

Cast personalities mesh in 'Epsom'

By SALLY PONT
Staff Writer

When five members of the cast of *Epsom Downs*, this spring's mainstage undergraduate production, were together over rehearsal, they all talked at the same time but still heard what the others were saying. They were both a group, members of a tight little acting clique, and personalities that had the power to rise above the crowd.

Jennifer Deer Johnson, a senior from Atlanta, is beautiful and has a terrific husky voice. Kenn Russell, a senior from Albemarle, converses in an unmitigated flow of witticisms. Dave Gardner, a freshman from Washington, has boy-next-door, teen idol good looks and Patrick Padgett, a junior from Arden, speaks with the slow deliberation of an oracle. Each member of the *Epsom* cast is a showstopper in his own right, but somehow meshes into the single entity of the crowd for the show, which opens tonight in PlayMakers Theatre.

Epsom is a play designed for an ensemble. It is set on Derby Day and takes place at the race track, where a wide assortment of characters meet and interact.

The harsh sound of pre-rehearsal chatter carries into the show itself. "This play is about crowds," said

Padgett. "The kind of loud fun crowds you see at football and baseball games. It is a celebration of people and of a society. All types are represented here. It's not just a cross-section of society. It's an entire society."

As Howard Brenton, author of *Epsom*, meant for actors to play more than one role, the crowd effect lacks volume. Ben Cameron, director of this production, endeavored to overcome this problem by presenting his actors with a painting of a marketplace by French artist Bruegel that captures the vitality of a crowd not through numbers but through color and individual expression.

Russell stressed the individuality of the characters in *Epsom*. "It's not just a parade of stereotypes," he said. "It's not like Patrick pulls out gangster stereotype #3 for his gangster scene. Sure, he puts on the accent, but that's just a springboard for all the really wonderful, unique things that he does with his character."

Russell, too, has unique moments. As the play's setting is a racetrack, some of the actors play horses. Russell's horses, as described by Johnson, are particularly horsey, with an added dimension. Said Russell: "I play one horse as the aristocrat. We fondly call him Laurence O'livery. Then I play a rougher

horse, who's the outside chance in the derby. He's a little nervous."

