

In the saddle

Horseback riding class gives students a sense of satisfaction, instructor says

By CAROLE SOUTHERN
Staff Writer

If thoughts of weight training are heavy on your mind and you are ready to hang up your jogging shoes and try something new, then horseback riding may be the ideal activity or physical education class for you.

Instead of taking the same old walk to Fetzer or Woollen, take a drive to Quail Roost Farm in Rougemont. The 600-acre farm, about 45 minutes from Chapel Hill, is the perfect setting for the beginner, intermediate or advanced rider to learn the art of English horseback riding.

Imagine a clear, crisp day when the sun lights up the sky like a lightbulb in a dark room, and a breeze dancing around the earth soothes the senses after a long day of classes. What could be better than getting one hour of credit to relax and enjoy yourself?

Riding instructor Linda Lieske

bases her teaching philosophy on this concept, and that is why students are greeted with a smile, a joke or two and the promise of an easy-going hour of riding enjoyment.

"To learn horseback riding, (the environment) has to be relaxed and enjoyable," she said. "When it gets tense, especially for beginning riders, the instruction falls apart."

Cathy Stone, a sophomore business major who is taking the class this semester, said that Lieske did not treat her students like beginning riders. "She treats you like you know what you are doing, and therefore you have more confidence," Stone said.

Lieske said she believed in the "hands-on" approach to learning. There are no required books, and the first lesson in a beginning class includes tacking and mounting the horse.

"When I signed up for the course, I expected the first half of the semester to involve bookwork," said Sean Hamilton, a sophomore chemistry major from Greensboro. "I like Linda's philosophy — the only way to learn riding is to get on a horse and ride."

After 23 years of teaching her art, Lieske said she felt that horseback riding not only teaches a skill but also offers inner rewards.

"I think people get a lot of satisfaction out of riding because it gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment," Lieske said. "I have seen very shy, unaggressive people change through the course of a semester."

Susannah Turner, a sophomore business major from Greensboro, said that learning new things about riding made her feel good about herself. "My favorite thing about the class is the horses," she said. "I like it when I go into the barn, say a horse's name and it responds to me."

Lieske said she liked riding because it helped relieve mental frustration. While riding, you give the horse your full attention, and afterwards you are ready to tackle other things, she said. "Last semester during final exams, I was surprised at the number of students who wanted to continue riding to relieve the stress of studying."

For those who might be thinking that they are too old to get on a horse for the first time, Lieske points out that it is never too late to begin riding horses. No matter what age you are when you learn to ride, there is an opportunity to learn enough to own your own horse or to use the knowledge in pursuit of a career, she said.

"Whether students are riding for pleasure or toward a possible career, my goal is to give the best instruction throughout the semester," Lieske said.

"I would recommend the class to someone who has never ridden before because Linda is so good with beginners," Turner said.

Almost half of Lieske's 120 students this semester are from UNC, she said. Classes range in size from around two to six students, but Lieske said she paid close attention to the individual rider's needs. The group is not limited to walking, trotting or cantering as a class, and students are allowed to progress at their own pace.

Horseback riding is one of the hardest sports to master because there are two elements, the person and the animal, and both have different views of what is happening, Lieske said. Most athletes only have to worry about their own performances, but in riding one must worry about the performance of the horse as well, she said.

"Through teaching, I get the satisfaction of putting a horse and a rider together and seeing them perform," Lieske said. "At the end of the semester it is a good feeling to see a student who started the class with no riding experience jumping 2-foot-6-inches and doing courses."

Horseback riding is one of the physical education classes that involves some extra expenses. The cost per semester, for two sessions a week, is \$325. Lieske said she did not expect the cost to increase next semester.

"The cost averages out to be \$12 a lesson and students save about \$100 by signing up through UNC," Lieske said. The only other additional cost is for protective headwear, which is required by law. A student can expect to pay between \$40 and \$50 for a riding hat.

For students interested in taking a horseback riding class but are not able to fit the listed times into their schedules, Lieske suggested that they contact the Quail Roost Farm because other class times are available.

"The Wild Seeds will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information."



Wild Seeds performs at Cat's Cradle tonight

Wild Seeds' latest album lacks a hard-edged sound

James Burrus
Album

The leader of the Wild Seeds, Michael Hall, describes his band's music as pop. Nothing more. Nothing less. Hall and the rest of the Wild Seeds display this pop sound on their new album, *Mud, Lies & Shame*.

