

'Glass Menagerie' Survives 2nd Storm

BY CARL JACOBS
Staff Writer

When Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" opened in 1944, a blizzard kept audiences small. The play, however, went on to great critical and popular success. It seems appropriate, then, that it should grace PlayMakers Repertory Company's stage following North Carolina's own snowstorm, and that the inclement weather, which shortened the cast's rehearsal time, should prove unable to prevent an American classic from coming to life on stage.

A memory play, "The Glass Menagerie" is the story of one family's sorrow. The mother, Amanda, whose husband left years ago, cannot let go of her youth when she had "17 gentlemen callers." Her son, Tom, would rather write than work a mundane job in a shoe warehouse, and his sister, Laura, crippled and painfully shy, wants little more than to be left alone with her collection of glass animals.

There is a certain veracity to the characters' actions and speech that arises from the show's autobiographical nature. The program notes that Williams said, "... the very root-necessity of all creative work is to express those things most involved in (the playwright's) experience."

Director Kent Paul emphasizes the dual nature of the play, pitting the present against Tom's flashbacks of the past so that a certain conflict exists.

A beautifully rendered set and masterful use of light help indicate that the

play exists in two worlds. Tom walks freely from one to another — one the dimly lit world of memory where he interacts with his family, the other a dark fire escape where he stands alone, talking directly to the audience.

Eric Woodall plays the multifaceted Tom, Williams' alter-ego, sympathetically. With an impressive range of emotion, Woodall shows both Tom's anger toward and love for his family. He passionately depicts Tom's desire to leave the tenement and shows his guilt for finally doing so with heartfelt, symbolic steps toward his deserted sister in the final scene.

With a good sense of comic timing, Kathleen Nolan, playing Amanda, keeps the world of Tom's memory lively amidst the characters' struggles.

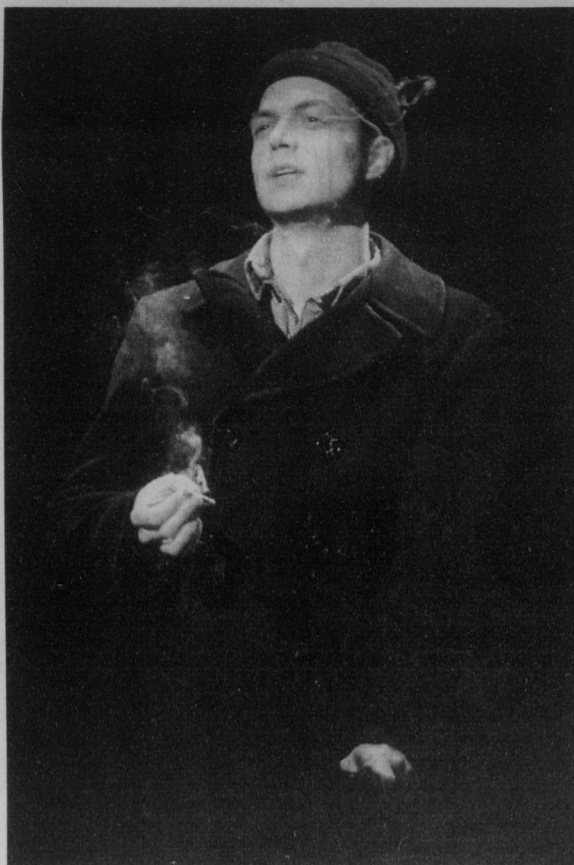
Laura's character, played by Sarah Rose, seems inappropriately vivacious in the beginning, but Rose warms to the part and finally harnesses the fear and shyness that drives her character.

The image of the fragile Laura holding up her tiny glass unicorn to the light is among the quietest yet most powerful moments in the play. If it is not already apparent, here the audience realizes that Laura is, like the unicorn, too delicate for the harsh realities of the world.

Under Paul's direction, the play brings the suffering of the Wingfield family to life without plateauing on long dialogues or relying on syrupy accents to bring out the play's "Southernness."

