

# Poetry to replace ads in mural

BY JENNY HUANG  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Local residents passing through downtown Carrboro soon can play a larger-than-life game of word scramble.

Through a recently approved project by the Carrboro Arts Committee, portions of a downtown mural will be replaced by poetry within the next two weeks.

The existing mural, located at 103 E. Main St., portrays a patchwork banner combining images of flowers, moons and stars with the names of local restaurants, retailers and online businesses.

Town officials ruled last spring that the 32 squares displaying local business names represent "off-premises signs," a violation of the land-use ordinance prohibiting the

incorporation of logos or advertisements in public art.

The redesign plan calls for replacing the squares with a 32-word poem that would allocate a word for each square.

Committee members say the new design will be interactive for viewers.

"Each block will have a word from the poem, and it'll be like a puzzle to figure it out," said member Jackie Helvey-Hayes.

Helvey-Hayes said the redesign will be a unique way to cover up the sign violations and preserve the original design.

"There's a lot of logos, but around the logos there are designs that can be salvaged."

The arts committee has commissioned Patrick Herron, the

town's poet laureate, to compose the poem.

Committee member Catherine DeVine, who suggested using poetry as a replacement, said this project is more appealing than the alternative options of painting over the entire mural, sandblasting the wall or transforming the 32 squares into 32 separate projects.

"My main objective was to keep it one project," she said. "Keep it intact and keep the (original) design."

Herron said he is exploring potential themes but is struggling to compose a creative poem that will fit the puzzle structure.

"You write poems for occasions," he said. "(But) this is a site-specific piece."

Kimberli Matin, former owner of Zodi Gallery, conceived the original mural design last year as a community-building project.

Local residents and businesses were invited to purchase wall space and paint whatever design they wished according to the theme "What does community mean to me?"

Most of the painting was completed in conjunction with the Carrboro Music Festival last September.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen has set the mural completion deadline as Sept. 28 — one year to the day the mural first was created.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

## CLASSES

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much as double the original amount.

Some classes in the Departments of African and Afro-American Studies, Chemistry, International Studies and French were over-enrolled by more than 15 students this semester, according to the Office of the University Registrar.

Peter Kaufman, professor of religion, said more attention needs to be paid to recruiting qualified TAs and faculty to offset the increases in enrollment.

"We're bleeding," he said. "We're losing a lot of our instructional personnel because we can't offer competitive salaries."

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## KILLER DILLER

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unabashedly irreverent as "Killer Diller" might not have a central theme or a moral.

"But one ... might be, without being too preachy, to make little people big and big people little," he said.

Music plays an essential role in telling the story, and performing throughout is a five-piece band led by songwriter Billy McCormick, with many of the songs written by Edgerton himself.

The repertoire includes stan-

dards such as "This Little Light of Mine" as well as originals "Jesus Was a Banker" and "Big Girls Can't Be Choosers."

Ferguson said that the connection between music and spoken word text is inherent in Edgerton's novel since it contains bits of songs and lyrics the characters were writing.

"It's going to be difficult for people to stay in their seats during the show," he added, with no effort to mask his confidence.

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## SUPPORT

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The UNC system still appears to be one of the top priorities of the legislators who allocate money to it.

Wilson said he doesn't see any indication that the system is moving away from state funding, but he said budget cuts cannot continue.

"We cannot sustain the level of cuts being imposed upon the (system), because it is like not getting the appropriations in the first place," he said.

James Oblinger, N.C. State University provost, said his university has seen budget cuts from the state during 12 of the past 13 years.

But Oblinger said N.C. State is accustomed to looking for outside funding. He said the university always has pursued alternative funding from sources such as grants and contracts from businesses.

"We have a complete source of funding of which the state is one portion," he said.

But cuts still had a negative impact on N.C. State's classrooms. Oblinger said the university has increased the size of its classes and reduced the number of its teaching assistants.

These kinds of changes are widespread, forcing schools to look for other sources of funding.

"I think, as most of the schools within the system, we must expand our resources," Johnson said.

The classroom is not the only

aspect of university life inhibited by cuts.

Officials are worried that the cost of attending a UNC system school might become too much to bear.

Bill Friday, UNC-system president emeritus, said tuition problems could change UNC-CH's relationship with the public.

But, he said, precautionary steps have been taken at the University to ensure that sufficient need-based financial aid can be provided for enough students.

