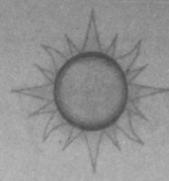


For the Masses
Theater comes to
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Local youth bid for town funds
to open an arcade in Chapel Hill.
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Summertime
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Ex-Model Scrutinizes Media, Ads

Ann Simonson, founder
of Media Watch, said poor
female stereotypes teach
children outdated sex roles.

By ROB LEICHER
Staff Writer

A Sports Illustrated swimsuit model-turned-feminist discussed the media's portrayal of violence against women for a packed house in Bingham Hall on Thursday night.

About 100 people, mostly women, came to hear Ann Simonson, founder of Media Watch, a group that fights against negative representations of women in the media.

Simonson, who graced the 1974 cover of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition, spoke about these problems as part of the 24-Hour Rape-Free Zone sponsored by Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention.

"We have created a culture where domestic violence and wife-battering has become natural," Simonson said. "We are living in a crisis time."

Only a handful of corporations control worldwide media, and they use this power to objectify women and sell products, Simonson said. "Women are for sale. Their breasts are used to sell beer."

She added that the power to control information is dangerous because the public does not have access to the original information it needs to make informed decisions. "Hitler knew it. He knew the power of propaganda," she said.

One result of the media's portrayal of women is that it reinforces outdated sex roles for young children, Simonson said.

"It teaches girls and boys early that there is something wrong with being feminine," she said. "She can play baseball, but he better not touch that Barbie doll."

Simonson said cosmetic surgery is another atrocity that results from the concept of the "ideal body" in the media. Customary veils worn in some Middle Eastern countries are more humane than subjecting women to dangerous procedures that alter their body's beauty or composition. "Beauty is a learned concept," she said. "The racist ideal that we promulgate through the beauty industry is dangerous."

In addition to sexism, Simonson said racism and homophobia are prevalent in the media today. "It's hip to hate minorities, it's hip to hate gays and lesbians, and it's hip to hate women," she said.

Corporations do not only abuse women through the media but also promote unhealthy habits, especially "in a concerted effort to make (them) appeal to the child," she said. Simonson added that cigarette and alcohol promotions also attempt to lure people in low-income neighborhoods where they feel the residents might need an escape.

Media Watch and other groups are fighting to change the way women are portrayed in society through protests, Simonson said. "I have been arrested 11

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BOG to Include 5 Incumbents, 4 Newcomers

By KRISTY JONES
Staff Writer

The N.C. House elected nine members to the Board of Governors Thursday – including four new officials.

The newly elected members are James Babb, Dudley Flood, Charles Mercer and Gladys Robinson.

Five of the six members of the BOG up for re-election were selected – Bradley Adcock, Frank Grainger, Robert Warwick, Craig Souza and BOG Vice Chairman John Cecil.

The only member not re-elected was John Sanders, who said he was disappointed but has no plans to run for the post again in the future.

"I regret not being re-elected," said Sanders, who was first elected to the board two years ago. "I enjoyed being on the board and worked hard to be re-elected, but the House has decided."

Thirty-two voting members sit on the board. Half are selected by the House and half by the Senate. The Senate elected its new members in March.

The newly elected members expressed their eagerness to get started in their new positions.

"I am very, very honored," said Babb, who is from Charlotte and involved with broadcasting. "It was a good group of candidates, and I look forward to being a part of the board."

Robinson, who is CEO of the

Sicklecell Disease Association of the Piedmont, also said she was pleased with her election.

"I am very pleased and ecstatic and not to mention very appreciative to the House for putting me on this board."

Robinson added that she ran for the position because she feels she has much to add to the BOG.



BOG member John Sanders said he regrets that the House didn't re-elect him but said he will not run again.

"I feel I have a lot to contribute to the board," she said. "I know a lot about education and I know what is going on with public issues."

Robinson also said she hopes to help bring a minority viewpoint to the board.

Robinson said she has worked with the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to close the performance gap between black and white students.

And some re-elected members were just as pleased.

Adcock said he was very excited to be re-elected for another four years. He said his reasons for running for a first term are the same reasons he ran again.

"I thought I could help the entire university system."

But the new members know they have a lot to learn. Some of the new BOG members said they feel it is their job to be supportive of other members but watch and learn the details first.

Babb said that although he knows a lot about what goes on with higher education and the BOG, he realizes he does not know everything. "My first priority is to increase my knowledge of what's going on," he said.

"I need to be a good observer, good board member and a good listener first."

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Artist's Escape Seeks \$4,500 to Stay Open

By MATT VISER
Staff Writer

The goal is \$4,500. The deadline is Sunday. Time is running out.

Several regulars of the Artist's Escape Cafe Bar and Arts Gallery started a frantic search Thursday for money to prevent their favorite cafe from closing down.

The Artist's Escape, located at 137 E. Franklin St., showcases local art, live music, coffee, food and a lounge with couches and a pool table.

And for some in the Triangle area, it's a home away from home.

Jamie Sohn, secretary for the Queer Network for Change, said it serves as a safe space for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in the area.

"It's really homey," Sohn said. "It provides everyone a safe place to be."

The cafe was opened in June 1999 by childhood friends Meredith Weiss and Joe Caldaroni. But both owners said they are ready to move on, and they expect the cafe will close its doors Saturday night – that is, unless the regular patrons can prevent it.

About 30 regulars got together on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to figure out what could be done to keep the cafe running.

