

Master Plan to Improve Campus Environment

One of the highest priorities of the Master Plan advisory committee is to control runoff and stormwater.

By ELIZABETH BREYER
Assistant University Editor

Although most construction leaves a blemish of noise and dust on the landscape, officials say UNC's Master Plan will actually benefit the long-term quality of the campus environment.

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker put the Master Plan into motion as a blueprint for campus growth in 1998.

The plan's primary committee now includes an advisory group, consisting of UNC officials and consultants from the Philadelphia-area firms Andropogon Associates and Cahill Associates, that will develop an

Environmental Master Plan.

And group members say cleaning campus drainage water is one of their highest priorities. "We've been told that the major goal needs to be to decrease the amount of runoff and the volume of stormwater, as well as to slow it down," said Linda Convisor, project manager for campus planning.

When development occurs and natural vegetation is removed to make room for pavement and buildings, more water is forced to run off into drains because it cannot sink into the ground.

Vice Chancellor for Auxiliary Services Carolyn Elfland said the Master Plan would likely include moving the underground stream that runs beneath Kenan Stadium and Ramshead parking lot closer to the surface.

Convisor said this process would improve the stormwater problem on campus rather than worsening it.

"(The process) allows the natural

drainage system to handle runoff from buildings much more effectively, rather than going into drains, which can block and flood," she said.

But environmental planners have already begun to target drainage on campus in smaller ways.

Environmental specialist Sharon Myers said the Health and Safety Office placed signs on campus to warn people against dumping in storm drains.

"We want to let people know those drains really go to the creek, and that you shouldn't put anything other than rainwater in them," she said.

Myers said that new stormwater regulations will pass in 2003 and that she would incorporate those rules into the Master Plan. "We want to have a stormwater monitoring plan and get a picture of the quality now before the Environmental Master Plan - hopefully it will improve afterward."

Convisor also said the Environmental Master Plan includes preserving existing vegetation. "UNC is unique - a lot of our buildings have natural vegetation around them," she said.

The environmental advisory committee decided that many groups of trees and foliage will be left intact.

Convisor said that by concentrating on returning plants and water to a more natural state, the Master Plan will create a sound ecosystem. "We're seeing the opportunities to fix things on campus and to attack all of them. Rather than a piece here and a piece there, we will have a healthy system of open spaces."

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

Forest Theatre Hosts Festival

The monthlong festival, which showcases local artists and drama groups, draws to a close Saturday.

By DAVID POVILL
Staff Writer

Nestled cozily in the woods of Chapel Hill lies the Forest Theatre, a one-of-a-kind amphitheater, a haven for theater purists and the home of the Forest Theatre Festival.

The festival is a month-long, eclectic collection of five local theater companies and various local artists joining efforts. Nearing the end of its 24 shows, the Forest Theatre Festival closes Saturday.

The festival was founded seven years ago by the now-defunct Somnambulist Project. Wideawake Theater, which consists of former Somnambulists, now continues the festival with a stronger focus on community interaction.

Artistic directors Jimmy Magoo and wife Mardi Magoo, along with managing director Alysia Scofield, are all former members of the Somnambulist Project. Wideawake Theater started the project to build on the Somnambulist's example while increasing its scale, Jimmy said.

"One of the first things we did when we started the new company was to ask other theater companies to be involved in the festival," he said. "That was a big step for us, just trying to include other community artists in what we have going here."

The mission of Wideawake Theater



DTH/KATE MELNIK

Alice (Megan Ketch) and the Cheshire Cat (Nicole Harmony) try to sneak away from the Mad Hatter (Wade Dansby 3), in "Alice All the Way."

and the festival has evolved to incorporate the local arts community, encouraging area artists to perform on a second stage, he said.

Mardi said she agrees with her husband's mission. "I want this festival to be huge. I want it to be something that draws people from all over the state and all over the region ..."

"I want (the festival) to be something that draws people from all over the state and all over the region ..."

MARDI MAGOO
Artistic Director, Forest Theatre Festival

In addition to adding the festival's presence in the local arts community, Scofield said she also talks about the group's desire to avoid charging admission. "I'd like to be able to put the festival on for free," she

said. "I'd like to see it funded enough from local government agencies and businesses so that it can be an open festival and everybody can come."

The forest amphitheater adds a unique atmosphere consistent to the festival's eight-year existence. Scofield said the amphitheater is used for all sorts of activities, from wall-climbing to weddings.

"There are many appeals to the Forest Theatre. It's beautiful. The forest is very pretty, and the theater has a comfortable outdoor feel," she said. "It's not so confined. You can bring your kids, or your dogs, and you can even bring a picnic."

The final performances will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Call 990-2599 for more information.

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



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Campus Calendar

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. - All students, faculty and staff are invited to **Tuesdays with Friday**, featuring a conversation between writer Doris Betts and UNC-system President Emeritus William Friday. It will take place in the Commons Room of Graham Memorial.

3:30 p.m. - The **Department of Germanic Languages** will hold a reception in Toy Lounge on the 4th floor of Dey Hall. The reception is intended to introduce German majors and potential German majors to the faculty and graduate students and to honor undergraduates for their commitment to the German language and culture.

5:30 p.m. - **Public Relations Student Society of America** will hold its first meeting in 143 Carroll Hall.

7 p.m. - **Best Buddies** will be holding an interest meeting in 106 Gardner Hall. Students interested in becoming a buddy to a special person in the community with a developmental disability should come to learn more.

7:30 p.m. - **Carolina Cancer Focus**, a group dedicated to uniting college students in the war against cancer, invites you to our first meeting of the year. Come to Union 205 and help us begin a fun and rewarding semester.

Wednesday

6 p.m. - Interested in volunteering and getting involved at UNC? Come, Union 208 for **Carolina Campus Civitan New Member Night!** It's a great opportunity to meet new friends, help your school and enhance your résumé. Free refreshments provided!

7 p.m. - **Best Buddies** will be holding an interest meeting in 202 Dey Hall. Students interested in becoming a buddy to a special person in the community with a developmental disability should come to learn more information.

7 p.m. - The second of three available **treasurers' orientations** will be held in 247 Phillips Hall. **All student organizations receiving funds from Student Congress** must send a representative to a treasurers' orientation. For more information, call Student Body Treasurer Patrick Frye at 962-4964.

Thursday

5:30 p.m. - There will be a meeting for all students interested in **Speech-Language pathology and/or Audiology** in 206 Dey Hall.

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