

# Chapel Hill natives out to prove Mama can dance

BY ELIZABETH JENSEN  
STAFF WRITER

Keeping secrets is hard, especially when it's from a close family member.

That is exactly what Carol Uphoff of Chapel Hill struggled with when her son, Erick "E-Rock" Uphoff, told her that he was auditioning for what he thought was a show called "Dance Nation."

Erick Uphoff's mom knew the show's big twist: The show he was auditioning for was Lifetime Television's first dance competition, "Your Mama Don't Dance," and she would be his partner.

"I was shocked," said Erick Uphoff, an East Chapel Hill High School alumnus. "It blew me away. I had no idea."

Erick and Carol Uphoff are competing against nine other father-daughter and mother-son duos for the chance to win \$100,000 in cash and prizes.

"I am really excited for them. ... He has taken a big risk by going out to L.A. by himself," said Ellen Ambrose, a UNC sophomore who danced with Erick at Triangle Youth Ballet.

"He is starting to get his dream."

Marisa Dorchock, Erick's girlfriend and Los Angeles dance partner, said she knows the difficulty of breaking into the entertainment industry.

"It's going to open a lot of doors for him," Dorchock said. "He gets to work with top choreographers and other top dancers."

The show's lead choreographer, Marguerite Derricks, designed the Uphoffs' first contemporary dance, which is a mix of modern, lyrical and jazz styles.

Mrs. Smith." She said throughout her career her job has required her to choreograph dances for both professionals and celebrities with little prior dance experience.

"I kind of treat the parents like the stars," Derricks said. "The kids are the icing on the cake."

Erick, who she assumed was primarily a hip-hop dancer, surprised her with his classical training, and Carol has a natural artistic ability, she said.

"I was really blown away the first day I walked into the studio and saw them dancing together," Derricks said.

But someone recognized Erick's talent long before Derricks saw him perform.

According to Erick, his sister, Emilie, is his biggest fan. She sends out mass e-mails, starts Facebook fan groups and makes announcements about his dancing career

**WATCH THE SHOW**

**Time:** 9 p.m. today  
**Channel:** Lifetime Network, channel 66 on campus  
**Info:** [www.mylifetime.com/on-tv/shows/your-mama-dont-dance](http://www.mylifetime.com/on-tv/shows/your-mama-dont-dance)

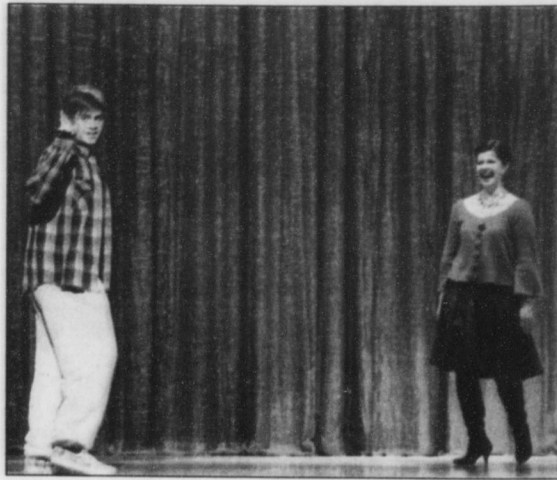
in her classes at Western Carolina University.

"It's always fun to see him dance," Emilie said. "I know he's been a great teacher for my mom."

The first time the mother-son team danced on the same stage was in the Triangle Youth Ballet performance of "The Nutcracker." He played the title character, while she played the part of a party guest.

Erick said he is excited about the duo reuniting on stage.

"I am definitely excited to show America my mom can dance."



Erick Uphoff and his mother Carol Uphoff are participating in Lifetime Television's first dance competition, "Your Mama Don't Dance."

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

**WATER WATCH**

## Campus combats drought

Landscapers emphasize planning

BY MARY COLE ALLEN  
STAFF WRITER

UNC Grounds Director Kirk Pelland says proper planting and a solid crew are what keep the campus beautiful in the face of a seemingly endless drought.

Chapel Hill is now under water restrictions, which means the grounds crew can water only with a hand-held hose using Orange County water.

And with the historic nature of the campus, UNC must focus on maintaining the landscape beyond this year and the prolonged drought.

"If we have the same dry summer this year like we had last year, and the lakes are dry, we've got a problem," Pelland said. "So we have to remain informed daily."

He said he keeps his crew updated with every change in water levels.

"You would be surprised how big of a difference a few drops of rain can make," Pelland said. "If it stays this dry, we may not do as much, but we're planting trees, shrubs and ground cover."

The grounds crew uses water from a cistern located under Hooker Field. The cistern collects water from the roofs of the School of Government and the indoor track. And though the 100,000-gallon tank is half-full, Pelland said it refills quickly.