Paul's vision of the classic play indicates the blurred lines between past and present and the sadness of lost dreams. It is that, not thick accents, that makes Williams the South's greatest dramatist and this play his greatest work.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artdesk@unc.edu.



Eric Woodall successfully depicts the deep, conflicted character of narrator Tom Wingfield in the opening of "The Glass Menagerie."

PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL GREEN THEATRE

ECU Still Recovering From Floyd's Wrath

BY LIZ STRITTMATTER
Staff Writer

Nearly five months after Hurricane Floyd hit the state, students at East Carolina University are still in the process of rebuilding.

Hurricane Floyd made landfall in North Carolina last September, leaving large portions of the state's coastal floodplain underwater.

ECU was the UNC-system school hardest hit by the flood.

Classes were canceled at the University for more than two weeks, and a large portion of the student body was displaced from their homes.

An outpouring of support from across the state followed, helping the university to get back on track this semester.

Eastern Carolina University Chancellor Richard Eakin said the school was extremely grateful for the support it had received.

"It is an amazing example of how some come to others' assistance in a time of need," he said.

He said the ECU Family Relief Fund was one example of a program established to assist students who experienced losses during Hurricane Floyd.

"It is designed to be a receiving point for gifts and contributions," Eakin said.

He added that the fund had reached \$600,000.

A committee had set up rules on how to distribute the money, based on the level of need. Students who meet requirements receive cash assistance.

Eakin also said corporations had stepped in to ease losses as well. IBM donated laptop computers, and

Microsoft provided software that was now being distributed to students.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has also taken steps to set up a temporary trailer park near campus for the more than 16,000 students flooded out of their residences.

But Eakin said most trailers were not utilized because students made arrangements to stay with friends.

Schools in the UNC system also pitched in to help.

The "Quarter Campaign," a drive that solicited pocket change from students across the UNC system, was launched to gather money for ECU.

The effort earned more than \$10,000, said Jeff Nieman, president of the UNC Association of Student Governments.

"I think it was incredibly successful," Nieman said. "It inspired non-students to donate. (UNC-CH) Board of Trustees member Walter Royal Davis donated \$100,000 because he saw what we were doing."

Sandy Alexander, coordinator of UNC's Hurricane Floyd recovery project, has also organized students, faculty and staff to go to eastern North Carolina to aid in the relief.

The groups mostly visited small towns and rural areas.

"We expect to send groups for the next two years," Alexander said.

"Now, more than before, you can see evidence of work in progress."

But Alexander said 4,500 are residents were still rendered homeless, most of them of low economic means. "It will take a long time for them to recover."

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



Top Stories From the State, Nation and World

IN THE NEWS

Croatia Elects Leader, Aims for Democracy

ZAGREB, Croatia — A candidate who pledged to lead Croatia away from its authoritarian past easily won Monday's presidential runoff to replace the late Franjo Tudjman.

Stipe Mesić, a former member of Yugoslavia's collective presidency, defeated former Communist dissident Drazen Budisa in voting. Tudjman led the country to independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 and ruled until his

death Dec. 10.

"I think the moment has come for me to congratulate Mr. Mesić on his victory and to wish him a lot of success in carrying out the presidential duties," Budisa said.

With more than 99 percent of the ballots counted, the election commission said Mesić won 56 percent. Budisa had about 44 percent, according to commission head Marian Ramusćak. Budisa acknowledged defeat shortly after polls closed.

The U.S. ambassador, William D. Montgomery, came to Mesić's headquarters late Monday to congratulate him.

The two candidates differed only slightly in the policies they supported during the campaign, leaving voters with a choice based largely on personality and presentation.

Helicopter Crashes From Overload

LUANDA, Angola — An overloaded military helicopter crashed and burst into flames shortly after taking off from southern Angola over the weekend, killing 30 people, officials said Monday.

Hospital sources in Lubango said three Roman Catholic nuns were among the fatalities. Twelve people survived the crash, including the aircraft's crew and a 3-year-old child.

