

# Bus driver delivers positive messages

BY INDIA ATRY  
STAFF WRITER

As passengers file onto Robert Moore's U-bus early Friday morning, many of them from South Campus stops, he turns toward the entrance and greets them.

He counts each person who enters the bus and extends a sincere "good morning" and a warm smile, receiving many in return.

As passengers disperse among the blue seats and settle in for a free ride across campus, conversations are broken by Moore's voice over the intercom.

"I'd like to wish a good morning to all the ladies and gentlemen on the bus," he says.

Several passengers smile secretly at each other, knowing what is coming next and wondering how many other people do.

Moore dives right into reciting the "mottos of today," having students repeat them in unison and sometimes fill in the blanks to complete them.

All of his messages — which range from the superiority of love instead of hate to looking both ways before crossing the street —

center around the notion that every individual has equal worth, regardless of possessions.

Each one incorporates the first motto he created, "I am somebody," which he has officially trademarked for his unofficial motivational-speaking operation. He even produces a line of T-shirts and hats that bear the slogans, which are available on his Web site, [http://www.geocities.com/robert\\_w\\_moorejr](http://www.geocities.com/robert_w_moorejr).

Moore, a resident of Haw River, said he felt his message was needed in Chapel Hill. He started spreading it as a corrective for attitudes when he began working for Chapel Hill Transit six years ago.

"Before I come here, people said there were a lot of rich people here — stuck-up and looked down on others," he said.

Freshman Katie Dodson, a business major from Burlington, said she enjoys riding the bus because Moore encourages her. "He makes me smile at eight in the morning, which kind of takes a lot," she said.

He also is spurred on by the accolades he receives from the community and the support of his co-workers, whose uniforms bear the CHT logo he designed.

Celebrated by local radio station WCHL 1360 AM and Performance Auto Mall, rewarded by Chapel

Hill Town Manager Cal Horton, honored at Jersey Mike's with memorabilia and recently recognized by UNC's chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. as an outstanding black man, Moore is a town celebrity for his service to the people with whom he comes in contact.

Although his speaking receives overwhelmingly positive feedback, some students regard Moore's communication unfavorably.

Freshman Stephanie Bernabe, a business major from Raleigh, said she finds his interaction intimidating and intrusive. "That's kind of scary. It's supposed to be public transportation that takes you to class," she said. "You just want to relax."

Some passengers have called CHT with complaints about Moore because they believe his messages are affiliated with Christianity.

But Moore said he encourages people to simply do the right thing and is careful to obey town policies against religious speech.

He added that he doesn't let the criticism get him down. "If I can get half the people to smile, that keeps me motivated," he said. "Let's me know I'm doing something right."

Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

# 'Holiday' takes on rich plotline

BY JACKIE RANDELL  
STAFF WRITER

Deep Dish Theater Company will usher out its third season with a production of Philip Barry's "Holiday," the company's most comprehensive theatrical production to date.

Paul Frellick founded Deep Dish in 2001 after his move from Chicago because, given the plethora of venues in the Windy City, the Chapel Hill community appeared to be a theatrically under-served population.

With 10 cast members and two distinct sets, Frellick said that the show will be of epic proportions considering the size of their venue.

Though Barry's "Holiday" was made into a movie starring Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant in the 1930s, Barry is more recognizable for his work, "Philadelphia Story," which was also converted to the big screen.

He brings the same poignancy and wit to this storyline, with a Jazz Age backdrop.

Frellick said that Barry is known for creating terrific characters who are funny — sometimes by accident — and full of human shortcomings. His approach adds a humanity to his plays that is engaging and entertaining.

"Holiday" is no exception. Written in 1928, before Black Tuesday, the play confronts issues of wealth and societal structure prevalent during the time.

Johnny Case is slated to marry Julia Seton, the daughter of the

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wealthy Edward Seton, a well-known business tycoon.

When Case opts out of the business in favor of putting his retirement pay toward a "holiday" of self-discovery and actualization, he is confronted with the elder Seton's angry reproval.

"It's about the same kind of thing that every generation has to go through, of young people trying to find themselves and their parents trying to do it for them," Frellick said.

He also said that the underlying theme of young professionals trying to find themselves is especially applicable to college students.