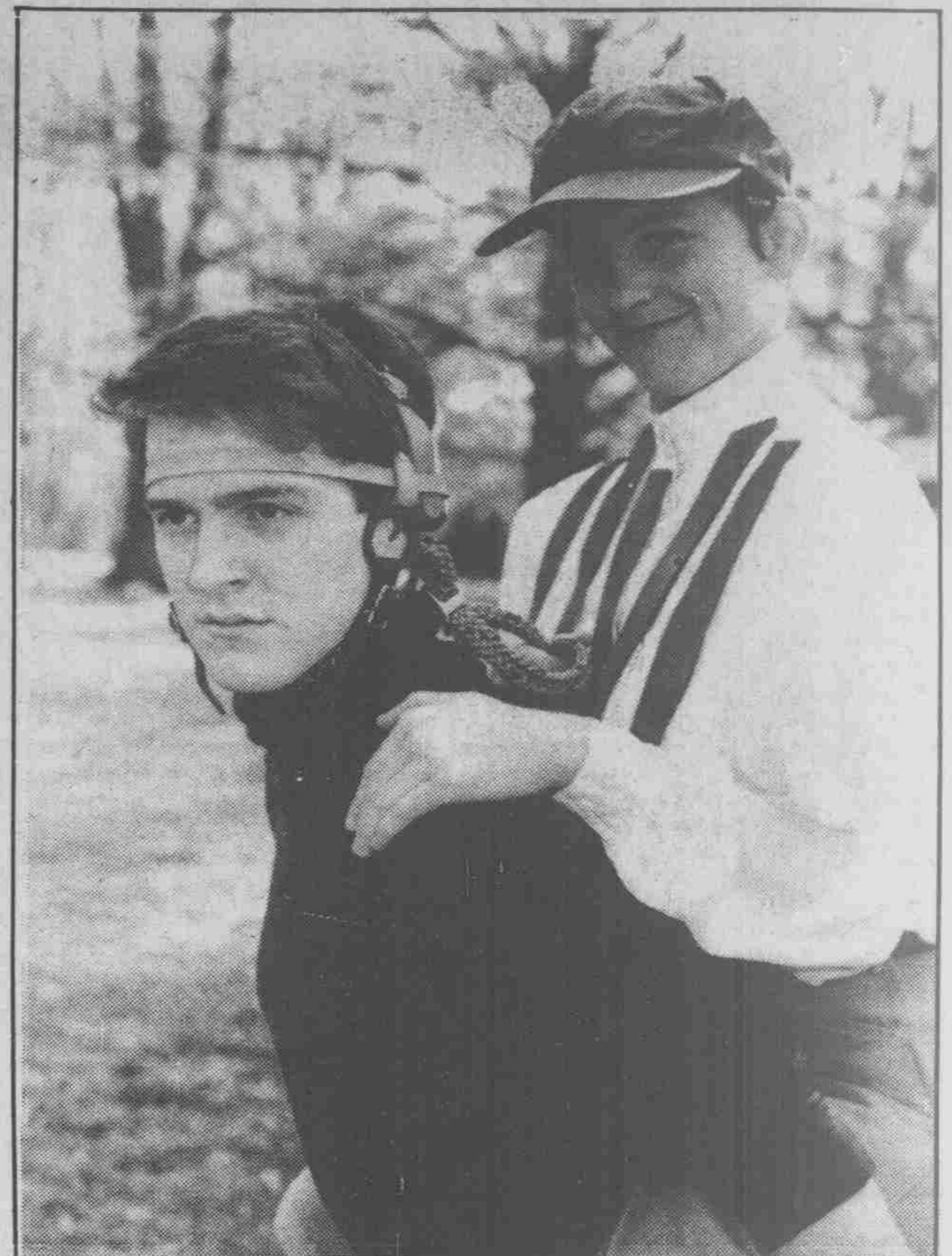
Epsom treads a fine line between the realistic and the unrealistic, the personal and the universal. Padgett believes that above all the stress is on what is real. He said the Americanization of the British play's expressions and characters lended *Epsom* some of its realism. "It's really the same play, we just changed the colloquialisms," Padgett said. "That'll bring the play home. It would be easy for Americans to avoid the meaning of the play if it were British. Now it's not removed and the meaning is apparent."

What does the play mean? To this question, the crowd of actors gave its first moment of silence.

"It's about people," said Russell.
"It's got a real political philosophy," said Padgett.
"It's really about a day," said Gardner.
"You tell us," said Johnson.

Whatever the play means, there should be a lot happening. As a crowd and individuals, these actors are ready to put on a show.

Epsom Downs will be performed through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m. in PlayMakers Theatre. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.



Ken Russell (left) and Margaret Jemison in Benton's "Epsom Downs."

Campus Calendar	Wednesday	STAND lobby in Washington	"The Value of Current Arms Control Agreements with A Look to the Future," lecture by Christopher Paine, from Washington, D.C., branch of PSR, 105 Berryhill Hall.
The Carolina Student Fund/DTH Campus Calendar will appear daily. Announcements to be run in the expanded version on Mondays and Thursdays must be placed in the box outside the Carolina Student Fund office on the third floor of South Building by 3 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Wednesday, respectively. The deadlines for the limited editions will be noon one day before the announcement is to run. Only announcements from University recognized and campus organizations will be printed.	<p>11 a.m. Information table on Mexican Health Project in the Pit.</p> <p>Noon Atomic molecular and optics seminar, "Intrinsic Optical Bistability," 227 Phillips.</p> <p>2:00 p.m. Meeting for juniors planning to use the Career Planning and Placement Office next year, 103 Hanes Hall.</p> <p>4 p.m. UNC/Duke physics-astronomy colloquium "On Driving 500-Kilowatt Steady-state Currents with Waves in a Tokamak Plasma," 265 Phillips.</p>	<p>7:30 p.m. "Mass Media Coverage and Foreign Policy in Spain," 209 Manning.</p> <p>Durham/Chapel Hill Ski and Sports Club meeting and presentation, Royal Oaks Apartments Clubhouse, Call Rick Burt at 477-8442.</p> <p>UNC Pre-Vet Club, Dr. Harold Rodeffer, "Food Animal Medicine," 204 Union.</p> <p>8 p.m. Carolina Indian Circle presents "North Carolina Indian Awareness," reception following, 211 Union.</p>	<p>"Small Business—Big Money," two-hour presentation on how to start and run a small business, 224 Union.</p> <p>"The Value of Current Arms Control Agreements with a look to the Future," 105 Berryhill Hall.</p> <p>10 p.m. Anglican Student Fellowship service of Holy Communion, Chapel of the Cross.</p>

