



SARAH HODGES
FROM MY WORD PROCESSOR TO YOUR EARS
Sarah Hodges is a senior psychology major from Durham.
E-MAIL: SEHODGES@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

Leave the movies to go to the theater

I enjoy sitting around a movie theater after the credits begin to roll and letting the last hour and a half sink in. So one of my biggest pet peeves is when people disrupt this post-viewing Zen by clapping at the end of a film.

I don't understand it. It's not as if the filmmakers can hear the audience reaction. And the way movies are categorized by their gross earnings for the week, it seems like many of the people involved are more concerned about how much money the film makes than how much the audience appreciates it.

Audience interaction is a big part of live theater, and it's something that cannot be replaced in film. Many people our age seem to substitute film for live theater when they are actually two completely different art forms. It's time live theater got more recognition from us.

Not to show any disrespect to the film industry. Big-budget films have their positives, like special effects and shoots on location. Movies like "10,000 BC" and "Iron Man" just wouldn't be the same if performed on stage.

I'll admit that I've been to the movies at least six times this semester and not seen one stage production.

In fact, I find it a bit sad that I went to a Carmike Cinemas showing of Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter's performance rather than the local production of "Sweeney Todd."

We usually opt for the convenience and often cheaper cost of a film. Deciding on a whim to go see an action movie on a Saturday afternoon is a lot more realistic than saying "let's find a production of a George Bernard Shaw play to see tonight!"

But there are drawbacks to film.

Movies are a one-sided affair. The actors do multiple takes in front of a camera and the best is chosen to present to the public. We watch the same finished product multiple times. We might go see it in the theater, rent it for a night in or have the network television premiere playing in the background while we wash dishes or write a paper. Some movies we watch so many times that we can recite entire scripts with various actors' intonation and flair.

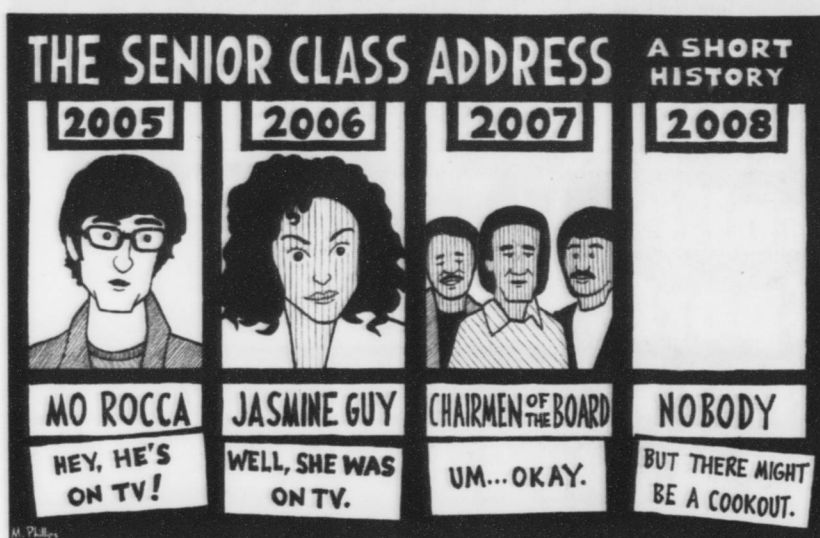
All of the CGI and elaborate sets used in movies nowadays means less work for the actors and audience alike. Performers have more complete sceneries with which to work, and audiences aren't forced to use their imagination nearly as much. Laugh tracks on television and movie soundtracks alert the viewers to emotions they didn't know they should be feeling. Even the use of the word "viewer" by industry executives is a dead giveaway to the lack of interaction between audience and performers.

It's the shared energy of a live performance that is lacking in the movie theater. The actors and audience feed off of each other's emotions. And sure you laugh when other people laugh, but it is all genuine reaction rather than the editor's cue of repeated recordings.

A play is a living thing. It's different every time you see it, no matter if you watch the same company performing the same script over and over. The audience has an impact, whether it's made up of a class full of drama majors or a field trip from the retirement home. Local productions reach out into the community for technical, artistic and moral support.

So support the local arts and take advantage of the many theaters in our area every once in a while. But when you do choose to go to the movies, please let others enjoy the credits in peace.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Mason Phillips, mphil@email.unc.edu



Too big to handle

Enrollment growth can't outstrip University resources

Ask anyone who's ever organized a prom dinner among friends, and they'll tell you how dangerous it is to be overly inclusive. It might make you feel warm and fuzzy inside to accept each and every one of your friends' dinner requests, but pulling up extra seats at the table often comes at the expense of intimacy.

As North Carolina's population continues to grow at a staggering rate, UNC-system officials encounter a similar problem of inclusion.

Studies indicate that we might have to increase the number of seats at the UNC-system table by 40 percent, or 80,000 students, in the next 10 years.

University officials here in Chapel Hill are currently considering three preliminary growth plans in which student enrollment would increase to anywhere between 29,447 and 33,000 students by 2017 in order to help alleviate some of the pressure on state public universities.

We're happy to issue the extra UNC invites to meet the

demands of the state population. However, given the extreme lack of facilities and available space here at UNC, it would be best for the state to focus its public university expansion in other locations and allow our University to maintain its intimacy and competitiveness by keeping enrollment growth to a minimum.

Don't get us wrong. We are extremely excited that a large volume of students, many of whom will probably be first-generation or Latino, will have the opportunity to pursue public higher education in the state of North Carolina in the coming years. They will provide much-needed diversity to the educational system while also becoming crucial players in the booming N.C. economy.

It's just that when Lenoir lunch lines seem endless with a student body of 28,136, it's hard to imagine that the already construction-concentrated campus can successfully provide adequate services for another couple of thousand incoming students.

