

Events to Continue Quran Debate

Author Michael Sells to speak on campus

By ESHANTHI RANASINGHE
Staff Writer

University officials are hoping the widespread controversy over this year's summer reading selection will spark student interest in a series of events designed to keep the discussion of Islam alive.

Every year as part of the summer reading program, events are held to complement the freshman discussion sections.

Last year there were three, but this year 16 exhibits and lectures over the entire semester will explore everything from artistic portrayals of Islam to authentic Quranic chants.

Cindy Wolf Johnson, vice chancellor

for student learning, said a majority of the events were planned before the controversy began, but recent nationwide debate has changed the focus of the event. "People relate Islam to the Middle East, and it was important for us to show the American perspective of Islam," Wolf Johnson said.

Some student organizations used the summer reading selection to further facilitate discussion and learning of the Quran.

"When we found out about the book, I contacted Vice Chancellor Wolf Johnson to see if she wanted any help," said Bashar Staitieh, president of the Muslim Student Association.

Two panel discussions designed specifically in response to the controversy will allow different groups on campus to discuss their points of view.

The first, "Approaching the Qur'an: The Campus Ministers' Perspectives,"

will take place Sept. 10, and as a follow-up, "Approaching the Qur'an: Student Leaders' Perspectives" will take place at a later, undecided date.

Ackland Art Museum is sponsoring an exhibit titled, "Word and Worship: Approaching Islam through Art," which will be featured until Dec. 29.

At the exhibit, the MSA will facilitate students' understanding of the Quran's oral traditions through sura recitations. The exact date of the recitations, which will take place in October, has not yet been set.

Highlighting the series of events, Michael Sells, author of this summer's book selection "Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations," will give a speech Sept. 5.

Event planners also hope to incorporate members of the community with a concert titled, "Music in Performance: Quraishi, Music of Afghanistan."

Quraishi, a renowned musician dedicated to interpreting the music of Afghanistan, will perform at Duke University's Nelson Music Room on Oct. 24.

Although some events were set in response to the controversy, many campus groups organized already existing programs, like Islamic Awareness Week, around the one-year anniversary of Sept. 11. "This controversy has definitely sparked more interest (in Islam)," Staitieh said. "But Islamic Awareness Week is something we do every year."

The Islamic Awareness Week, from Nov. 11-15, will present different aspects of Islamic culture each day.

Wolf Johnson said she isn't sure whether next year's book choice will

Discussions

Sept. 5

Attend a discussion with Michael Sells, author of "Approaching the Qur'an" at 7:30 p.m. in 111 Carroll Hall. A reception will follow.

Sept. 10

Hear campus ministers talk about their response to the book at 7 p.m. in the Union Auditorium. There also will be a follow-up program with student leaders from both religious and non-religious groups. The location and time are not yet set.

Please see www.dailytarheel.com for a full list of related summer reading programs.

SOURCE: SUMMER READING PANEL DTH/STAFF

create this much fervor, but she hopes to continue to have a variety of programs about the next selection.

The interest generated for the events offered this year will affect the number available next year, Johnson said.

Regardless of the source of interest, the events speak greatly of the students and campus of UNC, said Randi Davenport, associate director of the Johnston Center of Undergraduate Excellence, who also contributed to this year's effort.

"The installation (of the programs) says a lot about the way in which the University embraces diversity."

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

For the Record

The headline for the Aug. 21 article "2 Men Punished for Theft of Credit Card" inaccurately stated that the credit card was stolen. It is not known how the lacrosse players obtained the Department of Athletics credit card. They were charged with transaction card fraud.

The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

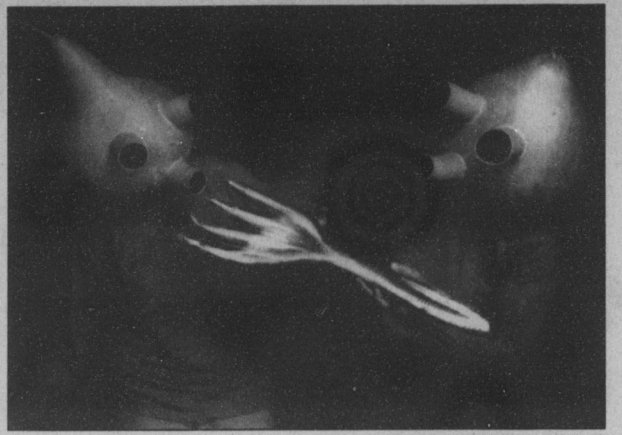


PHOTO COURTESY OF SETH TICE-LEWIS

Humans dressed as puppets appear in the Paper Hand Puppet Intervention's performance of "Listen to the Sky."

Giant Puppets to Tell Story of Sky, Earth

By MICHELLE JARBOE
Staff Writer

Today, giant puppets will overtake UNC's Forest Theatre in the first of 12 performances by the Paper Hand Puppet Intervention.

For the third consecutive year, a troupe of puppeteers and puppets of myriad shapes and sizes will present a story to students, families, faculty and other attendees. "Listen to the Sky," this year's show, will detail the creation of the sun, movement through the seasons and the relationship between humanity and nature.

Nineteen puppeteers and three musicians will create about 30 different characters during "Listen to the Sky." Taking advantage of the outdoor ambience of the Forest Theatre, the show will include illuminated puppets and a near 35-foot-long puppet of mother earth.

"I love the space," Zimmerman said. "I've never really seen such a beautiful amphitheater - it really lends itself to the scale of what we do."

Though "Listen to the Sky" does not have a particular political bent, he said, issues of social justice and peace are major concerns of the puppeteers.

"(Puppeteering) is a good tool for healing, and we ultimately want to bring joy and celebratory feelings," Zimmerman said. "But we also want to bring strong thought about the condition of things in the world right now that we find a little bit scary."

But an adult message doesn't make the show too overwhelming for youngsters, said Fumi Wells, administrative assistant at the UNC Institute of Outdoor Drama. Wells attended last year's show, "Uprising: The Creation of the World in Four Parts," with family friends and their children.

Both Zimmerman and Wells referred to the "giant puppet extravaganza" as a program for all ages.

"It transports you to a fantasy world," Zimmerman said. "There's a lot of fascination in seeing these giant things move. You are able to suspend your disbelief and join in this world of magic."

The Paper Hand Puppet Intervention will be performing at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 22-25, 30, 31 and Sept. 2, 5, 12, 13 and 15 in Forest Theatre. Suggested donations are between \$5 and \$10.

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

WORKS BY THOMAS SAYRE

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