

UNC graduate plays bad guy in 'Tomatoes'

By LeAnn Spradling
Staff Writer

Some professors and University alumni might recognize a face in the movie playing Friday night in the Union Auditorium.

Nick Searcy, a 1982 University graduate, plays the villain Frank Bennett in "Fried Green Tomatoes," a movie based on Fannie Flagg's novel.

Searcy has appeared in many recent films, including "Days of Thunder." "I played the highway patrolman in that scene where the girl takes her shirt off," he said. He also starred in an independent film called "Losers in Love" and appeared in "The Prince of Tides." "I played that gay guy who hit on Nick Nolte," he said.

In an upcoming film called "The Real McCoy," he plays Kim Basinger's "loser husband."

Being in "Fried Green Tomatoes" has opened many doors for Searcy. The UNC graduate will appear on the Oct. 2 episode of "I'll Fly Away" and in the ABC movie "A Mother's Right" Oct. 25. "I'm a nice guy in that one," he said.

Searcy said he preferred doing movies to television because they allowed him more time to work on the character. "TV is done so quickly that you really don't have time to develop the character fully," he said.

"Fried Green Tomatoes" is the first time I got to play a character with some depth and some complexity," he said.

Searcy originally auditioned for a lesser role in "Fried Green Tomatoes," but the casting director for the movie had also worked on "Days of Thunder" and asked Searcy to read for the part of Frank. "The director thought I looked mean and stupid, I guess," Searcy said. "(Frank) is not just mean — he had a

very unhappy childhood," he said. "Of course, nobody knows this but me. It's fun to be the bad guy. You get to act like a total jerk without suffering any of the consequences."

During his days at UNC, Searcy appeared in productions of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Summer and Smoke" at the Paul Green Theatre and was in a band called Nick Fear, "the most terrifying name in rock and roll."

Searcy said drama Professor Russell Graves and English Professor William Harmon were two of his most influential teachers. "Dr. Harmon critiques my movies," he said.

Now living in Cullowee, Searcy lived in New York City for seven years after graduating from UNC. He returned to his hometown in 1989. Ironically, his career began to take off after he moved from New York.

Searcy's wife is working on her

master's degree at Western Carolina University, and they have a young daughter. "Cullowee's an easy place to chill out and get used to having a baby," he said. Searcy's sister Mitzy Searcy is a junior at the University. "She's going to the only college in North Carolina, as far as we're concerned," he said.

Searcy plans to move to Los Angeles soon to further his acting career. About his future, he said: "I try to be realistic and self-deprecating. It may all be gone tomorrow. That's how this business works."

"I'd like to win the World Wrestling Foundation heavyweight championship," Searcy said jokingly. "But that's a little farfetched, so I guess I'll just stick to acting."

"Fried Green Tomatoes" is playing at 6:30 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Friday in the Union Auditorium. Admission will be \$1.50.

Committee

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down by the Black Awareness Council. He said the committee's existence came about after the University realized a process was needed to deal with the issue.

The BAC has given Hardin until Nov. 13 to pledge his support for a free-standing building and designate a site for the new structure.

"The November 13 deadline didn't have anything to do with it," McCormick said.

Richard Cole

Cole, who came to UNC in 1971 after teaching at the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism. Cole recently was named the top journalism school dean in the country. He also received a Distinguished Service Medal in May from the General Alumni Association.

Robert Eubanks

Eubanks, a 1961 UNC alumni, served on the UNC Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1991. For the past two years, he served as BOT chairman. Eubanks resides in Chapel Hill and is a businessman.

"First, I think we need to sit down and listen to each other," he said of his selection to the committee. "We haven't been doing a very good job of that lately."

Harvey Gantt

Gantt brings expertise in architecture and public policy to the panel. He is a former professional architect and served as mayor of Charlotte from 1984 to 1988. In 1990, he was defeated by Jesse Helms in a bid for a U.S. Senate seat. Both of Gantt's daughters have attended UNC.

Wendell and Doris Haynes
The Haynes are the parents of the late Sonja Haynes Stone, the UNC African and Afro-American studies professor for whom the BCC is named, and have resided in Durham since 1974.

"We believe that we can be of more help on the committee than off of it. We're glad to be involved," Wendell Haynes said. "We, like the students, are wanting and working for a free-standing BCC. We feel that our daughter would want that."

Charlie Higgins

Higgins is a senior from Chapel Hill and student body vice president. Although Higgins has supported Student Body President John Moody in his call for a multicultural center, he said Wednesday night that he went into the panel discussions with an open mind.

Deloris Jordan

Jordan, mother of UNC basketball star Michael Jordan, has promised that the Michael Jordan Foundation, her son's Chicago-based philanthropic organization, will provide some of the funding for the construction of a free-standing BCC.

Adrian Patillo

Patillo, a junior RTVMP major and a member of the Black Student Movement, said he hoped to be a positive student voice in the process.

"I want a building," he said. "I want it for the University and for this community."

