



Albuquerque prepares for 300th birthday, **F10**

The Daily Reflector

Look

AT THE WAY WE LIVE

Michael Kors bottles the beach, **F6**



Sunday, May 1, 2005



ROB YOUNG

Soap gets in their eyes

My grandmother mentions the news over lunch, interrupting our modest meal of BLT sandwiches and chips.

She starts without warning or apology, delivering her appraisal, casually and directly, while the television blinks nearby in perfect view.

"They asked for the DNA testing," she says, lifting her sandwich.

My grandfather and I listen.

"They don't know if she's really Neil's daughter," my grandmother explains. "Neil's brother might actually be the father."

My granddad nods. "Malcolm," he says.

They grow quiet for a time, their eyes floating back to the TV, leaving me alone and distressed by the harsh revelation.

I visit my grandparents often, taking my lunch break once a week to eat with them in their home. Invariably, our discussions turn to matters such as these, familial wounds laid bare and open.

We are honest with one another. They are unafraid to tell me what some would strive to keep secret.

Still, sometimes I wonder what our lives would be like without the complications, the noise or the drama.

What would our lives — or lunches — be like without "The Young and the Restless"?

Avid viewers, my grandparents watch the daytime soap without failure, and as a guest, I dutifully tune in as well, scheduling my break to coincide with the program's 12:30-1:30 p.m. slot. The hour is a guilty pleasure of mine, much like ABC's "Supernanny."

I can't watch every day, but they gladly give updates on Neil and Malcolm Winters,



VICTOR NEWMAN

Katherine Chancellor, Jack Abbott, Victor Newman and the rest of Genoa City's more illustrious denizens.

While the program provides a pleasant

respite, my grandmother supplies the real entertainment — her commentary on the show's characters and actors who play them.

"See her?" she asks, pointing out one of the actresses. "She's had her teeth whitened."

Collectively, all "The Young and the Restless" actresses amuse her, specifically their apparel choices.

"Look at these dresses they wear to work — so low-cut, revealing," she says. "I swear, you wouldn't even wear them to a cocktail party."

Victor Newman, "Y&R"'s iconic protagonist/antagonist, draws her exasperation most frequently, though not for his conduct. Newman speaks deliberately and authoritatively, yet softly, announcing each line of dialogue with a grave tone, a sur-

See *SOAP*, **F2**



Photos by Greg Eans/The Daily Reflector

ED JACOBS, right, an associate professor of composition at East Carolina University and director of the NewMusic@ECU Festival, is working with sixth-graders at Wintergreen Intermediate on composing their own pieces of music. "The energy and excitement and ideas you get with kids, it's just boundless," he said. "It's a real joy. ... My weekly sessions are a real highlight for me."

BUILDING BLOCKS of SOUND

ECU music professor turns Wintergreen Intermediate students into composers

By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector

The sounds coming from the music room at Wintergreen Intermediate are not like anything Ed Jacobs has ever heard before.

And that's exactly the way he wants it.

Jacobs, an associate professor of composition at East Carolina University, is working with sixth-graders on composing their own pieces of music. It's an idea that is helping to turn music class on its ear.

"This experience has really helped them to use music terms and to build a vocabulary for writing music and expressing themselves musically," said Wintergreen music teacher Robin Loy. "(It has) opened up a better understanding of music for my students and has given them a whole different way of experiencing music."

Jacobs, who is director of the NewMusic@ECU Festival, began visiting Wintergreen's general music classes last fall, volunteering his time once a week to work with students on their compositions. He feeds their suggestions into a computer that allows kids to hear a simulation of how their notes sound on different instruments.

The teaching technique Jacobs is trying at Wintergreen is similar to what he uses with his advanced music students at the university. But he thought even inexperienced students could benefit from the hands-on approach.

"With children, the simple act of making things is a huge learning process," Jacobs said. "We take small children and we give them a pile of blocks. We give them no instructions and they play and, in the process, they learn a tremendous amount."

