

For One Alumnus, Life Really is Full of Fun and Games

BY JESSICA BANOV
STAFF WRITER

"Dear Mr. Cone: I am writing on behalf of the jurors to accept your gracious offer to send them a copy of your game. Sincerely, Lance A. Ito."

So now you know what the jurors did while they were sequestered during the duration of the O.J. Simpson trial.

They played "Nickel & Dime Pool," a game dreamt up by UNC alumnus A. Cone while he was mowing the lawn at his Huntersville home.

It isn't the only one who received Cone's game. Cone has sent the game to area hospitals and to sports trainers from the Charlotte Hornets and the Carolina Panthers in hopes that his idea of playing pool with coins will catch on.

Cone, whose "corporate" headquarters are located above a barn where he grooms and trains horses, is now caught in a whirlwind of marketing and selling his new game. The game consists of a portable mini-pool table and several brass coin pieces to be used in place of balls.

Wednesday, Cone and his wife Suzanne ventured to the Junior League Christmas show in Raleigh to set up a booth for sales. Cone said they sold 20 games in 2 1/2 hours although he had brought only 10 games for sale over a four-day period.

Cone said the idea for his games had come to him by accident.

"It was mostly boredom with what I was doing (at my job)," Cone said. "I thought it might be a good idea, and I took time to act on it. How could it be commercial? How could I sell it? Then it became an obsession."

This obsession led Cone to do some heavy re-

searching and soliciting of bids for manufacturing the game pieces.

In addition, his busy schedule has put his normal job of training horses on the back burner. "It's been a three-ring circus," Cone said about balancing his game-promoting, family and finances.

However, Cone said that the process had run more smoothly this time around since he had been through the system before with his first game, "Playing It Smart," and had established contacts in the industry.

"Things that work out you don't necessarily learn in school," the 1983 graduate said. "What I got out of UNC was a way to think, a way to meet and react to people."

His way of thinking and meeting people is starting to pay off. Most recently, his game was named a finalist in Family Fun magazine's Toy of the Year (T.O.Y.) competition, putting it in the ranks with games produced by Parker Brothers and Pressman Toy Corp., two well-known game companies.

Eversince the kid-judged T.O.Y. competition, business has been picking up, and the Cones have been concentrating even more on marketing the new game.

"Since the Family Fun magazine, our phone has been ringing non-stop," said Suzanne Cone, also a UNC alumna.

But being an entrepreneur has had its ups and downs, said A. Cone. Before he was able to find retailers to distribute the game, he was very frustrated, he said.

"As an entrepreneur, there are huge highs to extreme discouragement," Cone said. "Being an entrepreneur is the most fun and the worst fun. And being the little guy, you have to make concessions."

What keeps him plugging away is the hope that his game will be a success and that sales will jump as the



After getting bored with his job as a horse trainer, UNC alumnus A. Cone decided to try his hand at designing games. A copy of his "Nickel & Dime Pool" was sent to jurors in the O.J. Simpson trial.

holiday season approaches.

"It's my undying optimism that my wish will come true," Cone said. "People are skeptical until it's a success."

Cone said that what makes his game stand out was that he took a skill and organized it in a competitive fashion.

"It is a skill that everyone from Timbuktu to Tai-

wan has," Cone said. "I took a universal skill and organized it into a competitive game."

Suzanne Cone said that she foresaw the game replacing what backgammon used to be.

"This particular product has a wide range of uses," Cone said. "It's a one-time investment that will be around for the next 10 to 15 years. People will continue to play it."

DTN/JOHN WHITE

Lab! Show Examines Sex Norms

■ "Cloud Nine," Lab!'s third production of the year, is set to open Saturday.

BY NICOLE QUENELLE
ASSISTANT ARTS & DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Exploration of sexual repression is but one of the topics in the Lab! Theatre's third production of the semester. Directed by senior Amy Ellison and written by British playwright Carol Churchill, "Cloud Nine" follows the soul searching journey of one family's exploration of sexual repression and the discovery of sexual identity.

"The first act is set in 1877 British West Africa and the second in 1977 London," Ellison said. "But for the characters, only 25 years has elapsed." This jump from one century to the next allows for a comparison of sexual repression and self-discovery.

