

Pottery, Arts in Exhibit Give Form to Spirituality

Native American film final event of exhibit

By **DUNCAN PITTMAN**
Staff Writer

Spirituality in its physical form is hard to find around campus – but you never know where it might manifest itself.

Such was the case this past Thursday afternoon, when the wet noise of smacking clay echoed across campus as three Native Americans and a group of participants pounded away on lumps of clay as part of "Functional Art from Earth and Fire," a Cherokee pottery workshop.

The workshop was one of several that have been made available since the early September installation of the "art/spirit/art" exhibit in the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence.

Randi Davenport, associate director of the Johnston Center and curator of the installation, explained the basic concept behind the exhibit.

"Art/spirit/art is about connecting art, creativity and spirituality," she said. "It celebrates the physical manifestations of spirituality, which are born at the intersection of love."

The pottery workshop was instructed by Cherokee artists Davey Arch, Betty Maney and Amanda Swimmer.

They provided a group of amateur potters – composed mostly of UNC stu-

dents, senior citizens and local artists – with step-by-step help through the pottery process. Arch, an acclaimed potter and wood carver, revealed the spiritual side to his art.

"Pottery-making very much relates to the Native American culture's belief that everything on Earth is connected," Arch said. "And in turn, the process is very therapeutic; you can get lost in it."

Such was the attraction for Theda Perdue, professor for several courses about Native Americans, who accompanied more than a dozen of her students in the workshop.

Perdue offered the workshop as a participatory extra credit option to her students.

The student turnout was a success but perhaps was less than spiritual, as indicated by one participant who abandoned her clay pot to chat on her cell phone.

But clay is not the only medium used in the exhibit. Malinda Maynor, an award-winning Lumbee filmmaker and another featured artist, uses film instead of clay.

Maynor's film, "In the Light of

Reverence," examines religious freedom for three tribes in the West – the Lakota, the Hopi, and the Wintu.

Maynor created her film with her culture in mind.

"I personally feel that my faith and my community make creativity possible and vice versa," Maynor said. "One can't exist without the other."

Arch and Maynor said they value the opportunity that "art/spirit/art" provides to Native American artists, and Davenport expressed hope for greater

recognition for such artists and their artwork on campus.

"We want to support activities on campus that will appreciate local state groups and engage students in outreach," Davenport said.

She encourages students to attend the screening of Maynor's film, the last event in the program, to better understand the culture around Native American spirituality.

"In the Light of Reverence" will be screened at 7 p.m. Wednesday in 39 Graham Memorial – but remember to leave your cell phones at home for the utmost spiritual experience.

"I ... feel that my faith and my community make creativity possible and vice versa. One can't exist without the other."

MALINDA MAYNOR
Lumbee Filmmaker

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



DTH/KRISTIN GOODE

Linda Ruth Dickinson, an artist featured in "art/spirit/art," packs up her paintings Monday afternoon in Graham Memorial. The September event also included a pottery workshop and film screening.

Campus Calendar

Today

1 p.m. – Naval ROTC is sponsoring a blood drive until 5:30 p.m. All donors receive a coupon for a free Chick-fil-A sandwich and a coupon for \$5 off Domino's pizza. For more information, e-mail donors@unc.edu.

5 p.m. – Academic Advising Programs will host an information session for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in 33 Carroll Hall.

5 p.m. – Pre-law? Come to the

Academic Advising Programs' information session with pre-law adviser Tom Horan in the Union Auditorium.

5:30 p.m. – Interested in the undergraduate major in business administration? Come to the information session hosted in the McColl Building by Academic Advising Programs.

7 p.m. – Advocates for Sexual Assault Prevention will hold its weekly meeting in 101 Bingham Hall.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

4 p.m. – Want to work in health professions? Academic Advising Programs is hosting information sessions today for majors in nursing at 4 p.m., pharmacy at 4:30 p.m., allied health at 5 p.m., pre-med/pre-dental/pre-veterinary at 6 p.m. All sessions are in 105 Berryhill Hall.

7 p.m. – UNC Rotaract, an organization that promotes professional development and community service, will

meet in Union 211. The guest speaker is Brian Stabler, professor emeritus of psychiatry. The topic is the "Rise of a Rotary Scholar."

7 p.m. – The Student Recreation Center will be having a meeting for those interested in teaching group fitness classes in the SRC Conference Room.

For the Record

In the Sept. 23 issue of The Daily Tar Heel, the headline "Study: Religion creates good behavior," incorrectly states the study's results. The study states that religion is correlated with good behavior.

In the story titled "Alternative Therapy of Birth Simulation Deemed Hazardous," it was incorrectly reported that Larry Green practiced rebirthing. Green only underwent the procedure.

The DTH regrets the errors.

The Daily Tar Heel
P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515
Kim Minugh, Editor; 962-4086
Advertising & Business, 962-1163
News, Features, Sports, 962-0245
One copy per person; additional copies may be purchased at The Daily Tar Heel for \$25 each.
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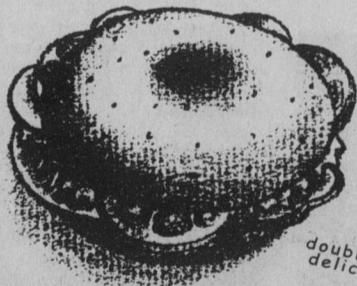
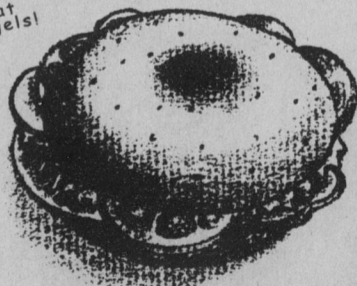
Yale Law School

First-Year Student Information Session
Tuesday, September 24, 2002, at 5:30pm
Koury Auditorium at McColl Building

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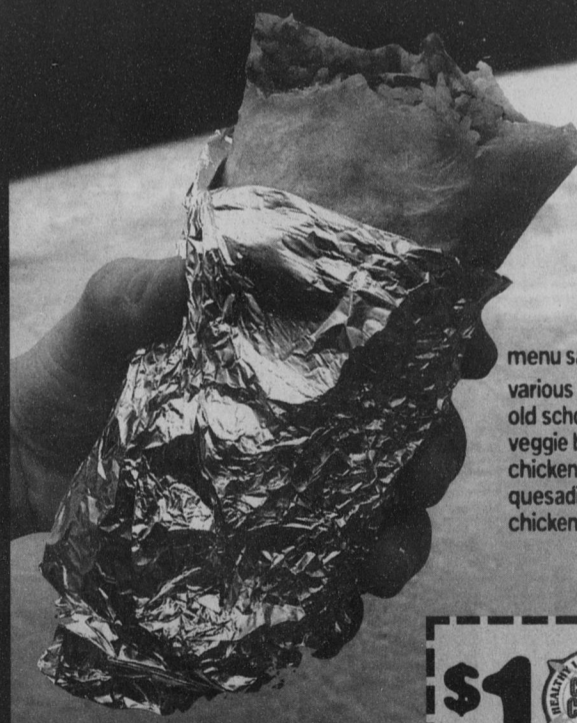
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