Steve Alexander and Claire Smith), ably demonstrate an average Tar Heel's late October evening on Franklin Street. The dialogue

between the two ebbs and flows from the film to their relationships, past and present, and back again, stopping only briefly to throw in a Chapel Hill reference or two.

Quentin Tarantino's dialogue is clever, but mostly because it's just there, and the conversations in this sound like the script might have read "add clever dialogue here." I found the lines enjoyable and funny, but the quirk behind them seemed forced, as if each character was trying to outdo the other. Despite this, I found the progression from topic to topic surprisingly natural, just like in any conversation in which you end up talking about something you never expected to at its beginning.

Johnny Knight's "Stiff Upper Lip," set in 1970, is the story of a man whose life appears to be falling to pieces, even as he is

trying to help others put theirs together. Christopher Johnson plays Albert, a professor who is awaiting word about his missing son and is passing the time by holding office hours to help his students. Amy Amerson is his co-worker, Vivian, whom he tells about his affairs and his dealings with students, most notably Zack (Chris Barge), who is desperate to change his grade on a paper so he won't be sent to Vietnam. Johnson is great as Al, easily getting across the realism of the character's situation of being torn between emotion and so-called bravery, which was simply a suppression of his true feelings.

Written more intelligently than most films I've seen, Mac Rogers' "Belinda" brings the audience into the middle of two characters' lives, Belinda and Jeremy (Holly

Derr and Ted Shaffner), as they are tossed into worlds much bigger than they ever expected. Belinda finds solace in Jeremy's lack of a need for anything beyond companionship and communication because her husband supports her almost too much. Jeremy, a self-styled "slack-ass mother

f***er," is comforted by Belinda's need for response, which is something with which he is unfamiliar. I thought of Ethan Hawke's character in "Reality Bites" while I watched Jeremy parade his defiance of norms, but I thought this character was much closer to reality than the caricature Ben Stiller cre-

ated for his film. Shaffner made him clever and witty, but "serious" scenes didn't become melodramatic because, between the acting and the writing, Jeremy didn't take himself to have the soul of a poet — just of someone who knows all about Fat Albert and can occasionally not be a smart ass.

CAMPAIGN

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state university raising that much endowment money seemed unlikely, McColl said. But by late in 1993, UNC almost had the \$320 million goal in the bag. It was time for more challenge, officials decided, and so the goal was bumped up \$80 million with only a year and a half left in the campaign.

"I was optimistic from the very beginning, but even I was surprised when we went past the \$320 million goal and the \$400 million goal," Hardin said.

The guiding theme of the campaign was to shore up UNC's financial foundation with solid endowments that would cover gaps left by the unpredictable state budget.

"What (the campaign) is all about is ensuring a strong foundation for the University," Hardin said.

All of the money raised by the campaign will go to academics.

During the Bicentennial Campaign, fund-raisers knocked on many doors and dialed thousands of phone numbers. In the College of Arts and Sciences alone, more than 20,000 donors made contributions to the campaign — and two-thirds of them came from alumni and friends of UNC.

The trend of major individual giving carried over to the rest of the campaign. The Kenan family, for example, gave or pledged more than \$27 million to the campaign. Corporations such as NationsBank, Glaxo and Wachovia also kicked in substantial sums.

Hardin said the Bicentennial Campaign

was an important and interesting part of his tenure as chancellor.

"I guess you would put me down as an enthusiastic volunteer who does not mind asking people to support the University," he said. "I like asking people to support something I really believe in."

Hardin has been good at collecting money for the University. In a 1993 national ranking of fund raising among research universities, UNC rose to 29th place from 34th and came in eighth among public schools.

The University raised \$63.9 million for academics and athletics in 1993, putting it behind a handful of public schools such as the University of California at Berkeley and Indiana University.

In 1994, UNC is expected to report contributions of more than \$81 million.

But at the same time as UNC has topped its overall goal of \$400 million, the University has fallen short on some big-name projects like the freestanding Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. This happened as donors increasingly targeted their gifts toward pet projects, a trend observed across the nation.

"We need to raise money for the black cultural center. We need to continue to raise money for the SOAR telescope," McColl said. "We've met our monetary goal, but there are individual goals we need to press on."

One area where the campaign went over its goal is in creating endowments — it raised \$139 million overall in endowment money.

Billy Armstrong, who directed the cam-

paign with McColl, said that the endowments would go toward professorships and scholarships that would greatly benefit the University.

"It will help us retain and keep professors and keep outstanding students from North Carolina in the state," he said.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, \$30 million will go toward endowments to support everything from establishing new endowed professorships and increasing student scholarship money.