To further illustrate the comparison of sexual repression, the technique of double-casting is utilized. "Betty, one of the main characters, is played by a man in the first act and by a woman in the second act," Ellison said. "But it's the same character."

During the second act, the play is much more naturalized, with the main characters cast in their natural genders. "The characters are really trying to come to terms with their own identities," she said.

Although there is a progression throughout the play in the self-discoveries of the characters, they are not necessarily transformed by the conclusion, Ellison said.

"The characters don't come to any great, wonderful epiphany by the end," she said. "But they do become more comfortable in their skin, they become more able to accept themselves as people."

At two hours and 15 minutes, "Cloud Nine" is on the long side. But Ellison said the audience was not likely to notice. "It's extremely fast-paced," she said. "It really keeps an audience on their toes."

The examination of sexual taboos is applicable to today's society where these prejudices still exist. "It explores all kinds of sexuality with sensitivity and with humor," she said.

"Cloud Nine" opens Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the basement of Graham Memorial Hall.

the work force, said Francie Swearingen, substance abuse counselor/training coordinator for the project.

Matthews takes pride in being able to give back to the community and wants to lead others to do the same. "I'm out there doing community service to help do my part, and I think every member in the community should do the same thing," he said. "People need to put back in."

The project also encourages participants to set goals for moving up in the economic market and to think beyond just making it out of the shelter. Wright said that once he got back on his feet, he wanted to become a chef.

"My dream job is to be a chef," he said. "I had been a cook for 22 years. I love cooking — it relaxes me and lets me know I'm doing something positive."

The project has been very successful, Presler said. Of the original 15 members, 50 percent are employed and drug-free, and 20 to 25 percent are in long-term substance abuse counseling the project couldn't provide. Fewer than 30 percent of the original members are not in treatment or drug free.

Techno Takes Over the Cradle Saturday

BY TODD GILCHRIST
DIVERSIONS MUSIC EDITOR

On Saturday the burgeoning underground techno scene once again splashes over onto the quiet little indie-rock town of Chapel Hill. Although this sounds like the premise for a Stephen King novel, it is simply the biggest dance party to come here since The Hill began recognizing its own latent rave tendencies no more than two years ago.

Raise Your Hands (the official title of the party) is the third rave held by the decidedly more rock-oriented Cat's Cradle since WXYZ New Science Experience DJs Uzi Nwosu and Mike Shoffner decided to throw a bash late last year.

Sponsored by Urban Hype and Mixed Media, the party will feature everything from jugglers to an extensive light show to four extremely talented DJs who intend to

combine house, techno, rave, breakbeat and dozens of other types of techno into one eclectic body-moving mix.

Uzoma Nwosu (DJ Uzi), the chief DJ for the New Science Experience and the proprietor of the locally-owned Mixed Media, designed the party as an offshoot of his regular business, which includes selling dance music on vinyl and cd as well as other merchandise for professional and amateur DJs. One of the side booths at the show will be selling this merchandise, but for those who prefer an ice to colored vinyl will be happy to know that there will be lots of frozen treats and cool drinks for the dancers.

The attendees are encouraged to wear their brightest and bawdiest clothing, and costumes are recommended for celebrating Halloween, for which the rave is partly held.

At 11 p.m., the show gets under way,

and for only \$7, the ravers can start their gyrations with Uzi and Princess Petite, who is making her Chapel Hill debut. Mike Shoffner, another NSE alum and a frequent spinner for the more hardcore parties in the area, follows.

Dean Coleman will be the last to work the wheels of steel, completing the amalgamous, comprehensive encyclopedia of dance music on show. A DJ who recently began spinning at the Gotham club on West Franklin Street, Coleman previously has spun records at Glam Slam in Florida and at earlier dance parties at the Cradle.

If all this isn't enough excitement, there will be an afterparty at Club Nine + 9 that will run until noon and features DJs Fotioe, Oliver Wong, True and one other guest DJ. The price of the afterparty will be \$1-2 and dancers can enjoy another six hours or so of pure dancing enjoyment.

we know homeless work, but there are reasons why they aren't self-sufficient," Presler said.

He felt a program was needed to give people the skills and education they need to set and achieve goals of employment and to help walk them through that process.

"This is not a 'pull yourself up by your bootstraps' program in the way most people think of it," Presler said. "It takes individual effort, but we weren't providing the services to help them. If we're going to tell people to clean their lives up, we, as a community, have to provide resources for them."