James Peacock

A Kenan professor and chairman of the department of anthropology, Peacock says the group is a positive step. "It seems like a good committee to me," he said. "I look forward to getting something created."

Patrick Rivers

A doctoral student, Rivers was recruited by Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Donald Boulton and brought to the attention of McCormick, who asked him to join the group.

Judith Wegner

Judith Wegner was named dean of the UNC School of Law in May 1989.

She had been a special assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Education, attorney for the Justice Department and law clerk for a federal district judge in the Central District of California before coming to UNC in 1981. She has recently undergone major surgery and now is convalescing at home.

Winston Crisp, associate dean of student affairs for the law school, said Wegner would accept the panel appointment. He said she was very interested in the BCC issue.

Because of surgery, Wegner probably will not attend the first committee meeting, Crisp said.

Richard Williams

Williams, a 1975 graduate of the University, serves as manager of Duke Power in the Chapel Hill area. In October, Williams will become a member of the UNC Board of Visitors. Williams also resides in Chapel Hill.

"I come in with an open mind," he said. "I'm interested in making sure that the University maximizes its potential for all students."

Williams said the committee should be true to the chancellor's charge and try to decide which architectural design would work best for the University.

Campus Calendar

FRIDAY
11:50 p.m. Loreleis will sing in the Pit for Blue Blitz.
NOON: Carolina Fever will hold a "Blue Blitz" pep rally in the Pit.
2 p.m. University Career Services will offer basic information on how to use the UCS office for seniors and graduate students in 209 Hanes.
5 p.m. The Alliance of Black Graduate and Professional Students will hold its annual fall picnic in 208-9 Union.
8 p.m. Loreleis will host a Jam with East Coast a cappella groups in the Playmakers Theatre.

SATURDAY
6 a.m. Carolina Fever will meet to blow up balloons on Navy Field. Tickets will be distributed at 10 a.m. on Navy Field.

SUNDAY
6 p.m. CUAB will sponsor "Left of Center: A Potpourri of Performances" including Paul Ferguson in the Union Cabaret.
Senior Class Arts Week Committee will have a meeting in the Union's upstairs lounge.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
UNC Math Club's Math Contest is available through Oct. 2 in 365 Phillips and 269 Venable.
University Career Services will have sign-ups for interviews in 211 Hanes one week prior to the school's visit for the following: Northwestern (Journalism) 9/25; Boston U. (Law) 10/28; U of Miami (Law) 10/30. Foreign Service Officer Program applications are available at 211 Hanes. The deadline for submitting an application is Oct. 2.
University Counseling Center: GROUP offerings, fall '92: Assertion, Personal Support Group, Stress Management, Brothers, Dissertation Support Group, Black Graduate Women's Support Group. Information: Nash Hall 962-2175.

Fire

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stalling sprinkler systems if it was possible and cost-efficient. "I used to think of those sprinkler heads as an aesthetic nuisance, but now I feel a great affection for them," he said.

Kuralt said that when he rebuilt his store, he definitely would include sprinklers in the storage areas.

"Whether we can afford them in the rest of the store, I don't know," Kuralt said. "I haven't gotten down to seeing what it all is going to cost. We are going to do everything we can to keep our customers safe and our staff safe."

Perry Dowd, manager of Spanky's

Restaurant, said it would not be feasible to mandate sprinklers in all businesses.

But Dowd added that installing sprinkler systems would benefit new construction by lowering insurance costs. In a few years, the systems would pay for themselves, Dowd said.

Erwin Shatzin, co-owner of Pepper's Pizza, said he might support such a venture. But he said he thought ordinances were not required.

"I don't know that we need more government involvement," he said. "I think the zoning is good as it is. A fire system is not going to stop an arson."

Harris

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bers of congress tried to block a bill requesting student funds to pay for Harris' visit. Opponents of the bill said they thought funding Harris' speech would be an infringement of the Student Government Code, which prohibits the use of student fees for religious or political purposes.

After a lengthy discussion, congress members passed the bill. After the vote, Speaker Jennifer Lloyd said Campus Crusade would have to prove that Harris' speech was not religious in nature.

Harris said Thursday night that he was upset that his speech created controversy. "I'm sad about controversy when it becomes political," he said. "It detracts from the focus, and the focus is on the HIV issue, not on politics."

Harris urged the crowd to realize that AIDS and HIV were not limited to the homosexual population. "AIDS is not a gay person's disease, it's anybody's disease," Harris said. Anyone can contract it through the exchange of any bodily fluids, he added.

Grievance

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notified. "There's been so much distrust of the administration in the past few years. This certainly doesn't leave us much time to question the proposal if we have concerns."

At the beginning of the summer, Hardin invited all employees to submit their concerns about the current grievance policy.

"The chancellor started the review process last spring," she said. "There was a long period for comment. (The new proposal) is the culmination of that comment."

Barbara Coward, administrator of the State Personnel Commission, said the Office of State Personnel had reviewed the policy and found that it complied with state personnel laws.



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