The MI-8 transport helicopter took off Saturday from an air base at Lubango en route to the Angolan capital of Luanda, 620 miles to the north, officials said.

Airport officials in Lubango said the pilot contacted the control tower minutes after takeoff to say he would try to

land again because of technical problems. The pilot also reportedly asked for a firefighting team to be placed on standby.

Soon after, the helicopter crashed at the Lubango base. The survivors managed to step out of the flaming helicopter after it slammed into the airstrip.

The nationalities of the victims were not immediately available. Their identities were not released, and no passenger list was drawn up before the flight.

The Defense Ministry said Monday it had opened an inquiry to determine the cause of the crash. The helicopter apparently was overloaded: It had a capacity for 35 people and was carrying 42.

Corporate Merger Links Viagra, Lipitor

NEW YORK — After a bruising three-month takeover battle, Pfizer Inc. struck a deal to buy Warner-Lambert Co. for \$92.5 billion Monday in a merger that puts Viagra and the blockbuster cholesterol drug Lipitor in the same corporate medicine cabinet.

The combined company, to be called Pfizer, will be the world's second-largest drug-maker. If the merger succeeds as analysts expect, the company is expected to vault to No. 1 within two years.

The challenge for executives of both companies is to put aside their nasty accusations and lawsuits and unite their research and manufacturing efforts.

For consumers, the gargantuan merger will have little short-term effect. The new Pfizer will control less than 7 percent of the world market for prescription drugs.

But the companies contend that by combining they will be able to more effectively develop new medicines and hold down expenses. "We predict the integration will go very smoothly," said William C. Steere Jr., Pfizer chairman and chief executive, who will lead the business.

— Associated Press

Ratings In for Eateries

Local restaurants, including Walt's Grill and Pizza Hut, fall short in last quarter's sanitation grade ratings.

BY ANJALI KALANI
Staff Writer

According to the newest sanitation grades assigned by the Environmental Health Department, several Chapel Hill restaurants have received glaringly low ratings.

The Rathskeller, located at 157 E. Franklin St., received a score of 86.5, while Walt's Grill, located at 111 S. Merritt Mill Road, garnered a 75. After initially receiving a grade of 85, Pizza Hut of 109 S. Estes Drive was recently upgraded to 90.

Ron Holdway, environmental health director for Orange County, said the lowest sanitation grade a restaurant could be assigned and still remain open to the public was 70.

"If it is anything less than that, the restaurant is closed down immediately," he said.

Holdway said the department conducted sanitation checks on restaurants once every quarter.

"Restaurants can request a regrade if they are not satisfied with their grade," he said. "That is probably the reason for Pizza Hut's change in grade."

The Rathskeller, which received a sanitation rating of 86.5 for the last quarter, has recently changed owner-



Walt's Grill, which received a sanitation grade of 75, is located at 111 S. Merritt Mill Road.

DPH/CHRISTINE NGUYEN

ship. After a change of ownership, a restaurant is granted a six-month permit. However, health inspectors can come into the eatery at any time.

Francis Henry, one of the owners of the Rathskeller, said that since the transfer on Jan. 5, the restaurant had made efforts toward improved cleanliness.

"As a new ownership, we are under a new permit and the health department has given us the go ahead," he said.

"Before we took over we cleaned and cleaned."

According to the latest update of restaurant sanitation grades, Walt's Grill received the lowest score, 75.

Holdway said the food temperatures used by the restaurant failed to meet health department standards.

He added that the restaurant lost points because raw meat was improperly stored with other foods.

Holdway also said the restaurant lost points for food surfaces not being cleaned and sanitized.

"Somewhere there was a breakdown in getting that done," he said.

"Their drain boards were dirty. They have to be clean."

But Holdway also said the department's sanitation grades were not a measurement of restaurant's safety to customers.

He said the department was more concerned with issues such as maintaining temperature standards and food storage.

"We do not determine whether a restaurant is safe or not," he said.

The owners of Walt's Grill and Pizza Hut could not be reached for comment at press time.

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

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