

This Week in Tar Heel History ...



4 Years Ago:

■ This week in 1997, then-former University police Lt. C. E. Swain filed a lawsuit against University officials claiming they violated his constitutional rights, wrongfully fired him and discriminated and conspired against him.

38 Years Ago:

■ This week in 1963, Bobby Lewis set an all-time school record of 51 points as he led the junior varsity basketball team to a 111-65 victory over Elon. Lewis holds UNC's varsity record for points in a game, which he set in 1965.

65 Years Ago:

■ This week in 1936, junior class officers scheduled a swing band to play at the class' budget meeting in the hopes of attracting the required half-membership quorum needed to pass the class budget.

Calendar

Today

4 p.m. - The Curriculum in American Studies presents "Marriage Vows and Modern Verbiage," a staged reading featuring words from 20th century authors.

Professional actors David zum Brunnen and Serena Ebhardt will be enacting the staged reading, which is arranged in stages of a courtship and marriage - from the ceremony to the honeymoon, from the affair to aging together.

The performance will take place until 5:30 p.m. on Stage 6 in Swain Hall and is free to the public.

Zum Brunnen and Ebhardt are UNC

graduates and have been married since 1988.

6 p.m. - Linking Immigrants to New Communities and the Globe Committee of the Campus Y are sponsoring a discussion that is titled, "How Do People View the Immigration Policy?"

The talk will address issues related to change in immigration policy and student visas.

The event will be held until 8 p.m. in Carmichael Ballroom.

The Daily Tar Heel

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PlayMakers Hosts Holiday Play

The company's newest play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," is a satirical look at the American upper classes.

By ELLIOTT DUBE
Staff Writer

PlayMakers Repertory Company is changing the pace from usual Christmas fare.

Last year "An O. Henry Christmas" was the company's holiday contribution; George Kaufman and Moss Hart's "The Man Who Came to Dinner," this year's show for the holiday season, opened Nov. 21, and its connection to the Christmas season is tangential at best.

Set during the holidays, the play focuses on Sheridan Whiteside (Philip Davidson), a famous critic and lecturer who is also considered to be "the world's rudest man." He injures himself in Mesalia, Ohio, just before Christmas and is forced to live out the holidays with the Stanleys.

Sheridan turns their lives upside down, as his New York wit and attitude clash with their middle-American mentality. Things get even crazier when Sheridan's secretary, Maggie Cutler (Kathryn Hunter Williams), falls in love with one of the townspeople.

PlayMakers chose to produce "The Man Who Came to Dinner" largely based on its wit and its non-yuletide skewering of American celebrity culture.

Hart and Kaufman wrote the play in 1939, and the combination of the pair's talents has maintained its popularity. Kaufman was the one with the acerbic wit and knack for satire, while Hart was more of a natural storyteller, said Michael Sexton, the play's director.

Real-life celebrities were Hart and Kaufman's inspiration for a number of characters, including playwright Noel Coward (Beverly Carlton), and Harpo Marx of the Marx Brothers (Banjo). Sheridan was modeled after a friend of Kaufman and Hart's.

But for the satire to work, many of the cast studied those on whom the characters were based.

Alton Fitzgerald White, who plays Coward's counterpart in the play, did his research - to prepare his role, he looked through a series of articles and photos to get a sense of how Coward acted.

"I got his confidence and his above-

it-all attitude, his kind of super wealthy, super elite kind of attitude," said White, who previously performed in "Ragtime" on Broadway and will shortly join the national tour of "The Lion King."

PlayMakers hopes the attitude of the rich and famous depicted in the play will strike a chord with audiences, although it presents its share of challenges. Sexton said establishing proper comedic timing in such a comedy is difficult to accomplish considering its 30-member cast.

"It's an incredibly complicated logistical set of challenges," he said.

Despite the obstacles, White enjoyed performing a play in December that didn't revolve around Scrooge or Tiny Tim.

"So many theaters do 'A Christmas Carol' over and over again, and this will be a nice, different something,"

Alton Fitzgerald White
Actor

"The Man Who Came to Dinner" will run through Dec. 16. Shows are at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and at 2 p.m. Sundays. For ticket information, call the PlayMakers box office at 962-7529.

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

1st Human Embryo is Replicated

Cloned human embryos might allow replacement of stem cells in patients with diseases such as diabetes.

The Associated Press

BOSTON - A group of scientists in Massachusetts claimed Sunday they had cloned the first early human embryo, a step toward providing genetically matched replacement cells for patients with a wide range of diseases.

The scientists at Advanced Cell Technology, in Worcester, Mass., say they have no immediate interest in transplanting such early embryos into a woman's womb to give birth to a cloned human being.

Several states, including California, have banned human cloning. Congress is considering such a ban.