"As long as the tanked water holds out, we will be able to take care of the things we have," he said.

Normally, the grass across campus requires the largest amount of water, but Pelland said that because of the water restrictions, grounds officials are not able to feed the quads' thirst.

"The grass is surviving on its own, and we're hoping for rain," Pelland said.

UNC groundskeepers prepared ahead of time to ensure that the campus will look beautiful in the spring, but, this year especially, they decided to seed drought-resistant plants and take other precautions.

"We're doing everything we can to keep campus beautiful," Pelland said. "No one wants to play frisbee or sit on a patch of dirt."

Planning ahead can pay off in the landscaping business, Pelland said, as long as it's done the right way.

"We lost quite a few plants last year because they were planted so long ago without proper planning," he said, noting that UNC is one of the only UNC-system campuses that does its own landscaping.

But Pelland said he is surprised that some of the oldest trees on campus continue to prosper. The "noble grove" — more commonly known as McCorkle Place — is his favorite place on campus because of the antiquated trees, he said.

"It always amazes me when the older plants survive so long," Pelland said.

As potential students flock to

*"We lost quite a few plants last year because they were planted ... without proper planning."*

KIRK PELLAND, UNC GROUNDS DIRECTOR

campus for tours, the beautiful and historic Southern landscape remains a big selling point for UNC.

"We know that we are judged by what we do every day," Pelland said.

But the drought's effect on the look of campus has had little impact on those deciding whether to attend.

"There weren't a lot of flowers when I came to campus for a tour, but it didn't bother me because we have the same problems at home," said Jenna McIntosh, a high school senior from Rameur, N.C.

And as the drought goes on, other areas of campus are doing their part to conserve water.

"We are increasing our use of rain barrels to help keep things watered," said Chris Liloia, habitat gardens curator at the N.C. Botanical Garden. The gardens use mostly well water, so the drought has not legally affected their watering capabilities.

"There are no legal restrictions, but we are always being very careful to focus on conserving water," Liloia said.

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

## UNC re-examining alcohol policy

BY KELLEN MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

With more than 30 bars within a mile of UNC's campus, it's no surprise that drinking among college students is common — even routine — for some.

But with underage and excessive drinking comes an array of problems that hack away at student safety, relationships, academics and the University's reputation.

With that in mind, the campus alcohol task force is taking a hard look at alcohol use at UNC, aiming to change the student alcohol policy by the fall — and the entire campus drinking atmosphere by 2012.

The task force is a combined effort of 97 members from University academic offices, Counseling and Wellness Services, law enforcement, local businesses and the student alcohol advisory committee. More than half of those involved in the discussion — 55 to be exact — are students on the advisory committee.

And for the task force, making the University safer begins with an update of the student alcohol policy, which was last reviewed in 2002.

The current policy is a list of eight basic rules, including a ban on alcoholic beverages at athletic events. That policy doesn't take into account

state alcohol laws enacted in recent years, said Eric Smith, CWS health educator, who is on the task force.

For example, underage drinkers no longer have to be holding an alcoholic beverage to receive a possession citation; alcohol in someone's body is now considered "in possession." Laws regarding keg registration also have changed.

Nationally, about 1,400 college students die each year from alcohol-related injuries, and more than 70,000 students are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault, according to a 2002 study in The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

UNC hasn't had an alcohol-related death reported in recent years, but 90 percent of the sexual assault reports UNC receives involve alcohol use, said Dean Blackburn, assistant dean of students.

"It's almost as if it's come to a tipping point in the college lifestyle in terms of alcohol consumption," said Ron Bilbao, chairman of the student committee. "It seems we can't go on the way we're going now."

Students are studying abroad in countries where they can drink legally, Smith said. Students today, he said, aren't the same as those who attended five years ago.

Although task force members

aren't sure exactly how the revamped policy will change, it will be more comprehensive and up-to-date than before. "It's not just policy, it's a tool of good health and prevention, too," Smith said. "It will be much more than just those rules."

Policy revisions are just one part of the task force's plans, which also include creating attractive late-night programming, revamping alcohol education at orientation and improving substance-abuse intervention services — all with the goal of changing some students' impressions that drinking is necessary at college.

"We're really after something that's a lot bigger than the policy change," Bilbao said. "We're about changing those perceptions about college life."

But don't write off the involved students as totally opposed to alcohol, he said.

"Most of the committee members are drinkers, and the reason we know is because we asked," Bilbao said. "They've all experienced the positive and negative aspects of drinking while in college. They want to make sure that they're safe and that their friends are safe."

Contact the University Editor at [udesk@unc.edu](mailto:udesk@unc.edu).

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