

# Student Groups Launch Registration Drive

BY JOE MILLER  
STAFF WRITER

With the last day of final exams being May 4, many UNC students will have left for home before the May 7 primary. Student government is trying to make sure these students will still have the opportunity to vote.

Student government, along with the Chapel Hill-based Musicians Organized for Voter Education (MOVE), will sponsor a table in the Pit every day this week between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. where students, faculty and staff can request an absentee ballot and register to vote.

MOVE is part of the Youth Empowerment Project to encourage students to vote.

It is a group of North Carolina bands and performers whose goal is to increase involvement in the political process among their audiences.

Erik Ose, co-founder of MOVE and director of the North Carolina Participatory Democracy Project, said MOVE was trying to register at least 100,000 young voters across North Carolina by November.



SBP Adviser JOHN DERVIN said there would be another voter registration drive in the fall.

"We're trying to increase voter participation by young people," Ose said.

John Dervin, adviser to Student Body President Aaron Nelson, said the drive was to ensure people would be able to meet the upcoming registration deadline. He said another registration drive would be needed in August or September because students would have changed addresses.

Nelson said he was confident turnout would not be stifled by Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole's clinching of the Republican nomination because of the upcoming senatorial and gubernatorial elections.

"It is key that students participate in their community and that they participate in their government, because when stu-

dents participate and when students register to vote in large numbers, then we will be listened to by our town councils, our governor, our state legislature, and it's important that we participate," Nelson said.

One student from New York took advantage of the table and said she would have found a way to vote even if such a drive didn't take place.

"I think it's important because a lot of people don't take the time to do stuff like that, to vote and to register themselves or to get the absentee ballot....," she said.

Ose said Chapel Hill had had organized voter registration drives nearly every year for the past six years. "We're pretty confident that Chapel Hill will have a very high turnout in the fall."

## FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

The \$13.5 million food services plan included proposals to renovate Lenoir Dining Hall, expand Chase Hall and increase food services capabilities in the Student Union.

The renovation plan, which was a culmination of the work done by the Food Services Task Force, was approved in a student referendum during February's student body elections by a margin of nearly 2-to-1. The plan was then forwarded to the UNC Board of Trustees by Chancellor Michael Hooker.

The BOT unanimously approved the plan at its March 22 meeting, after its Business and Finance Committee recommended it.

From the BOT, the plan was sent to the BOG. Nelson said he thought student support for the plan should make it a priority with the administration.

"Students supported the renovations 2-to-1 and it is critical that food services on this campus be upgraded," Nelson said.

Nelson said the renovation plan must be approved during this year's short session of the General Assembly or the construction would not be completed in time for the 1998 Special Olympics.

The 1998 Special Olympics will be hosted by UNC.

The University would probably have to wait until after the Special Olympics to even begin construction if the plan is not approved soon.



Student leaders at UNC ran an aggressive publicity campaign during February's campus elections to garner support for the referendum to overhaul food services. The referendum passed by a 2-to-1 margin.

## COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

Council member Joe Capowski said he voted to deny filming based on the content of the book, which he had read.

"I had read the book, and I found the content disgusting," Capowski said. "I personally would not want the town of Chapel Hill to be associated with that."

However, Capowski said he did not discount the opinions of the other council members.

"The council by and large had various reasons for their vote on the filming," he said. "This was just my personal reason to vote no."

Council member Richard Franck said he voted against the filming because of its potential effect on the town and not because of the movie's content. He said the policy of not allowing private companies to use public land was good and should be upheld. "I would be willing to reconsider if the studio had made a donation to the town," he said. "But it wouldn't matter to me if they were making a porno movie."

## FIRES

FROM PAGE 1

Lacock said. "We have no suspects at this time."

Carboro Police Chief Ben Callahan said in an earlier interview that all of the fires have been set with combustible materials. Investigators said this led them to believe the fires have been the work of harmful pranksters and not professionals.

arsonists.

"I can well confirm that these fires were not set by a professional person," Callahan said.