The Wild Seeds will perform its brand of pop tonight at Cat's Cradle as part of its southeastern tour of the United States. Local guys The Veldt will open.

Mud, Lies & Shame is the second album for this Austin, Texas, band. The band's debut record, *Brave, Clean & Reverent*, was hailed by critics and enjoyed impressive airplay on college and alternative radio. Will *Mud, Lies & Shame* do the same? It's certainly very radio friendly. The new album could get airplay on some album-oriented radio stations as well as college ones.

No single instrument dominates the music in this basic guitar, bass and drums line-up. Joey Shuffield

plays simple drum patterns, Paul Swift thumps a loud supporting bass and Bo Solomon contributes, but does not stand out, on guitar. The center of the Seeds is the lyrics and singing of Hall, who writes most of the band's songs. He wrote or co-wrote 10 of the 11 songs on *Mud, Lies & Shame*.

The person lost in all of this is background vocalist Kris McKay. Her performing time is quite limited on the L.P. She sings back-up on only a few of the album's cuts. McKay does get one song all to her lonesome. She does a wonderful job with the opportunity given her on "All This Time," a song written by Hall and

Paul Cullum. Her tremendous singing ability should not have been wasted with low-profile back-up performances. McKay should have played a more major role in this record by singing more with Hall. It would only have helped.

Mud, Lies & Shame is a good record, but it is nowhere near great. It lacks a cut-loose rocking sound. The only song that really has a hard-edged sound to it is "Jack's Walking With the King." One gets the sense that Hall and the other Seeds want to let it all go on this record, but are held back for some reason. Maybe the Wild Seeds will have no reason to be restrained when the band brings its live show to the Cradle. Let's hope the Wild Seeds live up to the name.

The Wild Seeds will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

Comedy night

Local actors spotlighted in ArtsCenter shows

Scott Cowen
Theatre

This weekend the Actors Co-op presented three one-act comedies at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro. The plays, "Ludlow Fair," "Auto-Erotic Misadventure" and "The Partition," highlighted local talent. Each comedy was interesting, and the style in which each was performed was equally intriguing.

"Auto-Erotic Misadventure" was well-acted and seemed to capture the audience. Here, however, the accolades end. The acting in "Ludlow Fair" and "The Partition" was rather ho-hum and thus these plays were rather flat and unfulfilling.

The first play of the evening was Lanford Wilson's "Ludlow Fair," the story of roommates Rachel (Nancy Wolfe) and Agnes (Kate Rindfleisch). It was dedicated to everyone who has ever been young and had a roommate. Rachel has just turned in her boyfriend for stealing money from her and is wondering if she did the right thing. She thinks that she is going crazy so she plays word association with herself by pulling words from the dictionary. She then pours

relationship develops.

The acting in this play was solid. The characters all came to life, and the audience really enjoyed this well-performed and interesting story.

The evening concluded with "The Partition," a futuristic play by UNC law student Terry Cawley. The play is set in an office in which the employees' only job seems to be spying on each other. Caldwell (Solomon Gibson) is the new employee who is desperately trying to get the key to his locked desk and a phone. He is kept off balance by McConnell (Elizabeth Shoemaker) and her cold manner and her incongruous telephone conversations with Mr. Niles. Throughout the play it seems that McConnell and Caldwell are trying to entrap each other. The play, a combination of a Big Brother society and nightmare bureaucracy, has a surprise flip-flop ending.

The acting was disappointing, although Shoemaker was excellent at making the audience become frustrated with her disposition. The play, however, failed to build any suspense — which was intended to be a vital part of the play. The effect was to leave the audience waiting for something they'd never get.

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"Ludlow Fair," "Auto-Erotic Misadventure" and "The Partition" will be performed by Actors Co-op again next weekend at the ArtsCenter. Call 929-2787 for ticket information.

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System

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members, Ahlschwede said.

Kathleen Benzaquin, associate dean of students and adviser to Student Government, said the system

is designed to increase the circulation of information on campus by joining the academic and extracurricular activities.

The computer system will also reduce the duplication of information in different publications, she said.

Benzaquin said the computerized information system is an innovative project, but the key to its future growth and success depends on whether other departments enter information into the system.

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