

Family Bonds Tested in 'The Ring'

The main character in the student-produced Studio 2 play must come to terms with her father's adultery.

BY ALLISON ROST
Staff Writer

Starting tonight, a new student-run dramatic production will allow Playmakers Theatre to rock – literally – once again.

"The Ring" is the second student-written show from the Department of Dramatic Art's Studio 2.

Senior Kristine Vallila penned the play, which examines what happens to a family after a parent commits adultery.

The one-act performance will be kept lively by a mixture of pop, rock, country and "indie pop" music.

The music includes tunes by the up-and-coming indie band Papas Fritas, the members of which are close friends of the director, sophomore Jeremy O'Keefe.

"Their songs catch on with the emotions that course through this family coming-of-age drama," O'Keefe said.

"The Ring" is the story of Liesel, a college student played by sophomore Barbara Brown, who learns that her father has been unfaithful to her mother. The play's title refers to the bonds between husbands and wives and within families.

The drama attempts to demonstrate what happens when those familial bonds aren't properly maintained. It chronicles the aftermath of the revelation, and Liesel's attempts to restore order to her life and her family structure.

The play is O'Keefe's UNC directorial debut.

"Working on a new piece is always a thrill, because I can't fall into the trap of reading about how it was done before," he said.

Senior Lisa Rowe, who plays the mother, said the play's short length – 35 minutes – provided some challenges to its actors.

In addition to acting out the events of the play's present within that short time frame, the cast had to provide a history for the family, she said.

"Once you've built the family history, it's easier to play out this event." She also said it was also a challenge to

play a character affected by such a painful thing when, at 21 years of age, she hadn't had that kind of life experience.

"The mother makes some decisions that are surprising," Rowe said.

Rowe said Vallila's adaptation of the classic family-troubles theme was unique.

"It's not the typical thing you would expect to happen in this situation."

The cast is rounded out with junior Jon-Paul Pedergrana playing the adulterous father, and sophomore Lauren Schneider in the role of Liesel's college roommate.

Unfortunately, the play's author will not see it come to fruition. After writing "The Ring," Vallila left to study abroad this semester.

A staged reading of another original student play from the Department of Dramatic Art will follow each performance of "The Ring."

The show premieres at 8:15 p.m. tonight at Playmakers Theatre and runs through Tuesday. Admission is \$3 at the door.

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

2000 Census Forms Give Students Reason to Count

Local census officials will go door-to-door in residence halls to encourage students to fill out forms this year.

BY SHAHRZAD REZVANI
Staff Writer

The reality of the new decade hit home to UNC students who found the Census 2000 form in their mailboxes upon returning from Spring Break this week.

The Orange County Housing Department distributed the questionnaires to residence halls, where officials put them in students' hands. Students must mail in forms no later than April 1.

Daniel Newman, an intern with the Orange County Board of Commissioner's Office, said he anticipated confusion among students about whether they should fill out the census at their permanent residence or at UNC.

Tanya Williams, a junior from Strongsville, Ohio, said she knew to fill out her form on campus because the one

sent to her parents' household stated not to include her. "I'm only home for like two months (of the year)."

Newman said students comprised one of the largest populations that was undercounted in the state. "This is something we're really concerned about – especially off-campus people."

Senior Paul O'Shaughnessy, who lives off campus, explained the merits of filling out the census form, although he said he had not mailed his in. "I don't think I even got one."

The Durham Local Census Office, which collects the data from UNC, has planned measures to ensure accurate collection of the forms.

"If a resident doesn't mail back the questionnaires by a certain date, we have people who are trained to go knock on doors," said Wade Chestnut, manager of the Durham Census File Office.

In August, the county formed the Complete Count Committee to promote the census in the community.

"They've been meeting to make sure their sectors understand the importance of completing the census forms," Chestnut said.

Craig Benedict, Orange County planning director and overseer of the committee, stressed the importance of student data in the results of the census.

"A lot of services are provided based on the census, including transportation and health benefits," he said.

Newman said money received by the University was based on the population of students. "In case of an undercount, we'd get less money than we're supposed to," he said.

In 1990, the county lost \$560,000 in federal aid due to a low response rate.

Benedict did not foresee a large undercount of students this year.

"I think there's more awareness and interest in the politics and government programs than there was 15 years ago," he said.

The promotion of the census on campus and in the media has been effective among students like Charvis Bates, a senior from Griffon, N.C.

"I haven't filled mine out just yet, but the commercials are convincing me."

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

Students Plan Recruiting Trip

BY KATHLEEN HUNTER
Assistant State & National Editor

This weekend, student ambassadors will travel to high schools in Rutherford, Bladen and Richmond counties to meet with students and attempt to get them excited about the prospect of college, namely at UNC.

Nearly 20 students gathered recently to prepare for the ribbon-cutting trip of the Student Ambassador Program – a group that targets under-represented N.C. high schools.

Eric Johnson, the program's director and an executive assistant to Student Body President Nic Heinke, said at Wednesday's meeting he hoped high-schoolers would get a better sense of what UNC was like after talking to the ambassadors. "We want to give them as much of an accurate depiction of Carolina as possible," Johnson said.

The program, which is in its fledgling stages, began in the fall. This will be the

ambassadors' first trip to a high school.

Johnson said the three counties that will be visited this weekend were chosen because data indicated that high schools in these areas sent fewer students to UNC than most others.

He said he hoped the program would eventually include more ambassadors as well as more high schools.

Representatives from the admissions and financial aid offices addressed the ambassadors, providing them with tips on how to approach prospective students.

"We need to get the message out to North Carolinians about how special this University is," said admissions representative Margie Strickland.

Assistant Financial Aid Director Holly Hyland outlined the aid application process and suggested ambassadors highlight the various sources of financial assistance available at UNC.

Britt Whitesell, a sophomore from Moore County, is one of the UNC stu-

dents participating in the program.

"I was interested because (the student ambassador program) promotes what a public university should be – universal access," Whitesell said.

Once the program becomes larger, the goal is to have students return to the high school they attended to talk to students, Johnson said.

He said the counties had been picked with geographic diversity in mind, as Rutherford is in the Western part of the state, Richmond in the center and Bladen toward the south.

Jennifer Daum, a freshman ambassador from Milwaukee, Wis., said she hoped the program would prompt high school students to pursue a college education. "I want these students to know they should look into higher education in general, even if they don't come to Carolina."

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


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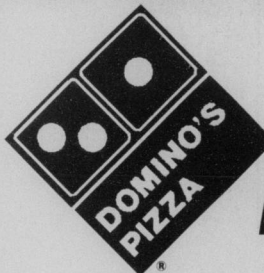
The Downtown Commission and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center invite you to shop and dine downtown on Saturday, March 25th and "Round-up for a Cure." Each of the participating merchants will invite you to "round-up" your purchase to the next level (for example, if you spend \$15.20, you may want to "round-up" your bill to \$16.00 or maybe even \$20.00!)

All the monies raised will be donated to the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, located right here in our community. We in Chapel Hill are fortunate to have access to one of the finest cancer research and treatment centers in the world. The UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center would like to raise research dollars as well as community awareness of their programs and efforts by working with the Downtown Commission with this "round-up" campaign. You can make a difference in our community! Your contribution supports a local resource and makes a global impact. Come downtown on Saturday, March 25, shop and dine at any of the participating merchants, and remember when paying the bill to "Round-up for a Cure!"

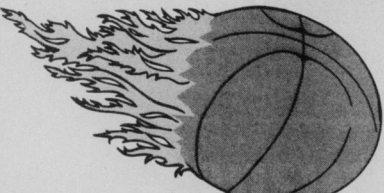
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