State Bureau of Investigation Director Ron Keane said the fires in Carboro were the work of a serial suspect. "Fortunately, series of fires like these are few and far between in the state," said Keane, who had no further comment.

Lacock said another fire, which con-

sumed a house Wednesday night on Hatch Road, had been termed an unrelated accident. The blaze, which destroyed all of the contents of the house, caused only minor structural damage to the house. Firefighters took approximately 45 minutes to bring the fire under control.

No one was hurt in the blaze but two family pets died due to smoke inhalation. Monetary losses to the family are estimated to be \$40,000.

## Campus Calendar

**MONDAY**

5 p.m. HARVEY GANTT, Democratic candidate for N.C. Senate will meet in the Union film auditorium. Reception immediately following in the Black Cultural Center. Please sign up for reception at the Union Desk. For more information call Lainey Edmisten at 942-9055.

5:30 p.m. DR. COLLIER OF THE NC HEALTH CAREER ACCESS PROGRAM will speak about health occupations and the summer enrichment program. All are welcome in this meeting of the American Chemistry Society in 224 Venable Hall.

7:30 p.m. DIALECTIC AND PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETIES will hold their biennial debate, "Is the state of nature one of war or one of peace?" in the Dialectic Chambers, third floor New West. All are welcome. For more information, contact Eric Tytell at 929-9690.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY's 20th anniversary season continues with "From the Mississippi Delta" by Endesha Ida Mae Holland. Directed by guest director Tazewell Thompson. This autobiographical and inspirational work runs through April 7.

MIGUEL DE LA MADRID, former president of Mexico, will discuss presidential leadership during a free, public talk April 9 at 4:30 p.m. in the Morehead Banquet Hall. A reception will follow. The talk is sponsored by the Duke-UNC Program in Latin American Studies.

The Black Student Movement UMOJA AWARDS BANQUET will be held April 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the Skipper Bowles Building.

DR. EDWARD WAGNER, director of the Center for Health Studies in Seattle, will discuss "Careers in Preventive Medicine" at noon April 10 in 357 Wing C, Division of Health Affairs building. Free. An exhibition of mixed-media works by artist-in-residence GHADA AMER will run through April 11. Amer will discuss her work at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

Mixed-media works by seniors JASON FRANK, KELLY JOHNSTON and HONG-EUN KIM, 1996 honors candidates in studio art, will be on display in the Hanes Art Center Gallery from April 12 to May 2.

"CONFLICTS WITHIN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1960'S-PRESENT" will be presented on April 12 by the School of Library and Information Science in 208 Manning Hall. For more information contact Kim Stahl, vice president of Student Chapter of the American Library Association at 408-8078.

Art historian THOMAS EUGENE CROW will discuss "The Art of Indigenous North America" at 6 p.m. April 12 in Hanes Art Center auditorium. The free talk is first in a series of four lectures by Crow, the inaugural Bettie Allison Rand Lecturer in art history.

NATIONAL HUNGER CLEANUP April 13. HOPE needs organizations to participate to raise money for the local Inter-Faith Council shelter. Stop by the Campus Y for details.

# 'Six Degrees' Connects Audience With Characters

Christopher Johnson, the director of Company Carolina's latest in a streak of successful productions, states in his program notes, "theater should be an experience—not just an event." Not only is "Six Degrees of Separation" a complete experience—from the live piano during seating to the impromptu intermission dance party, from the superb acting to the intriguing direction—but this idea of experience-for-its-own-sake also serves as a principal theme in John Guare's provocative story.

The plot of the play revolves around a mysterious young man, Paul (Chris Burris), and the families into whose lives he infiltrates and leaves unforgettable imprints. Neither the audience nor the characters ever learn Paul's true identity or history and yet we all witness his vivid imagination, his love of life and his apparent disregard for the consequences of his actions. Burris communicates all of these facets of Paul convincingly while adding his own natural charm and an aura of perverted naivete.

