

# Restaurant Offers Bicultural Setting

The owner of Besa Mi Burro has reopened his restaurant with a new name and plans to bridge cultural gaps.

By KATHLEEN WIRTH  
Staff Writer

Neatly hidden behind the trees on West Franklin Street, the Mexican restaurant El Raccoon y La Iguana offers customers a taste of Latin American cuisine. Restaurant manager and owner Carlos Salvo said he was hoping to bridge the gap between American society and Latin American culture. "The whole idea behind El Raccoon y La Iguana is to get a bi-cultural experience," Salvo said. "Here you can learn what 'amigo' really means." El Raccoon y La Iguana, formerly known as Besa mi Burro, reopened its doors last week after being forced to

shut down in May when a computer caught fire and caused severe damage to the restaurant.

Robert Humphreys, director of the Downtown Commission, said the restaurant was a welcome addition to Chapel Hill.

"I'm excited (the restaurant) is coming back," Humphreys said. "It was a wonderful place to get real authentic Mexican food."

Humphreys said the colorful and oftentimes disorganized decor inside the restaurant added to the aura surrounding El Raccoon y La Iguana.

"The decor was always a little bit in disarray," Humphreys said. "But it added to the ambiance - it felt like you were in a small remote Mexican village."

Salvo said he repainted the walls so customers could decorate the restaurant themselves.

"In Mexico everyone participates, from parents to grandchildren," he said. "I want everyone to get involved with

the restaurant decoration."

The restaurant will be offering more diverse menu options ranging from Tex-Mex to Colombian cuisines.

"For a long time we weren't labeled as Mexican because we didn't have burritos," Salvo said.

"We've added burritos and a little more for people who are ignorant about Mexican food."

He said the restaurant would also be hosting Tequila 101 on designated nights to teach customers the real, Mexican meaning behind the liquor.

"To a lot of college kids, tequila is a cheap way to get drunk," Salvo said. "The idea of tequila is to sip it and enjoy the flavor."

He said the restaurant had been testing the waters with the public since it reopened last Saturday.

"Most people don't know we've opened up again," Salvo said.

"However, we've gotten some good feedback from some old customers who have been looking forward to us reopen-

ing."

Sophomore political science major Michael Songer said he was looking forward to eating at El Raccoon y La Iguana.

"I've been to Besa mi Burro once before, and the food was pretty good," Songer said.

"It was definitely an interesting experience."

Controversy swarmed two years ago over the restaurant's name, which when translated loosely meant "kiss my donkey" or "kiss my ass." Salvo said he changed the restaurant's name this time to avoid any further disagreements with the town.

"Two years ago, the town of Chapel Hill thought the name's translation was too vulgar," Salvo said.

"However, 'kiss my ass' in Spanish doesn't mean anything - in order to understand it, you have to be bilingual."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk.unc.edu.

## SEARCHES

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pushed for anonymous surveys of the final three candidates to be published in The Daily Tar Heel, but search committee members killed the proposal after search firm officials said there was no time for the process.

But University officials and members of the current and past committees defended their decision to maintain limited student representation during the ongoing search.

"We want to draw from all areas of the school for representation on the committee, but we also need to keep the committee smaller to ensure an efficient job," Stevens said.

Then-BOT Chairman Johnny Harris

led the search committee that hired Hooker. He also led a student committee of N.C. Fellows Program members that gathered student input, but he agreed that the student body president was an adequate student representative.

"(The committee) was not chosen to represent a variety of interests," said Harris in a January 1995 article in The Daily Tar Heel. "It was chosen to select the most qualified candidate."

### Keeping Quiet

Convincing qualified candidates to stay in the running when their names are leaked to the media is a more serious issue, current and past committee members said.

Opposition to the open process stems from concerns that candidates currently sitting as chancellors or highly ranked administrators of prestigious universities

would not want to alert their employers of their possible desire to take another job.

Stevens said opposition also rested on the N.C. Open Meetings Law, which allowed officials to keep the names of candidates for certain state positions confidential.

Information about possible candidates during both Hooker's and former Chancellor Paul Hardin's search processes was leaked to the press.

