

Fraternity cook serves up friendship along with meals



Pi Kappa Phi cook Grace Franklin talks with fraternity brother Alan Atwell as she prepares dinner

DTH/Matt Plyler

By LYNN PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

During 30 years of hard work, dedication and love, Grace Franklin has raised more than 1,000 boys. She is not your average mother, however, but the faithful cook of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

"I call them all my children. They're my boys," says Miss Grace, as she is affectionately known.

Miss Grace began cooking for the fraternity on Sept. 15, 1957, and she's been serving up the next best thing to home cooking ever since. Now, at age 75, she has no intentions of quitting her job.

"I'm going to be around, but I don't know how long. I guess as long as I'm wanted," Miss Grace said.

"Whenever Miss Grace wants to retire, we have a full retirement fund for her," says brother and fraternity chaplain Jay Mahoney. "She loves it so much that she continues to work hard at her age. She really does like cooking for 70 to 75 guys five days a week."

The brothers like Miss Grace as well as her meals. In addition to the retirement fund, the brothers gave her a party Saturday to celebrate her 30th anniversary with the house.

She went to the game and sat in the block with the brothers, enjoyed a cocktail hour and was

presented with a certificate from the Pi Kappa Phi national council. She didn't have to cook that day — the brothers threw a pig-picking in her honor.

"I think that this is great and wonderful that they are doing this for me," Miss Grace said of the event.

Miss Grace doesn't really like to cook that much, but she has stayed with the job because of the brothers and the loyalty she feels to the fraternity. Both Miss Grace and the brothers feel that they give each other a lot of support.

"Miss Grace does a lot more than cook," Brandon Pope, the fraternity's treasurer, says. "She talks to your parents, and asks how your day was. She knows everything about you. She's like your mom."

"They give me a lot of support," says Miss Grace. "When my mother passed away in 1984, they lifted me up. I walked into the church, and one half of it was filled with Pi Kappa Phi brothers. It showed how much they care."

"Every time my mom calls she wants to know if Miss Grace is feeding me well," Pope says.

One reason that the celebration was held last weekend was because of homecoming. Many of the alumni brothers returned to Chapel Hill for the game and for "Grace's Day," as the occasion was called. About 200 alumni

returned for the festivities, with everyone remembering the meals cooked by Miss Grace.

"It's amazing that when the alumni come in, Miss Grace never forgets a name or a class," says Pope. "She's like a common denominator of Pi Kappa Phi, because all the brothers have that in common. The alums always ask, 'How is Miss Grace?' She serves the same food, like cheeseburgers on every Friday. It's tradition."

Miss Grace finds satisfaction in the fact that the boys look after her. They always call after they leave the campus to let her know how they've done for themselves. They call on other occasions, visit and send her baby pictures of their children.

"When I look back through the years, I've appreciated all the good things. It feels good — I love the boys," says Miss Grace.

Miss Grace says that a lot of things have changed over the years, but she feels she has the same place with the boys. Their dress and attitudes may have changed, but not the way they feel about Miss Grace.

When it does come time for Miss Grace to retire, the brothers will be sad to let her go.

"You can find a cook, but you can't find another Miss Grace," says Mahoney. "She's a big part of the frat."

'Princess Bride' brings fairy-tale magic to silver screen

This seems to be the season for serious, spine-tingling films about governmental cover-ups and romance-turned-violent films that leave the viewer's heart racing and nerves on edge. In such an atmosphere, "The Princess Bride" is a refreshing change of pace.

"The Princess Bride" is a funny and utterly frivolous film: a fairy tale for the '80s. It is for those lighthearted romantics who still believe in true love and happy endings.

The film is a story within a story, both of which attempt to show that love will inevitably triumph. The first story opens with a small boy, played by Fred Savage, who is sick in bed at Christmastime. His grandfather comes visiting and gives him a book as a present, which is titled, of all things, "The Princess Bride."

Peter Falk is wonderful as the loving grandfather who deals patiently with the boy, who is not overjoyed that his grandfather has come to visit or that his present is a fairy tale book.

Falk begins to read the story to the boy, who is determined not to enjoy it. During the course of the film,

Beth Rhea Cinema

however, the boy gets caught up in the story in spite of himself. Watching him struggle to maintain his cool disinterest will warm the coldest heart.

The story, for which the movie is named, tells the love story of a common girl named Buttercup, played by Robin Wright, and a farmhand named Wesley, played by Mandy Patinkin. At first Buttercup bosses him around, being outwardly cool as she denies her thinly veiled feelings for him. Soon it is evident, however, that they have both fallen prey to a powerful passion.

As the romance unfolds, it quickly becomes evident that the suspension of disbelief, as Coleridge once called it, is necessary if the story is not to seem almost sickeningly sweet. As the boy says in disgust, when the film flips back to him, "Oh, no, they're not going to kiss!"

Wesley goes on a journey overseas,

and Buttercup receives news that he has been murdered by pirates. She is devastated, but not a moment's time is lost as the story skips ahead five years to Florence, Italy. There King Humperdink, played by Chris Sarandon, announces that he is going to marry a girl who was once a commoner. It is no surprise that the girl turns out to be Buttercup, who is obviously not eager to become the king's bride.

From here the story becomes increasingly complex. The basic gist of the story is that Buttercup remains true to Wesley, who, she learns, is not really dead. She discovers this in an amusing turn of events, and he spends the rest of the story trying to save her from marrying King Humperdink, who has less than noble reasons for wanting her as his wife.

The ending of the tale is charming, if predictable, but the best part of the movie is the last scene between the boy and his grandfather. It is moving, and it will make the whole movie worth it.

Both Savage and Falk are convincing in their parts, but the acting in the fairy tale is rather superficial and

not entirely credible. The acting style is, however, appropriate to the nature of the story, though modern audiences may feel that the characters lack depth and seem forced.

The screenplay by William Goldman is often amusing and highly entertaining, though as times it verges on the ridiculous. One of this movie's best features lies in the appeal its script has for modern audiences. Characters have lines that might be heard among students taking a study break or co-workers talking over lunch. Hearing these lines said by

characters set in medieval scenery is refreshing.

"The Princess Bride" is ably directed by Rob Reiner, who has a relatively solid feel for what makes

an audience laugh and feel good.

Though this movie could be criticized for being somewhat implausible, keep in mind that it is a fairy tale, and you can't go wrong.

Vigil

In conjunction with the vigils, an "Unlock Apartheid's Jails" campaign is being held. Vigil participants will be encouraged to deposit spare keys, to be presented to the South African Government in a symbolic gesture, demanding the release of all political prisoners.

Segal presented the idea for the campaign at the Student and Youth Conference on African Liberation in New York on Sept. 12.

Representatives from campus anti-apartheid groups across the country agreed to conduct three nationally coordinated vigil campaigns each year.

"This is historical," Segal said of the vigils. "Not since the '60s has there been coordinated activism at universities across the country."

Organization of student concerns on a national scale could wield a great deal of political clout in the country, Segal said. "Students can absolutely change political policies in the world," he said. "Students have to know the

power they have. A vigil is a good place to start to get a network going across the country."

Segal said he first realized the need for a national organization of student protests about two years ago while protesting the "Star Wars" defense proposals.

"I realized then how much more impact the anti-nuke movement would have if it were nationally coordinated on universities," he said.

A national organization for student activism should be broad enough to represent several causes, Segal said, including apartheid, Central America and nuclear disarmament.

"It's due time that we have a national movement of the '80s centering on foreign and domestic policies that are immoral, unjust, and that don't reflect good common sense," he said.



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