

Clefs form lasting friendship

By SHIRLEY HUNTER
Staff Writer

Just as the harmonizing of the Clef Hangers, UNC's all-male a cappella group, creates a musical bond between generations, it creates a bond of brotherhood between its members.

For Brent Hathaway, a senior economics major from Farmville, it opens the door to a host of new friendships.

"I love music, but it's the friendships that keep me here," he says. "I wouldn't have put five hours a week into it if I didn't trust these guys. They're like family."

Hathaway has been a Clef Hanger for two years. He says the memories of singing with the group will stay with him after graduation next month.

"I'd do just about anything for these guys. I'm moving to Atlanta, but I'll take them with me."

The nine-year-old group specializes in 40s ballads, spirituals and old-fashioned barbershop quartet numbers. Members have traveled to places such as Atlanta, Washington, D.C. and Florida's Palm Beach area. The group is known for on-stage comic routines and humorous song introductions.

Hugh Tilson, a senior from Raleigh, says singing with the 13-member group enables him to meet people because the music creates a friendly atmosphere where people share a common ground.

"The Dapper Dans (a professional singing group) were singing at Disneyland. We started to talk to them, and they heard us sing," Tilson says. "After getting to know us, they asked us to sing along with them in their program."

Tilson says the group sings wherever it goes. Stories about the group singing in bars is true, he says, but drinking is not their primary reason to go out. "It's a great feeling to sing the UNC fight song and have a bunch of Carolina grads come up to you," he says.

The success of the group is based on this kind of spontaneity, says Jay Tillman, a senior from Durham. "Somehow the group has always been funnier than most of our types."

Tillman adds that the Clef Hangers have always had a reputation for trying out impromptu humor during performances. Each member develops secret introductions for an assigned song.

At the last UNC performance, a mock wedding procession was used as an opening. The shortest member



The Clef Hangers practicing in University Baptist Church for their April 10 concert

DTH/Charlotte Cannon

dressed up as the groom, and the tallest member showed up as the bride. The opening song was "Somebody Steal My Gal."

Although most of the gags have been taken well by audiences, some audiences require a special tailoring. "We were in a prep school in Atlanta where all the students were trying to learn how to behave in an audience. After every song they clapped real polite-like, and they were just quiet. It was pretty tough."

Being a Clef Hanger is pretty tough too. Arranging 13 voices with different pitches and ranges into one smooth

blend of continuous sound takes dedication and hours of long, tedious work. The result is a coordinated "doo-wah" in the Beach Boys standard, "I Get Around," or a rich, soulful hum in a rendition of "Lean On Me."

Junior Berry Stubbs of Atlanta says that the culmination of 13 voices singing toward one goal is what makes the hard work worthwhile. Stubbs will be finishing his second year in the group this semester.

"It's that common bond that brings us together," he says. "You're forced to get close to each other and this brings out everyone's characters."

Sophomore Todd Carter agrees. A music education major from Four Oaks, Carter says the music has made him feel a part of a whole.

"It has made me a lot closer to four other guys," he says.

Like any other organization, members of the Clef Hangers do have squabbles. But the members say nothing major disrupts them.

Presently, the group is preparing for an April 10 concert on campus. Members say they have lots of surprises planned for the audience. "It gives us pleasure to see that we make people happy," Hathaway says.

Grief must be expressed eventually, speaker says

By RACHEL ORR
Staff Writer

The intensity of an individual's grief is very personal and should not be judged by others, said a UNC psychologist Wednesday night during a seminar on handling grief in the Student Union.

"You're the only one that can determine where you are in the sense of loss," said Richard A. Lucas, an adjunct associate professor of psychology, before about 25 people during a speech sponsored by the Carolina Union Human Relations Committee.

Wearing a t-shirt that said "Life is hard, then you die," Lucas said, "Regardless of the magnitude of loss we experience, we not only survive, we endure."

He said that regardless of the nature of a person's loss, grief must be addressed at some point.

"When you encounter grief yourself or another grieving, you must remember it is a transitory process," Lucas, a 1974 UNC graduate, said.

The process of coping with the death of a close friend or relative involves a trajectory curve, he said, made up of the following components: initial shock, emotional reaction, isolation and depression, physical symptoms associated with those of the deceased, guilt, panic, hostility, idealization, struggle to overcome and reaffirmation of reality.

He said coping with grief often took over a year, and usually the bereaved experienced the various parts of the curve more than once.

Grievors should take the time to write down their personal reflections, Lucas said.

"I encourage you to talk to the

deceased (or your former lover, etc.)," he said. "If that is too freaky, try writing them."

Younger people tend to experience their most painful losses in love, and men handle this loss worse than women, he said.

Lucas said that to conquer the suffering brought on by idealization of the lost lover, individuals should force themselves to remember the negative experiences of the relationship.

Those suffering from grief are helped mostly by non-judgmental people who listen to them, give them hugs and ask how they can be of help, he said. "Be there in whatever role they feel you can play."

Lucas said normal grief often induced promiscuity, hallucinations, loss of sleep and appetite, impulsive behavior and thoughts of suicide.

Psychologists do not consider these behaviors abnormal unless they take on exaggerated or extended forms, he said.

Lucas said that while loss and grief were never pleasant, they should not keep individuals from leading a full life. He said the books "Who Dies?" and "Meetings at the Edge" by Stephen Levine were helpful in learning to cope with loss.

"Find life more fulfilled out of the losses you've survived," he said. As he concluded his discussion, Lucas took off his "Life is hard . . ." t-shirt to reveal a shirt that read "North Carolina" in letters made by figures of nude women.

Lucas is a staff psychologist at the Veterans Administration hospital in Durham and also a clinical assistant professor in the medical psychology department at Duke University.

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