

Seuss Meets Flintstone, and Other Dark Tales

Young alumni Halloween party brings out the creepy and crazy

You could tell it was a *young* alumni party by the svelteness of Wonder Woman, the spryness of Cave Man and the perfection of the legs on the French maid. The blaring hip-hop music brought by deejay Averil Cozart was another dead giveaway. Speaking of dead, the cadaver who leapt off the table in the Haunted House would have stopped an older heart from ticking. And the ghouls grabbing ankles from under tables would have sent senior citizens to their graves, but no such catastrophes were reported.

About 200 people answered the call to appear at the GAA's Young Alumni Halloween Bash, held at The Carolina Club on Oct. 31. The event was the warm-up for the annual ghoulfest on Franklin Street, which drew a reported 69,000 people this year. The chilly weather didn't prevent a pair of Miss North Carolinas (Sarah Stevenson '98 and Jamie Gollingo, congenially sharing their title) from appearing in spaghetti straps and open-toed shoes. (Never mind that one of them had a hairy chest and *her* shoes were size 12. "I think it's important to dress up and feel beautiful," *she* said.)

Zorba the Fortune Teller (short for Zorbalina, she noted) brought her crystal ball and found that the futures of the young graduates were every bit as bright as they should be, having graduated from Carolina. Deborah Gaddis '01, who works in membership and marketing for the GAA, made a dazzling Zorba in her gypsy headscarf, with bangles and baubles and rings on every finger.

Madame Marguerite '94 offered her services at the tarot card table and brought just the right touch of exotic beauty and mystery to her readings. And recent grad Aidil Polanco '02, a program assistant at the GAA, read palms with great authority, after consulting her little palm pattern reference book. Actors from Company Carolina, a campus theater troupe, provided the ghastly action in the haunted house. Certified graphologist Mary Gallagher brought her handwriting analysis expertise to the show and nailed her customers' personalities with precision.

Four Elvis impersonators cut quite a swath when they entered in their polyester jumpsuits, complete with bejeweled and sequined capes and enormous belt buckles. (One read "Elvis" in glitter.) The quartet was made up of Hunter Councill '01 (red Elvis), Joseph Elia '01 (white Elvis), Jordan Wagner '03 (blue Elvis) and Mel Manuel IV '93 (black Elvis).

Councill's mother made the basic jumpsuits and sent them on to the guys to enhance, and 50 hours later, each outfit had its signature pattern of multicolored shiny objects affixed with fabric glue and lots of patience. Other special touches, such as elaborate cuffs, were sewn on by hand by the Presley boys. "We all had to learn to sew to do this," confided Elia. Wigs ordered online and molded with gel and hairnets topped off the costumes, along with matching wraparound sunglasses.

Fred Flintstone, a second-year medical student and a 1997 graduate, yabbdabbadooed



PHOTOS BY DAN SEARS '74



Above, far left, Jennie Chapman '87 and Selassie Amana '93 took care of things with the first place costume while Elvisses, from left, Hunter Councill '01, Joseph Elia '01 and senior Jordan Wagner, brought their clambake to Chapel Hill.

around the room, and Thing 1 and Thing 2 (from *The Cat in the Hat*), classes of '93 and '87, respectively, spoke in rhymes. A freshman GAA member came as a gumball machine, sporting balloons in a garbage bag around her midriff. And a geisha was seen gliding across the dance floor in her elegant kimono and white-powdered face, delicately twirling a bamboo parasol.

One recent graduate and two of his Nordstrom co-workers came as the Three Blind Mice, complete with sunglasses and canes and little gray mouse ears, and a 1993 pharmacy graduate came as Zorro — with black cape, red cummerbund and flashing sword. Bumblebees and butterflies and devils and angels and ninjas and genies and even SpongeBob SquarePants all enjoyed the food and drink and a bit of dancing at The Carolina Club.

But perhaps the highlight of the evening was the costume contest, emceed by deejay Cozart. The contestants paraded across the stage and the audience whooped and hollered. GAA



Above, Zorbalina the Fortune Teller, Deborah Gaddis '01, moves her baubled fingers over the crystal ball. Right, Courtney Jones '01 came as Jeannie, and friend Melanie Jones wowed as Wonder Woman, earning second place costume honors.



staff chose the winners. Third place and \$25 went to the club-wielding Cave Man; second place and \$50 went to Wonder Woman; and first place and \$100 went to Thing 1 and Thing 2, looking quite Seuss-like in white faces and red sweat suits.

Testimonies included, "I didn't know the



deliver," says Rick Davis '85, director of

GAA could get down like this," and, "I'm in for next year!"

"The Halloween party is a testament to the commitment and quality of young alumni programming we intend to

enrichment programs. "We have other significant resources devoted to young alumni interests as well — career services, local clubs ... short-term medical benefits and reunion programming that tends to be really attractive to the younger audience. We're delighted when they participate so enthusiastically."

— Miriam Sauls '73

Alumni Weekend Comes Full Circle

While the traditional Homecoming matchup on the football field often seems to be the center of attention during reunions weekend, the General Alumni Association's Alumni Weekend 2002 offered graduates a chance to explore their memories beyond Kenan Stadium's center of campus.

The GAA and its student members once again floated down Franklin Street with other Carolina groups during the Homecoming Parade on Friday, Nov. 1. After a jog through Finley Golf Course in the Ram 5K on Saturday morning, alumni had a rare opportunity to climb the 71-year-old, 172-foot-high Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower along its spiral staircase and glimpse a view of their old campus haunts — as well as a few names of old friends etched into the tower's woodfacings. Later, Tar Heel Town offered the chance to have lunch on the grass on Polk Place before the gridiron contest with Maryland, with no worries about being late for class — although, with Parker's barbecue and plenty of memories on hand, being late for the game was a distinct possibility.



Above, Ann and Steve Yokeley '69, enjoy the view from the Bell Tower and recognize a name inscribed in the windowsill. Below, the crowd starts streaming in for Homecoming.



PHOTOS BY SARAH MCCARTY '96



Left, Tar Heel Town takes over the normally serene quad with Parker's barbecue lunch. Above, Black Alumni Reunion participants celebrating the event's 22nd annual tailgate with delectables from Ethel Carver's kitchen.



Members of the Class of 1977 linger after their party before heading to Kenan Stadium.



Joe Fearington, veteran face painter for Tar Heel Town, chats with 4-year-old Hannah Odom.