Papagayo

seafood specialties...

GOURMET MEXICAN

■ SEAFOOD COMBINATION

TWO SOFT CORN TORTILLAS—ONE STUFFED WITH LARGE SAUCE SHRIMP WITH ONIONS, GREEN PEPPERS, CHILIS AND CHEESE, BAKED IN A CREAM SAUCE WITH MONTEREY JACK—AND ONE STUFFED WITH CORB MEAT, CHEESE AND ONIONS, BAKED IN A CREAM SAUCE WITH PARMESAN. SERVED WITH A COMBINATION OF SPANISH ROSE, BEANS WITH SOUR CREAM, OR FRESH VEGETABLES.

Open Daily Serving Lunch & Dinner • NCNB Plaza 967-7145

Royal Park
Kingswood
Estes Park
Booker Creek
UNIVERSITY LAKE

Avoid the lottery blues. Apply now! All apartments on the bus line to UNC Fantastic Social Program. Call today for full information 967-2231 or 967-2234. In North Carolina call toll-free 1-800-672-1678. Nationwide, call toll-free 1-800-334-1656.

People Power

helps prevent birth defects

Support March of Dimes

The Union Weekly Features Committee presents

The A B C's and **1 2 3's** of car maintenance and mechanics.

Wednesday, April 17
7 pm • McFarling's Exxon • 126 W. Franklin

TROLL'S BAR
10th Annual

WHAYASAY DAY
Wed. April 17th

75¢ domestic bottles
32 oz. house draft \$1.00
ALL DAY — ALL NIGHT

157 E. Rosemary St. 967-1909

WHAT-MORE-COULD-YOU-ASK-FROM-YOUR-PC DAYS!

The Staff of Microglyphics, Inc.

requests your presence during our upcoming 2 day PC exposition. Our presentations are exciting and aimed at making you more productive in your lab, office, and home.

Join us for wine and cheese, on-going demonstrations, and a festive look at your PC's potential.

Thursday & Friday
April 18th and 19th, 1985
11 a.m. 'til 6 p.m.

Demonstrations:

On-line Searching	Utilities
Graphics including AutoCAD & Fontrix	Nifty Gadgets

(919) 493-8444
3411 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707

R.S.V.P.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE.

Whether you're on the bridge of a 200-million-dollar Navy destroyer, an officer on a nuclear sub, or piloting a Navy F-14 Tomcat, you'll be in charge. And moving up fast.

At 22, you'll be well on your way in a career that provides the kind of excitement, responsibility

and satisfaction you've always dreamed of.

And as a Navy officer, you'll be in a position of decision-making authority. With expert management and technical training behind you to help you get the job done right.

The rewards are right, too.

An excellent starting salary with a chance to earn up to as much as \$33,600 after four years with regular promotions and increases. Even more with bonuses.

After four years of college, you'll be on your way. Get there fast in the Navy. See your Navy recruiter or call 800-327-NAVY.

NAVY OFFICERS GET RESPONSIBILITY FAST.