This is where the project comes in. Participants must apply to take part, and, if they are accepted, they find themselves a member of a community with as many as 15 other people trying to break the chains of addiction and homelessness. Participants feel this community is the key to their road to recovery.

William Matthews, 40, has been homeless for 15 years. He said the project's support was giving him the chance to turn his life around.

Campus Calendar

- FRIDAY
- 10 a.m. UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor Columbia University Teachers College from 10-3 p.m. in Union 211.
 - 9 p.m. KASA is having a semi-formal in the Cabaret from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. Cost for members is \$4 and for non-members \$5.
 - CUAB presents "Higher Learning." Showtimes are 4, 6:30, 9 and 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.
 - ITEMS OF INTEREST
 - 5 p.m. N.C. RENAISSANCE applications are available at the Union Desk and are due at 5 p.m.
 - CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES presents, "Hannusen" a thought provoking WWII film on Saturday in DeY 303.
 - CUAB presents "Immortal Beloved" on Saturday at 6:30 and 9 p.m. in the Union Auditorium. Admission is free.
 - BSM GOSPEL CHOIR will be sponsoring GospelFest 1995, featuring local talent from across the Triangle, Saturday at 6 p.m. in 106 Carroll Hall.
 - UNC MODERNEXTENSION hosts a "Fall Dance Celebration" on Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and classes are from 9-5 in Woollen Gym. Call 929-2397 for more information.
 - FOOTFALLS. The Campus Y's Race for Humanity. Come do 5-kilometer run or 2-mile walk. T-shirts only \$10.
 - UNC WOMEN'S GLEE CLUB will be having a concert on Sunday at 6:15 p.m. at the Newman

- Catholic Student Center.
- GAY, LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP will hold discussions related to coming out, relationships, health concerns and religion. Call Student Psychological Services at 966-3698.
 - IBM will be hosting affirmative action programs targeted to introduce Hispanic, African Americans and Native American bachelor's and master's-level graduating students to hardware and software employment opportunities nationally with IBM in 211 Hanes Hall. Call Career Services for more information by Monday.
 - CAMPUS Y will be hosting A Catalyst for Positive Social Change outreach during the month of November. The Y is looking for hosts and facilitators. For more information, call 962-2333.
 - ELECTIONS BOARD Petitions and candidates' packets will soon be available for Nov. 14 Special Election. Please contact Annie Stuart at 962-5201 for more information.
 - UNC RUNNING CLUB will have group runs Monday-Friday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. No meetings on Saturdays. Call Jon at 968-8654.
 - SURVIVOR OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP meets every first and third Thursday for each month. Call Brenda at 489-5473 for more information.
 - HELLENIC ASSOCIATION is announcing the start of Greek dance classes. Classes will be held Wednesday, 7-8 p.m. and Saturday 1-2 p.m. in Studio A in Woollen Gym.

PRESLER

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next three months, and what we're going to do is bring it out of you," he said.

Project participant Donald Wright, 38, said the group gave him the confidence and inspiration to keep trying.

"As long as you've got someone behind you, you have no reason not to put forth a lot of effort," he said.

Presler began his involvement with the homeless late in his junior year of high school in Lexington, Ky. He helped organize the group from his school that attended the Housing Now march in Washington, D.C., in 1989. His interest was on the political level until he came to UNC as a freshman in 1990.

"When I got to town, I realized that I hadn't been involved with actual homeless people," he said. "I realized I needed to get involved with them if I was going to continue saying this was a problem."

He began volunteering at the IFC shelter through the Campus Y and became the shelter manager in 1991. At that time, Presler was also working full-time for the

"If we're going to tell people to clean their lives up, we, as a community, have to provide resources for them."

MYLES PRESLER

UNC Senior and the Director of the Inter-Faith Council's Employment Project

"It's not just me looking to help myself, but there are project managers to push you, and you've got support," he said. "I've been out there before by myself, and I couldn't do it by myself."

The Employment Project began in February and now has two phases working at once. The first group is now in phase two, and a new group has recently begun the first phase of training.

During the first six-month phase, members live at the shelter as they undergo intense substance abuse counseling and treatment, job training, and begin doing volunteer work. Presler said this forced the group to work through problems together.

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