

# Ballet Enthralls Audience With Energy

The Dance Theatre of Harlem performed creative pieces belying Spanish and tribal influences.

By JOANNA PEARSON  
Staff Writer

James Brown and ballet. It may seem an unlikely combination, but it's just one of a variety of treats served up by the Dance Theatre of Harlem.

This New York City-based dance troupe entranced audience members in its Monday night performance at Memorial Hall.

Now in its 30th year, Dance Theatre of Harlem is an internationally acclaimed ballet company. Arthur

Mitchell, the first black male dancer to become a permanent member of a major ballet company, founded the company in 1969.

The group was Mitchell's personal commitment to the people of Harlem after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As evidenced by Monday's performance, its impact goes far beyond Mitchell's original intent.

In short, the performance was amazing. The dancers whirled and leaped across the stage while wearing expressions ecstatic enough to have come from Herbal Essences commercials. From face to toes, each dancer expressed an exhausting spectrum of emotions.

Besides being tremendously talented, the performers establish a connection with the public. One does not have to be a ballet expert to pick up on the capti-

ating energy of the dancers.

Mitchell's group seems to have maintained a standard of accessibility in making dance a truly public form of art.

Part of the magic of the performance was its variety. From sultry Spanish dances to thumping tribal beats, the dancers demonstrated the breadth of their talents.

"Return," the second dance, was concrete evidence of ballet's flexibility, breaking into the world of popular music. Dancers "got that feelin'" with James Brown and their movements seemed to sing "Call Me" with Aretha Franklin.

Almost anything would be anticlimactic after the king and queen of soul, but there was more to come.

The final dance was "South African Suite." This dance is particularly signif-

icant since the dance theater was the first American company to perform in South Africa in 1992 after a 30-year cultural ban was lifted.

It ended with the entire company jumping and moving in a dizzying and rousing depiction of a village meeting.

It is amazing to see what a dance company that started out in an abandoned auto garage has become.

Not only is this dance company impacting the lives of people in Harlem, but it is bringing fantastic performances to people worldwide.

The show will go on again tonight at 8 p.m. at Memorial Hall.

Tickets range from \$12 to \$16 for students.

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# Gas Prices to Continue Rising, Report Claims

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Already at nearly \$1.50 a gallon or more, gasoline prices are likely to jump another 20 cents by the end of May and soar even higher as the summer driving season takes hold, the government said Monday.

The oil exporting countries may boost production soon to ease the acute shortage that has seen crude prices climb to nearly \$32 a barrel, but the additional oil, even if pumped immediately, "would undoubtedly be too late" to keep gasoline prices from rising, according to a report released by the Energy Department.

No matter what production decisions are made, "retail gasoline prices are poised to surge to unprecedented levels before the spring is out," said the report. It said U.S. gasoline stocks were "alarmingly low" and that the country was "moving into uncharted territory" as far as gasoline markets are concerned.

Despite the high prices, motorists are giving little sign that they are changing

travel plans or rethinking their zeal for gas-guzzling cars and sport utility vehicles.

"We don't think it's going to cause people to stop taking long-distance driving vacations," said Geoff Sundstrom, spokesman for the American Automobile Association. "The economy is strong, and people have the money to go on vacation."

But that may change if gasoline hits the psychological \$2 barrier - or if supplies become tight, leading to lines at filling stations, he said.

In its analysis, the Energy Department said that average gasoline prices, currently at about \$1.46 a gallon, would increase as much as 20 cents by the beginning of summer and go to \$1.80 a gallon during the peak summer driving period.

The analysis cautioned that those are national averages and that prices could reach much higher in some parts of the country, including California, which historically has had higher prices, making \$2-a-gallon regular gasoline a probability in some areas.

## LEGISLATORS

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urgent needs and put a more comprehensive bond package on the ballot in November.

But some lawmakers say the system's requests are flawed and need to be scrutinized before the state makes a significant investment.

Foxx said UNC-system leaders had misappropriated public funds, at least partially contributing to the dire state of the universities' capital facilities.

For example, she said system officials claimed landscaping costs were "critical needs" that required bond funding when they petitioned the legislature last June.

"I think we're going to monitor and ensure that the money is being wisely spent," she said.

"Especially with capital, that has not been the case. They're saying, 'Well, yes, we didn't do good in the past, but we'll do it in the future.'"

"But there's no real evidence that that will be the case.