The patrons decided to try and raise a total of \$9,700 for initial operating costs and taking over the lease.

But first, \$4,500 must be raised so the group can pay the rent and keep the doors open throughout April.

Artist's Escape regular Lee Davis said if this money is not raised, there is a chance that the cafe could be bought by someone else. "We have to get past this first crisis before we go forward," he said.

Weiss and Caldaroni said they were proud of the atmosphere they fostered.

"It had always been a dream of ours to open a little cafe that would serve a diverse crowd where everyone could be themselves," Weiss said.

Davis said he agrees that the cafe provides a relaxed setting for its patrons. "It's like a coffee shop you'd see on 'Friends,'" he said.

Caldaroni said he is proud of the cafe's openness to a wide range of people. "I relish in the fact that this has become an extremely diverse atmos-



DTH/SEFTON IPOCK

Rafael Tosado makes a screwdriver for a patron at the Artist's Escape on Thursday night. Chris Wimberly of "Stranger Spirits" performs for the first and last time at the Franklin Street cafe and art gallery (below). The Artist's Escape is slated to close Sunday after first opening its doors in June 1999.

phere that's open to everyone," he said. But the owners said they feel it is time to try different things.

Caldaroni said he's wanted to go back home to New York for a long time. Now he says he has that opportunity and cannot pass it up.

The owners informed their patrons of their decision to close the cafe sometime last week. "People came in crying," Caldaroni said.

But the owners said they were pleased the patrons wanted to keep the cafe open. "We created exactly what we wanted to create," Weiss said. "And now we're glad other people want to continue with it."

Former Caffe Trio manager Aaron Pinkston said he did not want the Artist's Escape to close, as Caffe Trio, another local hot spot for the LGBT community, did for a while.



"When Caffe Trio closed down, it would always take a while for the com-

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N.C. Falls Short on Global Test

A worldwide study testing eighth-graders in math and science found U.S. students scoring just above average.

By METOKA WELCH
Staff Writer

The third International Mathematics and Science Study released Wednesday showed that most eighth-graders in North Carolina need more instruction in science and math.

According to the report, most of the eighth-graders in North Carolina scored in the bottom half of the study – ranking 38th in math and 40th in science out of 65 counties, states and school districts.

The study measured the performance of eighth-grade students worldwide in a test evaluating math and science skills.

The study, conducted by the Boston College International Study Center and the International Association for the Evaluation of Education, revealed U.S. eighth-graders as a whole performed just above average on both portions of the exam.

Results indicated that Asian countries performed extremely well in both math and science. On average, U.S. students scored higher on the science portion of the test than on math.

But the test results have sparked conflicting remarks from educators.

According to a press release, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige praised the students who took the test, regardless of the statistical outcome.

"It takes guts to volunteer for a test like this, especially when you know you might not come out very well," he said in the release. "I want to congratulate those who did take this giant step."

But other educators said they think the test shows the strides U.S. schools must make to perform as well on international tests as other countries.

Ina Mullis, study co-director at the International Study Center and a Boston College education professor, said the results of the test should dispel any myths concerning the state of U.S. education.

"People like to believe that the United States educates everybody while other countries only educate the elite, and this is not true," she said. "Teacher training isn't what we thought it was. The curriculum isn't what we thought it was."

Mullis also said U.S. schools are full of distractions not present in other countries. "The high-performing Asian countries are concentrating on lectures in class rather than the loudspeaker that tells who has a dentist appointment or who is playing football tonight."

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Student Congress Swears in Speaker, New Members

Leaders of the 83rd Student Congress

Speaker
Mark Townsend
Speaker Pro Tem
Sarah Marks
Student Affairs Chairman
Gregory Wahl
Ethics Chairman
Dave Ruddell
Finance Chairman
Tony Larson
Rules and Judiciary Chairman
Blair Sweeney

By KATY NELSON
Staff Writer

The 83rd Student Congress elected its new officers Wednesday night, setting the pace for what some members say could be an uncontentious Congress.

Junior Mark Townsend, who clinched the position of speaker by a 13-4 vote, will preside over this session's Congress meetings.

The other four returning Congress members were also appointed to leadership positions: graduate student Sarah Marks as speaker pro tem, law student

Gregory Wahl as Student Affairs Committee chairman, junior Tony Larson as Finance Committee chairman and applied sciences graduate student Dave Ruddell as Ethics Committee chairman.

Two new freshman members vied for the remaining leadership position – chairman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee. Blair Sweeney beat out Seth Floyd for the post with a 10-6 vote.

Townsend, who served as Finance Committee chairman for the 82nd session, topped Wahl, the previous session's Student Affairs Committee chairman.

Wahl said he supported Townsend as speaker and ran because he regretted that no one competed with senior Alexandra Bell for speaker last year.

"I always think there should be a choice," Wahl said.

Although there are still nine unfilled seats in Student Congress, members were sworn in on Tuesday at the student body officers' inauguration. The 83rd session will begin processing legislation next week.

Townsend said he thought the lack of contentiousness in the races was to be expected with the low number of return-

ing Congress members.

"Usually our chairs are almost always someone with experience," he said. "We serve as the leaders and let the new people see how we run and get an idea of what we do."

Marks nominated Townsend for speaker. "I think he's really capable and really passionate about student self-governance at Carolina," Marks said.

Although she said Townsend does not have a legislative agenda to push, Marks said his considerable experience with

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The more one is hated, I find, the happier one is.

Louis-Ferdinand Celine