Dennis Cross, executive director of the Arts and Sciences Foundation, said the endowments would provide UNC with a permanent source of income.

"We're very excited about the campaign, its success and the difference it makes," Cross said.

In addition to \$30 million in endowments, the College of Arts and Sciences topped its goal of raising \$20 million for projects such as the construction of a new music library, a center for dramatic art and a center for undergraduate excellence.

The success of the Bicentennial Campaign has been sweet for its organizers.

"We have been thrilled with it," McColl said. "It's been fun to be successful. We have all come away with this good feeling about the University and its leadership."

Hardin also said the campaign had met success on many fronts.

"The principle objectives of the campaign have been met," he said. "It has been successful in another way. We have discovered that our alumni are not just enthusiastic about Carolina but generous."

same type of person as our chancellor that an Ivy League school would want to hire as their president."

Although a higher salary might entice the most qualified applicants to the chancellor position at UNC, Britt said the University's chancellor search committee had not pushed the BOG to adopt the policy.

The BOG has been considering this type of policy for about a year, she said.

Britt said, "In the last several years, we have had several new chancellors, and this has been a growing issue."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

HARDIN

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"Be careful of careless denigration of graduate students as teaching assistants," he said. "They are the professoriate of the future."

One of the goals of the budget cuts is to get University professors to concentrate more on teaching and less on research, Hardin said. However, teaching will not improve if 90 faculty positions are cut at UNC.

After graduate students are discouraged from attending UNC, there will be fewer people to teach labs and do other "grunt work" for professors, he said.

The UNC faculty is committed to teaching, as shown by the faculty's choice to emphasize the teaching mission in the University's self-study, Hardin said.

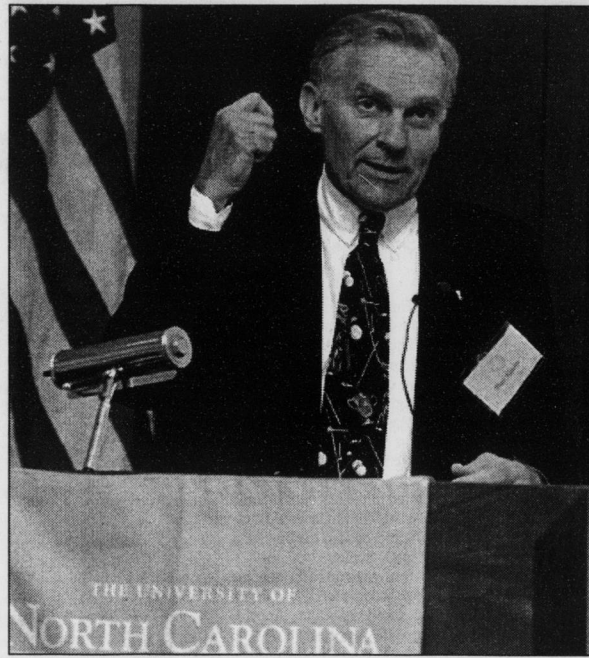
Student satisfaction with teaching at UNC upon graduation is 95 percent, and Hardin said that was a remarkable figure.

He also used graduation rates to show the quality of teaching at UNC.

The five-year graduation rate for undergraduates was 83 percent for freshmen who entered in 1988, well above the average of 59 percent for other members of the American Association of Universities.

The five-year graduation rate for African-American students at UNC is 65 percent, compared with the 43 percent average of other AAU schools.

Hardin said, "The graduation rates at UNC-Chapel Hill are stunning, not just good — stunning."



Chancellor Paul Hardin speaks Friday to the Board of Visitors about the proposed budget cuts to the UNC system. The chancellor's comments were his strongest to date on this subject.

DTH/ENK PEREL

SALARIES

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the necessity of asking the General Assembly for more money at a time when legislators had just proposed \$48 million in cuts to the UNC system.

Lois Britt, chairwoman of the BOG personnel committee, agreed. "It certainly does not look like an appropriate time to ask the state for additional resources. Funds from foundations seem like a viable resource at this time," Britt said.

University administrators often take pay cuts when they come to work in North Carolina, she said.

"We don't want salary to be a barrier in

any way," she said. "We strongly believe that the University system is one of the strongest in the nation, if not in the world, and we want to be able to compete."

Britt said the members of the University's Board of Trustees, Spangler, and the ongoing chancellor searches at UNC and Winston-Salem State University had played a role in the adoption of the policy.

Travis Porter, outgoing chairman of the BOG, said the supplement was necessary for the University and other campuses searching for a chancellor to be nationally competitive.

"It makes sense," said Porter, who will step down in May from his position as BOG chairman. "We are trying to hire the

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