"You want us to give more money to people who have been irresponsible with the money in the past."

But many legislators and higher education officials say lawmakers are as much to blame for the situation.

They point to statistics that show state spending on higher education has gone from 17 percent of the annual budget to about 13 percent.

"We've got tremendous needs due to the negligence not only of the various campuses, but also the General Assembly," said Sen. John Garwood, R-Avery, and a former BOG member, after the joint committee's first meeting

Feb. 28.

"We've got to get back on the right track."

Lawmakers hope the in-depth investigation of the capital needs by the joint committee will reveal the most prudent funding options.

"On the issue of the bond, Senator Basnight remains hopeful that we can get a compromise worked out in the short session," Lamme said.

"The committee's work will be very important. We're hopeful that a solution can come out of that."

In addition to capital improvements, the "No. 1 priority" for UNC-system leaders, the issue of how to address faculty salary deficits also poses a predicament for state legislators.

On Feb. 11, the BOG recommended \$600 tuition increases at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University to raise faculty salaries.

It also approved tuition increase proposals for East Carolina University, UNC-Charlotte and UNC-Wilmington, largely for the same purpose.

UNC administrators saw the move as a sign of good faith, telling legislators they recognized the difficult financial situation and were willing to do their share to address these problems.

And if the reaction of legislators is any indication, most will be more than willing to accept this fiscal peace offering.

"I don't think this is a huge tuition increase," Foxx said. "If you look at basic economic principles, the law of supply and demand is operating. The people who are going to most directly benefit from the degree are the students, so why shouldn't they pay?"

Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, co-

chairman of the joint capital committee, said the increases were regretful but necessary. "I think (the vote) was the proper decision," he said after the BOG decision. "We need to go ahead and bite the bullet on faculty salaries - that is, if we want to keep the quality university system we have now."

"If we are content to allow it to descend into mediocrity, then I guess it doesn't make any difference."

But students and some lawmakers still are reluctant to increase students' burden and want to use that option only as a last resort.

"There's enough of us over there that don't agree with any kind of tuition increase, but we may have to look at a tuition increase on a temporary basis," said Rep. Mickey Michaux, D-Durham. So as legislators and UNC-system leaders wrangle over the best way to arrive at funding solutions, compromise will likely be the order of the day.

Students, taxpayers and university leaders will face a trade-off in nearly every situation.

Tuition will almost definitely be raised at the five schools where proposals were approved, capital bonds will likely have to be approved by the people and legislators will have to spend a good portion of their strained coffers if they are to back up their pledges of support for the UNC system.

In essence, all interested parties will have to fight an uphill battle to reach a workable conclusion.

"It is by no means a done deal," Lamme said. "We're going to have to work very hard."

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quick to challenge Bateman. Fellow council member Edith Wiggins said the task force should weigh all possibilities before eliminating any options.

"We can't take the police department out of consideration," she said. "We have to continue to explore."

The council delayed talks until the task force's next meeting.

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finding more donors. "It's renewable. It's not like giving a kidney. Worst-case scenario - they put you to sleep, and you wake up feeling like you got kicked in the butt, but at least you could have saved a life."

Curasco has experienced an outpouring of support from the entire University community, particularly from his colleagues at UNC Hospitals.

His co-workers feel his absence both on a professional and a personal level. "He is an excellent physician. The families of the patients really appreciate his loving way," Brown said. "We miss him."

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## LAWYERS

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be a result of coerced confessions and exaggerated or fabricated evidence.

Both Scheck and Neufeld said the solution lies in developing an innocence commission, a group of qualified individuals to review overturned cases so mistakes would not be repeated.

Both lawyers are working on a post-conviction bill which would allow inmates to obtain DNA testing after conviction. The Innocent Protection Act, which includes the postconviction bill, would require every state to adopt the bill if officials wanted to be a part of a DNA databank system.

This system contains the DNA of

## PRINTERS

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"I've been having to go to the computer lab to print stuff out," Christiansen said.

Some students said that although they had no specific problems with their

convicted felons and would help to eliminate the wrong suspects.

April Carson, a first-year law student from Carrboro who attended the speech, said the wrongfully accused were getting more publicity.

"The courts and the media are starting to listen," she said.

Both lawyers advocated more activism on the issue. While most states limit the time period in which new evidence can be brought in, they have managed to work around these statutes.

Neufeld said, "If we don't do something about it now, we're doomed to repeat these mistakes for generations to come."

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