

A Christmas story with a twist

By DEANNA RUDDOCK
Staff Writer

UNC's Interpreters Theatre will present an adaptation of *Murphy's X-Mas*, a short story by Mark Costello, in 203 Bingham Hall. The production opens tonight and will run for two nights.

The Interpreters Theatre, a free theatre associated with the department of speech communication, utilizes undergraduates from the Readers Theatre class to perform works of literature on stage. This production, which has only black boxes for stage props, relies on a narrator to create the mood and develop the story for the characters.

Director Rachael Quitta, a graduate student from Smithville, Texas, described *Murphy's X-Mas* as a non-traditional Christmas story. She said Costello's work, which is set during the Christmas holidays, dealt with a man caught between pressures from his family, from being raised Catholic, and from pursuing his own ideals.

"Murphy is caught up in trying to break away from family pressures and do his own thing," Quitta said.

"The plot is quite complex, and that is one of the reasons I chose to do an adaptation. In performance, fiction is made clearer."

The narrator talks through the events in Murphy's life during his Christmas holiday, allowing the characters to illustrate and accentuate the actions that are described. With the use of few props, the words used create the scenes.

Elaine Shen, a senior from Winston-Salem in charge of publicity for the show, said this production of *Murphy's X-Mas* was working with a metaphor as Murphy, who is caught between his wife and son and his love for another woman, struggles to deal with tradition. She said that, because of this, the performance incorporates a great deal of tension.

"There is incredible tension especially in the love and sex scenes," Shen said. "You keep waiting for the characters to touch each other, but they never do."

Quitta said the production relied on suggestion rather than literalism. "I work with bodies more than

grand sceneries."

Quitta said the most difficult part of the production for her was trying to match the performance with the story in its fullest sense. "It is difficult to try to summarize a story without reducing it, but in interpretation we study literature by performing it," she said. "We are interested in the illumination of the literature."

Shen said that the Interpreters Theatre was the antithesis to the Broadway musical. "There are usually no props, no special effects, and usually no music during the production, whereas Broadway is all fanfare," she said.

Murphy's X-Mas is the second of four productions the Interpreters Theatre will perform this semester. The first production was J.D. Sallinger's *One Hand Clapping*.

Murphy's X-Mas will be performed by UNC Interpreters Theatre Tuesday and Wednesday at 8 p.m. in 203 Bingham.

Fall Break gives rest, relaxation to students

By PEGGIE PORTER
Staff Writer

Spring Break is famous for the homage paid to the sun and unlimited fun in places like Fort Lauderdale. Thanksgiving is a pilgrimage home for food and family reunions. Christmas vacation, though interrupted by ski trips and parties, is another family holiday.

So where does Fall Break fit? There is no Fall Break tree to decorate, the beaches are desolate and the turkey still needs fattening.

Arriving after midterms, Fall Break is a uniquely college experience. For many students, it's primarily a time to relax and forget about school for a few days.

"It's a time you can get a lot of things done," said Bryce Lankard, a senior RTVMP major from Matthews. Lankard has stayed in Chapel Hill for Fall Break in past years, but plans this year

something a bit more exotic.

"I'm going to Boston to rendezvous with my girlfriend and see the Head of the Charles (a crew regatta)," Lankard said. Lankard will drive to Washington, D.C., where he will catch a flight to Boston.

Despite this year's plane crashes and hijackings, he said he was not worried about flying.

"I'm traveling with a lame puppy," Lankard said, "and I'm more worried about getting separated from the dog than about crashing or getting hijacked."

According to a representative for Chapel Hill's Circle Travel, most people share Lankard's confidence about flying.

"Of course, there's always a certain segment of the population that's going to be affected by news like that," she

said. She said plane reservations had not decreased.

The weekend of Fall Break (Oct. 18 to 22), however, is not particularly busy for air travel, she said.

Airfares are lower than they were at the same time last year, the representative said, if a person is able to adhere to certain restrictions, such as making reservations 30 days in advance.

"For instance, you can fly to California roundtrip for as little as \$258."

At Small World Travel in Chapel Hill, a representative said fares might increase in March, when air travel increases, but that they cost about the same now as they had last year at this time. She also said very few people were afraid to fly.

Catharine Eberhart isn't afraid to fly, but she's homesick; that's why she will drive the three hours to her hometown of Charlottesville, Va.