"These are exciting preliminary results," said Dr. Robert P. Lanza, one of the researchers at Advanced Cell Technology. "This work sets the stage for human therapeutic cloning as a potentially limitless source of immune-compatible cells for tissue engineering and transplantation medicine."

In findings published Sunday by The Journal of Regenerative Medicine and described online in Scientific American, the scientists said they had grown a six-cell human embryo.

They said they created the early embryo by injecting a very small cell with its genetic material into a woman's donated egg. In such cloning, the injected DNA often comes from a skin cell, but the researchers this time used a cumulus cell, which nurtures a developing egg.

In a separate experiment, the scientists showed they could push the development of human egg cells even further with a technique known as parthenogenesis.

They exposed 22 egg cells to chemicals that changed the concentration of electrically charged ions within them. Six eggs reprogrammed themselves to develop into early embryos known as blastocysts, which contain dozens of cells.

The scientists described the work as preliminary. Neither experiment has yet produced the coveted stem cells that grow inside an embryo and differentiate into other body tissues.

But the researchers described the work as an important step toward producing these stem cells to generate replacement cells as treatments for diabetes, heart disease, spinal injuries and many other ailments.

Asked about the research on "Fox News Sunday," Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-Ala., said while he only had sketchy details, he was worried about reproductive cloning. He called the reports "disconcerting."

"I think it's going in the wrong direction," he said.

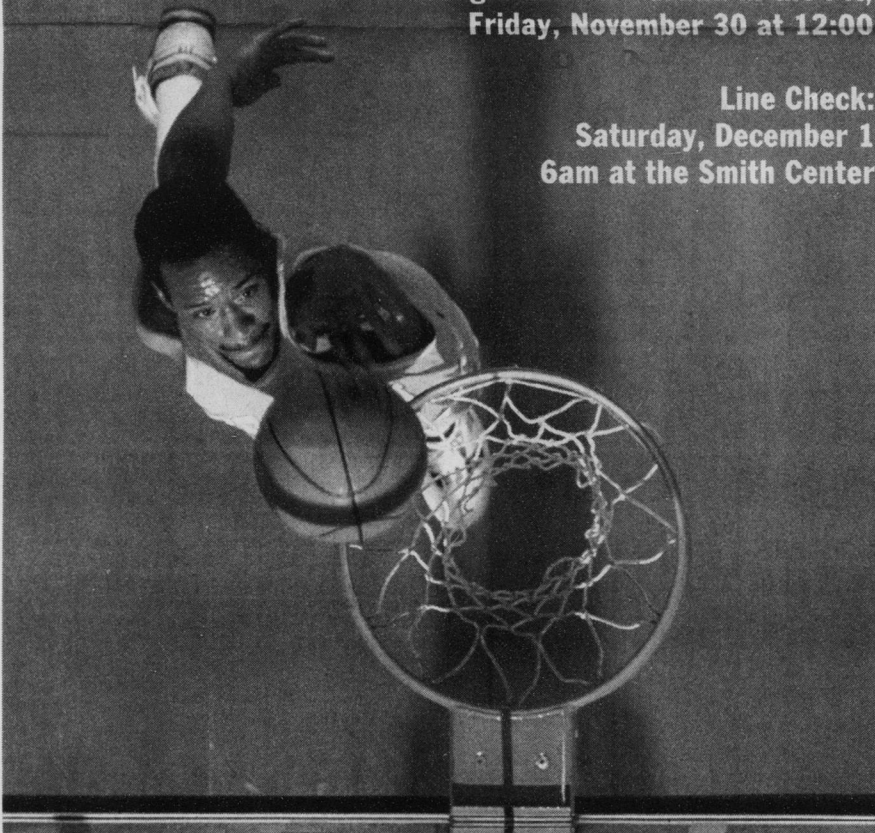
On NBC's "Meet the Press," Sen. Richard Shelby, D-Ala., said, "I believe it will be perhaps a big debate, but at the end of the day I don't believe that we're going to let the cloning of human embryos go on."

Basketball Ticket Distribution
for Wake Forest, Virginia, NC State

Bracelet Distribution at Gate 5 of Kenan Stadium
Tuesday, November 27, 5pm-7pm
Wednesday, November 28, 8am-5pm
Thursday, November 29, 8am-5pm

"Magic Number" drawn in the Pit,
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Saturday, December 1
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Lawrence Grossberg, Professor,
Communication Studies

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5:00pm, Friday, November 30th
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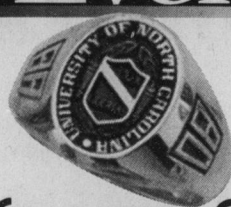
Carolina Ring Event

DATE.....TODAY, Monday, Nov. 26 - Friday, Nov. 30

TIME.....10:30am - 3:30pm

PLACE.....UNC Student Stores

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