Paulien and Associates, a consulting group hired to research

possible consequences of university expansion in Chapel Hill, has determined that UNC is already functioning at a whopping 1.4 million square feet less building space than it needs. If the University adopts the low growth plan, it will need to find another 2 million square feet.

Carolina North might be able to shoulder some of the space burden, but the campus is mainly for research and graduate programs, not undergraduates.

Even if there was enough space for such a dramatic increase in students, it's likely that it would result in some degree of decrease in quality of students and number of small classes. Director of Admissions Steve Farmer suggested that both drop-offs could result in decreased interest from top students.

We should make sure to include more students into the UNC system as population increases. However, we must do so with a constant eye toward maintaining a rich and rewarding "Carolina experience" for everyone at UNC.

A real boondoggle

Outside group should investigate Easley's e-mail policy

Gov. Mike Easley is becoming a master of denial. Easley's continuing insistence that his office's e-mail policy doesn't violate public records laws is becoming more ridiculous by the day.

Though he formed a committee to review the policy, we think it's time for an outside, independent review — by the State Bureau of Investigation. Wake County District Attorney Colon Willoughby could make that happen.

The (Raleigh) News & Observer obtained notes from two state public information officers from a meeting with the governor's press secretary that both said almost exactly the same thing: "delete e-mails to/from gov. office every day."

Yet, remarkably, Easley called the meaning of those notes unclear. He said they could also mean to print out e-mail messages and keep them in a file

before deleting them.

It's ironic and more than a little bit suspect that Easley would call the notes "cryptic" when it appears that the only party behaving surreptitiously in E-mailgate 2008 is the governor himself.

Easley has given the appearance of taking the issue seriously by assembling a review panel, but we have reason to question the legitimacy of that.

Franklin Freeman, the committee's Easley-appointed chairman, is a top aide to the governor and announced publicly that he did not know how to turn a computer on and he did not communicate by e-mail.

In Easley's defense, the committee does include members from outside state government. But with reason to question both his motives behind the review and his legal interpretations, we still want an SBI investigation.

N.C. G.S. 132 defines a pub-

lic record as any of a whole list of media "made or received ... in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of N.C. government." It goes on to further define an "agency" as any of a slew of government units.

Basically, it's very inclusive, and deleting public records without the consent of the Department of Cultural Resources happens to be a misdemeanor offense in the state.

Public records laws fill a valuable role to society on the federal and local level by ensuring that the government is responsive to its people. They are premised on the belief that public records belong to the people and that without them, there is no possibility for a free marketplace of ideas.

North Carolinians should not tolerate any more of Easley's not-so-clever diversions. It's about time he gives up the fight.

Anthony Maglione
Junior
Psychology

Interested students should apply for appointments

TO THE EDITOR:

The executive branch of student government has released applications for 16 external appointments for 2008-09. We will be making appointments to the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor, Student Technology Advisory Board, Student Fee Audit Committee, WXYC Board of Directors, among many other committees.

You can fill out an application and see a full list of committees with their descriptions on the student government Web site (www.unc.edu/studgov).

We are in search of any student applicants who are enthusiastic about serving the student body; prior experience is not necessarily required!

Applications are due Friday, April 11 at 5 p.m.

I look forward to reading your application and invite you to apply for multiple appointments.

Thank you and good luck!

Todd Dalrymple
Student Body Vice President

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

SUBMISSION:

- Drop-off: at our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union.
- E-mail: to editdesk@unc.edu
- Send: to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

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Health care must be cheap, accessible and reliable

The health care system our presidential hopefuls envision for America's future centers around three simple adjectives: affordable, accessible and reliable. But the one thing we aren't hearing anything about could be the most influential factor in the fate of health care overall: the growing shortage of practitioners nationwide.

North Carolina has been affected dramatically by this growing health care crisis. Of all citizens, however, those living in rural or inner-city areas are hurt the most by the growing shortage of medical providers. They are also the least represented among practitioners in the field.

How can we as a nation realistically expect to provide comprehensive, culturally competent health care that truly is "affordable, accessible and reliable" if only those most affluent in society have the chance to attend medical school and later practice medicine?

The N.C. Health Careers Access Program, located on the campus of UNC, has worked for more than 35 years to empower minority and educationally/economically disadvantaged students, giving them the opportunity to recognize the possibility of a future in health care. The inter-institutional program provides academic enrichment activities designed to make students more competitive applicants to health sciences schools.

Organizations like N.C.-HCAP are needed now more than ever to ensure that the future of health care really can be affordable, accessible and reliable for all Americans. For more information about N.C.-HCAP, visit the Web site at ncheap.unc.edu.

Caroline Herion
Junior
Journalism, Intl. Studies

Unity Conference aims to spark discussion on issues

TO THE EDITOR:

This weekend, (Friday through Sunday), the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance invites everyone to its sixth annual Southeastern Regional Unity Conference.

The Unity Conference is an annual student-run gathering of LGBTIQ-identified people and their allies to discuss the intersections of gender and sexuality with ability, age, class, faith, health and race/ethnicity; strategies for effective grassroots organizing; and to discuss work that other LGBTIQ activists are doing in the Southeast.

Our theme this year is "Are You Being Served?" which focuses on LGBTIQ representation in the media and its effect on the rights of sexual minorities.

The conference is free to UNC students, and registrants are free to attend however many events they choose. For more information or to register, please visit unc.edu/glbtsa/unity.

Robert Wells
Unity Conference Director

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

ERIN ZUREICK

EDITOR, 962-4086
ZUREICK@EMAIL.UNC.EDU
OFFICE HOURS:
MON., WED., FRI. 1-2 P.M.

ADAM STORCK

OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
APSTORCK@UNC.EDU

JONATHAN TUGMAN

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750
TUGMAN@UNC.EDU

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