Troy Alston Cain and Erin Cottrell star as Flanders and Ouisa, the principal couple with whom Paul comes into contact. Cain and Cottrell do a superb job, giving depth to their characters through minute facial and inflection changes, as "smart, sophisticated New Yorkers" who eventually show a strange kind of mercy to Paul. The actors also shift effortlessly between their roles as characters and narrators. Cottrell especially flourishes during the second act, when her character is more developed.

The other 17 actors fill in the partly comic, partly tragic backdrop of New York society, where millionaire art dealers and doctors are yards away from impoverished artists. Although the play seems to want to combat stereotypes, it is full of them—from the four spoiled, angst-ridden college

kids, to the neurotic Jewish doctor, portrayed hilariously by Jason Hoey.

Other roles—such as the South African millionaire Geoffrey (Johnny Knight), Flan and Ouisa's pleasant yet dysfunctional friends, Kitty and Larkin (John Lazzari and Jenny Schwartz), and the sleazy nerd Trent (Seth Sheldon), who introduces Paul into high-class life—all add to the play with their clever portrayals. Of special note are Rick and Elizabeth (Mike Oakley and Amy Heidt), a struggling Utah couple who are tragically involved with Paul.

Imagination and experience form another axis around which script, characters and production all revolve. The script deals with difficult issues while evoking symbols of art and color. The characters employ their imaginations, often destructively as in the case of Paul, throughout the show. The production also shows many creative decisions on the part of Johnson and crew; from the energetic opening, original music by Jim Rock, myriad of sound effects, minimalist set and wonderful costumes, "Separation" continues Company Carolina's trend of emphasis on experimentation in theater production.

This show does have a few problems, such as the occasional flaw in otherwise solid acting and the questionable appropriateness of certain comic sound effects, but these are easily overlooked in light of the overall satisfactory experience. Furthermore, the play presents provocative questions and concepts—such as the value of experience over accumulation, the quality of mercy and chaos vs. control—while abstaining from clear answers.

Another main theme is the connection of humanity—everyone on the planet, we are told, is connected by no more than six degrees of separation. This means you're probably connected to everyone involved in this production by no more than three degrees; if for nothing else, go see it for that. Shows are at 8 p.m. nightly through Thursday at Studio Six, Swain Hall.

## JESSE TAMPIO

Theater Review  
"Six Degrees of Separation"  
Company Carolina

# Proposal Seeks to Expand Educational Opportunities

BY LOU RUTIGLIANO  
STAFF WRITER

A proposal to expand educational opportunities for highly-gifted middle school students in Chapel Hill and Carboro was announced April 2 during a public hearing.

The proposal would give more students access to advanced classes and would put an end to the practice of separating academically-gifted students from the others.

Presently students in the gifted education program must take buses to Culbreth Middle School, the only middle school in the Chapel Hill-Carboro school system that offers these classes. The proposal would allow gifted students to take equally challenging courses at Phillips and McDougal Middle Schools.

The Chapel Hill-Carboro Task Force on Gifted Education spent three years working on the proposal.

Robin McCoy, co-chairwoman of the committee and director for accelerated education, said parents of the gifted students should not be concerned about the proposal.

"Each school will be responsible for providing a program that provides students with the same level of instruction," McCoy said. "There will continue to be advanced classes for all students that are academically gifted."

There are 570 students in the gifted program from grades four to eight. Under the proposal, an educational technique called differentiation would be used in the middle school gifted programs.

Kim Hoke, assistant to the superintendent for Chapel Hill and Carboro schools, said differentiation would provide "more creative grouping methods among classes of students and among grade levels."

"It allows flexibility to group students according to where they need acceleration," she said.

McCoy said there should be no concern over the ability of middle school teachers to handle these possible changes. "We have a real strong staff development component in the plan," she said.

The proposal will be presented to the Board of Education on May 2 at an open school board meeting. If approved, the proposal could begin to go into effect by September. The process would involve taking three years to phase out separate gifted classes for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders and is estimated to cost \$1 million.

Members of the Board of Education said they needed more information before they could make a decision.

"I will rely heavily on the recommendation of the committee and parental input," said Mark Royster, the vice chairman of the board of education. "I am behind what I believe is best for the students."

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