Frellick chose to open Deep Dish at University Mall to bring the theatre to the people and break down any preconceived notions about theatre.

Frellick said that there are a number of new restaurants and art galleries that people discover by attending the company's productions.

In addition to adding cultural flair to the University community, he said that Deep Dish will entertain with its latest production and reap the benefits of the community's attendance.

"It's been a mutually beneficial experience."


Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).



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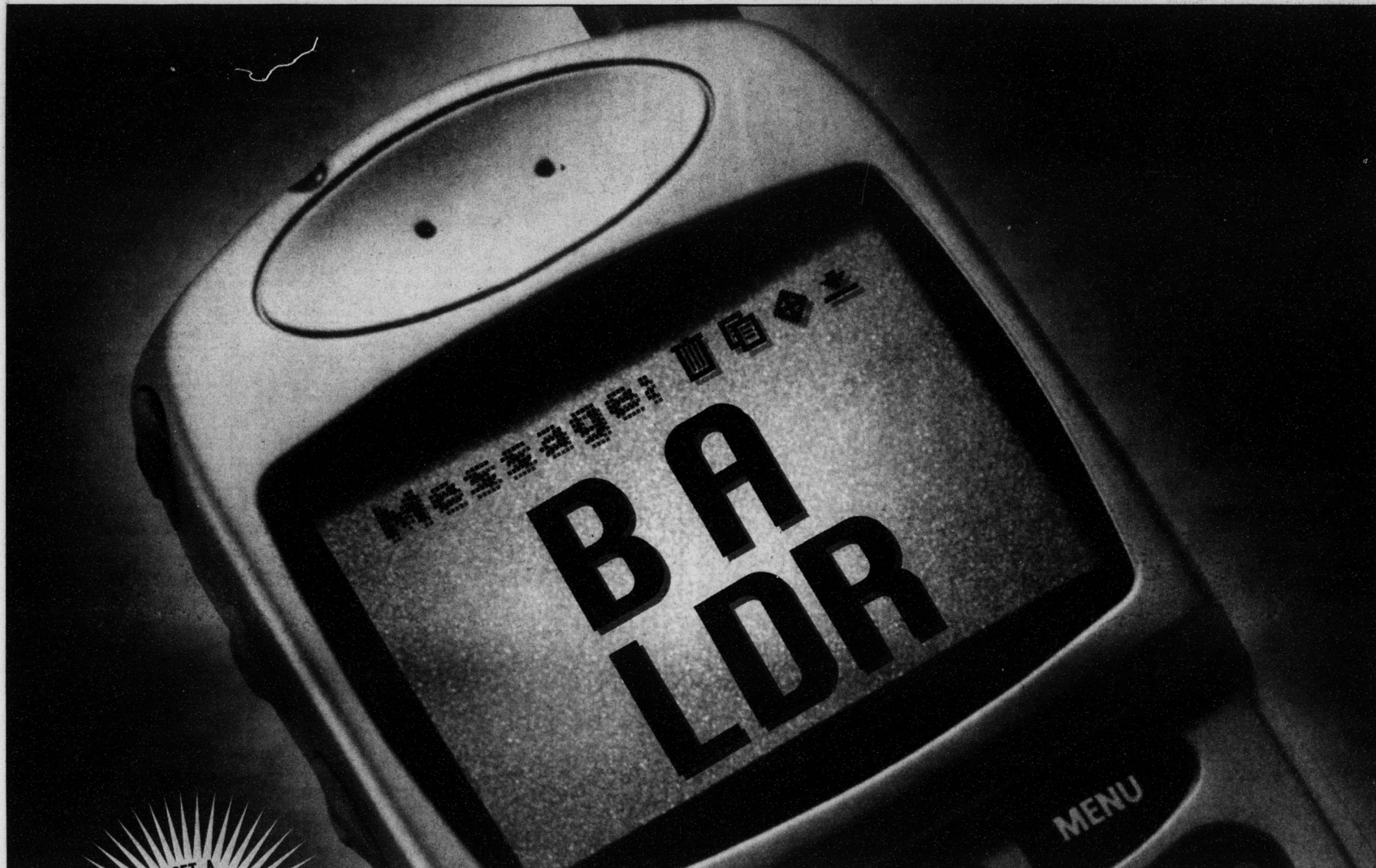
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