

Roadside Attractions Provide Wacky Rest Stop

BY VERNA KALE
Arts & Features Editor

Now that summer school is drawing to a close, students might be left wondering what to do with all that free time before fall semester swings into high gear.

Venturing off the beaten path can help stave off those end of summer blues. Roadside attractions have long been an institution of the American highway.

Located in White Post, Va., Dinosaur Land beckons to visitors with more than 30 dinosaur-themed exhibits.



The dinosaur models are large, awkward structures. Some, like the giant squid, ground themselves more in the science fiction tradition than scientific fact, but no one ever accused roadside attractions of scientific accuracy.

Also in Virginia at the Chancellorsville battle site near Fredericksburg, visitors can pay homage to Stonewall Jackson's arm.

Though the rest of Jackson's body lies buried in the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery, his arm was buried in Chancellorsville. Exhumed in 1929, the arm was reburied in a steel box on Ellwood Plantation where visitors can come view the site's stone marker.

To the South on I-85 in Gaffney, S.C., travellers can get an eyeful of the world's largest peach. Known as the Gaffney Peachoid, the 1,000,000 gallon water tower celebrates the local crop of choice.

Commissioned in 1980, the peach took five months to construct. A local artist used 50 gallons of paint to cover the giant fruit. Locals speculate that a recent repainting of the peach was due in part to the fact that, from certain angles, the Peachoid looks like someone's rear end.

Another roadside attraction awaits to the west. Rock City on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga, Tenn., can easily be considered the granddaddy of all roadside attractions.

Founded by Garnet Carter (who also invented miniature golf), the attraction was immortalized midway through the century as barns and birdhouses all over the Southeast advertised the slogan, "See Rock City."

Fairyland Caverns remains the highlight of Rock City. The underground rooms decorated with fake stalagmites and stalagmites also contain dwarves lit up with black lights.

No matter what direction the highway leads, north, south or west, something interesting awaits along the side of the road. It might not be classy but at least it can be called unique. Therein lies the beauty of roadside attractions.

The Arts & Features Editor can be reached at vee@email.unc.edu

Play Finds the Comic in the Tragic

BY VERNA KALE
Arts & Features Editor

Billing it as "an error of comedies," Company Carolina does not seem to take its latest play, "MockBeth," too seriously.

Even the title of the play suggests that this is not quite Elizabethan theater, and one look at the cast list reveals several veterans of Comedy Sportz, a local improv troupe.

That suggests that "MockBeth" will explore the comedic side of one of the greatest tragedies of all time, Shakespeare's "Macbeth."

Co-organizer of the play Ken Keech said he believed comedy and tragedy were similar genres. "Tragedy is a hairline away from comedy," he said.

("MockBeth" is Shakespeare's blood-

iest and most tragic play. It's fun making it funny."

Last season, Company Carolina explored tragedy, staging a dour and serious period production of "Macbeth."

This time, the company explores a more humorous side. "MockBeth" shows what happens when different social types gather to put on a play.

Delving into that subgenre that Shakespeare himself so loved, the play-within-a-play, "MockBeth" follows the opening night of a high school production of "Macbeth."

Everyone makes an appearance, from the football superstar to the German

exchange student mistaken for a Spaniard who the kids subsequently treat with Mexican stereotypes.

Keech and Charlie Todd hatched the idea and put the play together, but Shakespeare wrote the script.

Rehearsals mostly involved improvisation. Everyone had his or her character and then interpreted the actual script of "Macbeth" in the way that the character would.

Though Keech and Todd made many suggestions, they said the actors also contributed to the ideas. "We let them develop the characters on their own," Todd said. "When stuff worked we put it in the play. It was a collaborative effort."

This was successful, Keech said, because so many of the actors also participated in improv comedy. He said he also believed that the actors who were

veterans of campus theater groups taught the improv players a great deal about drama.

The play has the makings of a fast-paced comedy with jokes ranging from obvious physical gags to inside jokes that only serious literature buffs would understand.

The set adds to the comedy, combining elements of two previous Company Carolina shows, "Macbeth" and "She Loves Me" in a haphazard manner that suggests the paltry resources of a high school drama club.

Running at only 45 minutes, Todd said "MockBeth" was a play that was just for fun. After all, as Shakespeare wrote, "Brevity is the soul of wit."