The new committee has already cautioned its members to prevent leaks by protecting the names of candidates, Heinke said.

Throughout the process to replace Hardin, Harris stressed secrecy. He served as spokesman for the committee and conducted closed meetings.

But under the advice of University Counsel Susan Ehringhaus to comply

with the Open Meetings Law, Harris decided to announce all chancellor search meetings to the public.

The 13-member search committee for former Chancellor Christopher Fordham also faced problems when the names of the final candidates for the chancellorship appeared in the DTH and other local newspapers.

While the leak of Fordham's name angered many leaders in the UNC community, former chairman of the faculty and member of

Fordham's selection committee Dan Pollitt said he saw no reason why the names should have been secret.

"We had selected who we wanted, and we had three very good candidates," he said. "I didn't see any reason why it shouldn't be known."

"We are not the only people who know who would be a good chancellor."

After a public hearing in which students and faculty could give their input to the search committees, the committee adopted a policy of secrecy, Pollitt said.

But the search committee to replace Fordham began with an open process, and eventually narrowed its list of candidates to two publicly named choices.

In a move that confirmed past officials' fears of alienating announced can-

## Campus Calendar

### Today

1:30 p.m. - The School of Public Health will kick off its annual professional development conference with student interviews for internships and jobs at assorted sites in the School of Public Health's McGavran-Greenberg Hall.

2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - Representatives from Duke University, UNC, Campbell University, N.C. Central University and Wake Forest University law schools will speak at the N.C. Law School Admissions Forum in Union 224.

7 p.m. - Residence Hall Association will sponsor a "Resident Assistant Information Session - Get a Clue to What RAs Do!" in Old East Residence Hall Library. Those interested can learn about the fall 2000 RA selection process. Applications will only be given out at the information sessions.

7:30 p.m. - Ebony Readers Onyx Theatre presents "Cat Mamas & Cat Daddies" in the Union Cabaret. Members will perform poetry from the 1960s and 1970s. Everyone is encouraged to dress in seventies attire. Food will be served.

### Friday

noon to 1:30 p.m. - Professor Angela O'Road will speak about "Asynchronous Lives: Work and Family Contingencies in the Retirement Transition" at the UNC Institute on Aging located in Room 204A at 730 Airport Road.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - The UNC Medical Auxiliary will sponsor the 1999 Holiday Bazaar with gifts, food, crafts and more outside the main building of UNC Hospitals on the walkway.

5:30 p.m. - Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. will celebrate Founder's Week with a "Founder's Day Mixer" in Union 226.

### Items of Interest

Lab! Theatre will present "The Hothouse," a play by Harold Pinter at 8:15 p.m. Friday through Monday, 4 p.m. Monday and 5 p.m. Tuesday at Playmakers Theatre on Cameron Avenue. The show is free.

### For the Record

In the "The State Speaks" story on Nov. 10, Eddie Harrell was incorrectly identified as Eddie Lewis. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

of the last one was too large," he said.

The trend toward smaller committees goes back to the Fordham selection committee, which had 13 members, and Hardin's committee, which had 14.

"A large committee is unwieldy, and you end up having a small handful of people dominate," Pollitt said.

He said his group learned to work well together during the selection of Fordham. "We were a cohesive group that respected each other," he said. "We were too small to have anyone dominate."

The current search committee has two members who served on previous committees.

"This provides a sense of continuity from the past committees," Stevens said. He said past search committee veterans could help current members avoid the problems of past searches.

Rectifying those problems means keeping the small group close-mouthed about potential candidates.

And while the benefits of that confidentiality continue to be debated, one thing is certain - members of the University community must trust the 13-member committee to select single-handedly the person who will lead UNC into the next century.

Stevens seemed certain the committee could tackle the job. "As with past committees, we will abide by the rich history and standards of this University."

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

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### MEETING

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determine whether I support it." But not all students were as receptive. "I feel there are a lot of things the money is going to that are not necessary," said freshman Caroline Barefoot. "I think it's a bunch of B.S., personally." Other students left the forum early, frustrated with what they perceived as a lack of power to influence policy. "There is nothing we can do to stop it," said freshman Steven McLeod. "When they send us the bill, we have to pay it."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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