"I spent the summer at Nag's Head and had a blast," Eberhart said, "but I haven't been home since June. It'll be great because I'll get to see all my friends who go to UVA and go to all my favorite restaurants."

Tom Brazelton, a junior psychology major from Cambridge, Mass., plans to drive "way, way out to northwestern North Carolina" with friends to kayak the Nantahala River.

And plenty of students, such as Stewart Gray, are waiting to see what opens up. Gray is a senior English and RTVMP major from Huntersville.

"I wouldn't rule out the possibility of flying," Gray said, "with all the cheap fares and everything, and so many great places to go."

Gray said he might drive to Athens, Ga., to hear live music in clubs, "but it's all still up in the air."

Ballet like big meal, but skip the appetizer

By ELIZABETH ELLEN
Arts Editor

If Sunday's performance by the Louisville Ballet in Memorial Hall was a three-course meal, the diner would have been well-advised to skip the appetizer and wait for the main course and dessert. A rather uninspired interpretation of a Balanchine ballet preceded more impressive numbers in the performance sponsored by the Triangle Dance Guild.

Unfortunately, the first work of the evening, *Allegro Brillante*, did not live up to its name. Lack of brilliance was the major flaw in the company's interpretation of the Balanchine dance set to a Tchaikovsky piano concerto. The dancing was not bad, but polished style — fully stretched lines, impeccable ensemble, effortless motion — was missing. The female members of the corps de ballet had distracting and inappropriate facial expressions. They grinned like high school girls in cheerleader tryouts. The piece did contain some graceful sections, though, most notably when the lead female dancer Diane Downes executed point

dance

sequences and combinations of turns.

The American ballet *Billy the Kid* showed the company to much greater advantage. Eugene Loring's clever choreography allowed the dancers to create rich characterizations. Movements representing playing cards, riding horses, and performing rope tricks were well-executed and made the storyline easy to follow. Clark Reid gave an exceptional performance as Billy, allowing his character's sensitivity to show through the Kid's violent arrogance.

The work was framed by an opening and closing parade of characters across the stage. The choreography of the parade sequences captured the harshness of frontier life, and implied a moral to the story along the lines of "Life goes on in the West."

The evening ended with an extremely enjoyable

tribute to Judy Garland entitled *The Judy Dances*. Diane Downes and the male members of the ensemble opened the section in a manner reminiscent of Garland's famous tuxedo number. The only problem with this staging was that any imitation of the original show-stopping number was doomed to pale in comparison. He performers moved easily through a series of six jazzy dances, from a sultry "The Man That Got Away," to the upbeat "I Love a Piano," to the bluesy "Stormy Weather." The last section, "Get Happy," ended the number with style. The entire collection of dances was fun for both the audience and the performers.

While the dancing was not consistently great, there were exciting moments scattered throughout the evening. The company showed its strength as it performed character pieces such as *Billy* and accessible jazzy pieces such as *Judy*, more than in their interpretation of neo-classical works like *Allegro*. Sunday's performance, while not transcendent, was full of memorable dancing.

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Apartheid

in actions." Ransby said that education about South Africa was a high priority for her group.

"We're having a big education campaign," she said. "There is some awareness, but people don't have a sense of history of what's been going on in South Africa as well as information about the struggle itself."

Ransby said although most universities tried to profit from their investments, their greater responsibility was to divest their funds.

"They have a higher responsibility to young students to live up to the principles upon which they are based," she said. "If they were based on profit, they could all open up gambling casinos."

Universities should be responsible for their investment actions, Ransby said. "If you consider yourself a moral investor, then you have to consider the situation in South Africa," she said.

The University of Wisconsin at Madison has already divested its funds

and is now concerned with getting the state to divest, said Heather Ritchie, a member of the Wisconsin Student Association.

"Our university divested in 1978 from all U.S. businesses in South Africa," she said. "Our concentration is not at the university level at all. They're out of South Africa, but the state is not. We're now concentrating on state policy. We've had sit-ins at the capitol for two weeks."

Ritchie said neither the university nor the state administration seemed pleased with students' protest activities.

"Our assistant student dean was quoted as saying our demonstrations were disruptive activity," she said. "The legislators are very opposed to what we are doing and very angry."