The Arts & Features Editor can be reached at vee@email.unc.edu

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CALENDAR

MUSIC

The ArtsCenter: 300-G East Main Street, Carrboro 929-2787.
Cat's Cradle: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro. 967-9053.
Go! Room 4: 100 Brewer Lane, Carrboro. 969-1400
Local 506: 506 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill. 942-5506.
Skylight Exchange: 405 1/2 W. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill. 933-5550.

Thursday, July 29

- V-Roys & Betsy in the Gene Pool at Cat's Cradle.
- Struggle Unit, Fantasy, Bux Delux at Go! Room 4.
- Remnants at Local 506.
- Wild Carrot at Skylight Exchange.

Friday, July 30

- Snatches of Pink w/ Crash Cadillac at Go! Room 4.
- Tuckered at Skylight Exchange.

Saturday, July 31

- Face to Face w/ KidDynamite & Alkaline Trio at Cat's Cradle.
- Mayflies USA w/ Maki at Go! Room 4.
- Jack Black w/ Malcolm XXX at Local 506.
- Eric Wallen at Skylight Exchange.
- Dave Matthews Band at Walnut Creek

Amphitheater, Raleigh. 834-4000.
■ Main Street Band Dance Concert. The ArtsCenter.

Sunday, August 1

- Verben a w/ Fura at Cat's Cradle.

Monday, August 2

- Elliot, Juliana Theory & pinehurst Kids at Cat's Cradle.

Tuesday, August 3

- The Melvins w. Melt Banana & Vaz at Cat's Cradle.
- At the Drive In, Blue Tip, Hot Rod Circuit at Go! Room 4.

Wednesday, August 4

- Park Chisholm at Local 506.

SEARCH

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dent;

- Dr. William Jordan, current BOT vice chairman and board member since 1993;
- David Pardue, current BOT secre-

tary and BOT member since 1995;

- Jim Peacock, professor and former faculty chairman;
- Jane Stine, chairwoman of the Employee Forum;
- Richard Williams, a BOT member beginning a four-year term with the board.

Stevens said the committee would

seek public input from students, staff and members of the community beginning in late August and September.

Once it completes the search, the committee will recommend finalists to the full BOT, who will ultimately recommend at least two candidates to Broad. She will recommend one candidate to the UNC Board of Governors,

the UNC-system body that must ultimately elect the chancellor. Heinke said representing students was a tall order. "I think the biggest challenge will be to make sure all students get a chance to express what they want in a chancellor."

The University Editors can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

CATES

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Medal.

Stevens said there was no one more qualified than Cates to take the post.

"I have worked with Anne for 15 years and I know she will an excellent

chairwoman," he said. She cares deeply about UNC.

Student Body President Nic Heinke said Cate's appointment was a wonderful statement for the University. "She has earned her way, hands down," he said.

Cates said the University would face considerable work during the next year

in the midst of filling the chancellor's position and beginning the searches for UNC's other top posts, provost and chief financial officer.

Provost Dick Richardson will retire next August, while Jim Ramsey leaves his position Aug. 1 as vice chancellor of finance and administration to serve as state budget director for Kentucky and

senior political adviser to Governor Paul Patton.

Cates said she planned to devote all of her energy to UNC.

"My alma mater is going to have my sole attention and I have no other agenda right now."

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BOARD

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Hughes-Werner said, despite her concerns, that she was confident more residents would file for a spot on the November ballot before the August 6 deadline.

"I think there will be more (candidates)," she said. "I might be wrong, but I can't recall an election where we only had the number of people running that there were available seats."

Waldon said he also believed that the amount of time that board members had to spend reading and in meetings was high, but he said that it was not insurmountable.

In addition, Waldon said his time on

the board had been informative and important.

"I am very proud of our schools," he said. "I have found (serving on the board) to be a very good experience. I think it is one of the most important things we do in our community, educating our children."

The filing deadline for the 1999 school board elections is noon on August 6. The filing fee is \$5 and all interested residents should file directly to the Orange County Board of Elections in Hillsborough.

The City/State & National Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

P2P

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her department's budget. Elfland said they cut P2P daytime on-demand service which facilitated errands ran by employees on and off campus. She said the department would make compensations.

"We are increasing the number of Service Permits handed out per department and increasing the amount of short-term parking around campus."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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