About 40 percent of the revenue that comes from tuition increases goes to student aid, Friday said.

This is an essential step for UNC-CH in order for it to be able to maintain the school's role as a service to the people.

"It is a terribly important thing to do because North Carolina has always been home to a diversity of the North Carolina population," he said.

Although the point at which the system goes from being state-funded to state-supported is not fixed, its place in the state will come into question as schools are forced to cut back on salary benefits, increase class sizes and decrease the number of courses offered, Wilson said.

"If you are not doing those things, and you continue not to do those things, are you being supported?"

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## FACULTY

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we can to get our salaries in the ballpark," he said. "What you're able to trade on is Carolina's reputation. But if I'm competing with the University of Virginia or the University of Michigan, then a faculty member's decision will hinge on other things."

In the Department of English, despite the fact that the department has hired five people during the last three years, some class sections were dropped because there are not enough instructors. But the department found room for all incoming students in English 11 and English 12, two core classes.

"I hope, keeping both of my fingers crossed, we will be able to do that next semester," said James Thompson, the department's chairman. "If they come and ask for more money, we will not."

The English department is not an anomaly in the College of Arts and Sciences, in which the average age of a professor is 51. The college also is battling to continue hiring. Darryl Gless, senior associate dean of the college, said that it has lost a number of professors to retirement in recent years and that it now is hurting for new faculty.

Gless said the college successfully has been supplementing state money with private donations from the Carolina First fund-raising campaign in order to offer new faculty members good salaries.

UNC retained a number of fac-

ulty members by using those private funds to pay for things such as research and travel. Gless said the college has managed to keep 50 percent of all faculty who receive outside offers.

"We'd like to do better," he said. At the English department, where as many as 10 faculty members face retirement in the next few years, Thompson has had to decide whether to use the department's attractive endowed professorships to bring in new faculty or keep the talented faculty he already has, who often get offers from private universities for as much as 25 percent more than their UNC salaries.

"We have kept three faculty out of four who got outside offers in the last three years," he said. "As economic conditions here worsen and as salaries worsen ... the problem will worsen."

Thompson added that current conditions are taking their toll on job satisfaction as well.

"All of these budget problems are severely affecting morale," he said. "People want to feel they have a future here; they'd like to see a pay raise."

Gless said the College of Arts and Sciences is recognizing faculty work with calls from the dean and teaching awards, as well as offering chances to teach First Year Seminars and honors classes.

"What faculty value in addition to good salaries and benefits, which we can't provide without the state, is knowing they are valued."

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## REVIEW

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(John McGrew), energetic and eager to reform with the aid of Christian guidance. He's part of a blues-rock group, The Noble Defenders of the Word, which violates Ballard University policy by using school equipment to play music other than gospel.

At the same time, Wesley meets and becomes enamored with an overweight girl named Phoebe (Sarah Kocz) and finds himself wrestling with wanton sexual impulses.

Discrepancies between the characters' desires and the school's strict moral code color the show's conflicts with a healthy dose of humor.

For example, consider the scene in which Wesley attempts to justify his raging libido with the aid of Scripture, noting King David's adultery and possession of a concubine. "Maybe," Wesley says, "Christian rules were made in Bible times — before rubbers."

Meanwhile, Phoebe, enrolled in the School of Nutrition — a department that's little more than a glorified dieting program — struggles with her weight.

Resulting are scenes such as a movie theater date between her and Wesley. Speaking their thoughts aloud to the audience, Wesley raves about his urge to pounce on Phoebe, while Phoebe raves about her urge to pounce on her popcorn.

The creative liberties given to the

expressions of characters' thoughts and motives are characteristic of the play. Aside from monologues in his own voice, Wesley's intentions and dreams are shouted in unison by other actors, their wild voices driving home the fervid pace of Wesley's racing thoughts.

The musical numbers are even more reliant upon the actors' vocal performances, as each of them put a different cast member's distinct voice in the limelight.

The tongue-in-cheek lyrics and song titles, including "Big Girls Can't Be Choosers" and "Jesus Dropped the Charges," were aptly suited to the play's tone — at some points lighthearted humor, while irreverent social satire at others.

Whatever the issue at hand, "Killer Diller" takes it with a grain of salt. It adopts a certain bounce in its stride, uplifted not only by the performance of the actors and musicians but also by the philosophy that nothing is too good for a little ridicule.

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## STARSYSTEM

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- ★★ FAIR
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