Ritchie said protesting investment in South Africa at a state level is hard work.

Ritchie said there was a Wisconsin statute that required university administrators to make sound investments.

University officials used the clause as an excuse not to divest until a state attorney said otherwise, she said.

Ritchie said universities interested in divestment had to involve the administration since protests alone would not

work. "You might try to have an educational forum with the administration present and ask them politely 'Why are we in South Africa?'" she said. "Or you might challenge them to a debate."



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Nightclub acquires new name, image

By JENNY ALBRIGHT
Staff Writer

Upstairs 159th, formerly Purdy's, is acquiring both a new name and a new image.

The new name will be announced Thursday after the results of a name change contest have been compiled. During the week-long contest, students submitted entry forms that contained suggested names and other comments for the club.

Jeff Pierce, club manager and UNC graduate, said the name change is meant to create a new image for the club and also to get input from students.

"We're open to suggestions from students at all times because this is their club," he said.

Purdy's, a private club that opened in 1979 at 159 1/2 E. Franklin St., was the first place in Chapel Hill to have liquor by the drink. Upstairs 159th, which is now owned by Consolidated Entertainment, is open to the general public and serves only beer.

The club will soon become private again, Pierce said. Reduced-price memberships went on sale Oct. 10, and students purchasing memberships ahead of time will avoid a 30-day waiting period.

There are several reasons for 159th reverting to a private club, Pierce said. "We want to be able to offer full service — to sell liquor — and you can't do that unless you either sell 51 percent food or you are a private club."

Although 159th is doing well now

and is financially stable, Pierce said the sale of liquor would further boost profits and also give customers a wider selection of drinks.

"As far as prices go, we're going to keep the students in mind," he said. "We're not trying to aim it towards an older crowd. We're a college bar that's a private club. Our prices will be more tailored to fit the students' budgets."

Consolidated Entertainment, who also owned Elliot's Nest, a dance club at Eastgate Shopping Center, had stopped serving liquor because they were not ready to put a lot of money into something they were uncertain about, Pierce said. "They were not sure whether they wanted to sell it (the club), fix it up again or what," he said. "The basic idea is to remodel, restore this place to what it was before — and better."

There have been no major renovations of additions since the establishment first opened, Pierce said.

A new dance floor, an additional sit-down bar, new furniture and pictures of UNC star athletes are several changes that will be made.

Pierce said that rather than close down to renovate all at once, the club would be adding something new every week or so. He also plans to add members to the staff, he said.

"It's going to be a place where people can get dressed up to go out . . . where you can take a date and go dancing," Pierce said. "We have the only dance floor in Chapel Hill."

Senior trip meeting held today

An information meeting about senior class trips will be held today from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 205 of the Student Union. Brochures and applications for the trips will be available.

The trips will be a week-long stay at Ft. Lauderdale and Disneyworld and a cruise to Key West, Cancun and Cozumel. There are spaces for 100 people on the cruise and for 92 on the trip to Ft. Lauderdale. Both trips will be during Spring Break.

Applications for the trips can be

picked up at the senior class office in room 216-B of the Student Union between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The initial \$25 deposit for either trip is due between Oct. 23 and Nov. 1 at the senior class office. The Ft. Lauderdale trip will cost \$295 with four people to a room. The cruise will cost \$449.

Until Nov. 1, only seniors may sign up for the trips. After that, underclassmen may sign up also.

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On Thursday, October 17th Delta Upsilon kicks up its 25th Annual **Beat State Extravaganza**: All Day long at Carolina Pride at 151 Franklin St. is Delta Upsilon Day. **20% off** the days profit will go to The American Cancer Society in the name of Delta Upsilon.

Thursday night at 8:00 pm an **All Campus Party** with Robbin Thompson will be held outside at the Δ House followed by a **late night with SPECS**. (Pizza will be sold by the slice with proceeds going to The American Cancer Society). All this week you can buy your Beat State Shirts either from a ΔT Representative or at Carolina Pride in Downtown Chapel Hill. Carolina Pride would like to congratulate Kappa Sigma for their successful Backyard B-Ball Classic benefitting The American Cancer Society and also Sigma Chi for their successful Derby Days benefitting the Frankie Lemmon Memorial Pre-School. Carolina Pride co-sponsored both of these events as well as printing the T-shirts for them and the ΔT's.

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