"I think there is a tremendous benefit out of simply saying, 'Play



ALEX McMILLAN plays the roto-toms during class Tuesday at Wintergreen Intermediate School. The students in his class wrote an original composition they'll play for a concert.

with sound," he said. "Not that technique is unimportant, but wouldn't it be great if music is presented, along with the technical aspect, with a creative aspect? ... Not just play the piano but play *with* the piano."

Student Matthew Whitford remembers the first day his class played around with writing music. "We just started naming notes out of the blue," he said.

Jacobs enters the notes into his computer's Sibelius software program, which plays them back for students to hear. The program allows students to alter their composition by adding or deleting notes, rearranging them or selecting different instruments to change the sound.

"(You) guess, check, then erase

when it's wrong" is how student Robert Fendley described the process.

To be sure, composing is a trial-and-error experience for the students. Many of them are just beginning to learn to read music.

"At first, the kids don't really know what's going on," Jacobs said. "Once I play for them what they've created, the sense of participation really snowballs."

What starts out as a one-line melody ends up as a two- to three-minute piece of music.

After trying their hands at writing music for the computer to play back, students work on a second piece. This time, they are writing music that they will play using percussion instruments available in the classroom.

"We just started pulling out all the instruments," Loy said. "We've immersed the children in music."

On Thursday, students will perform one of their pieces for parents and teachers. The audience will also have a chance to hear a computer simulation of music the students have written.

Loy hopes parents will feel some of the same excitement that the students have experienced.

"They've just got such a high level of energy," she said. "They keep saying, 'When is he (Jacobs) coming back? Is he coming today?' "The last time he came, they were walking in the door saying, 'I've got an idea for our composition,'" Loy said.

See *MUSIC*, **F2**

Teen is desperate to pull splintering family together

Dear Abby: I am 13 and thinking of running away. The reason is my mother doesn't want me, my brothers or my dad. She's selling our house so she can go and live with her mother, and so Dad and we kids can live with my dad's mother. Abby, she wants to divorce my father, and she doesn't care that she's hurting us.

My brothers don't quite understand what's going on. They are hurt when they tell mother that they love her and she doesn't answer back. I can't stand it!

All I want is for our family to stay together. How can I let my mother know how much she's hurting me? She has never been an understanding person, and I know she'll fly off the handle if I tell her, but I still want to. What can I tell her? — **Running Away in San Antonio**

Dear Running Away: I don't know what has broken up your parents' marriage, but I can guarantee you that it has nothing to do with you and your siblings.



DEAR ABBY

care of you.

Dear Abby: Is it absolutely necessary for a married person to wear a wedding ring? I am an independent woman with my own career in a technical and demanding field. I will never be a "traditional" wife. In fact, I resent the stereotyped gender roles that traditional marriage represents. Furthermore, I

you need answers, and you are entitled to have them. It is important that you talk to your mother. Tell her that you love her and are very hurt and confused, and that you need her to help you understand why all this is happening. Believe me, it is not that she doesn't love you. She may be ill or unable to properly take

detest wearing rings in general. I find them uncomfortable and itchy.

I have brushed up against engagement before and have not been able to think of a solution. I value the idea of marriage as a partnership that should be honored. It's just that the traditional assumptions of others make my skin crawl, and so do rings in general.

There must be other women — or men — out there with this problem. What would you suggest? — **Free Soul in Tempe, Ariz.**

Dear Free Soul: Although wearing a ring when someone is in an official relationship (engaged, married) is customary, no law demands it. If the idea of the piece of jewelry is what bothers you, take your lead from some of the celebrities who have had their tattooed on.

However, if your reluctance is caused by what the ring symbolizes, then you are either going to have to find a mate with feelings similar to your own or not

get married.

Dear Abby: What is proper etiquette when someone has been staring at you in a restaurant or at an event? It makes me uncomfortable when I'm in a situation — like a social or networking event — where I can't leave. Usually, when I'm alone or with another person, I'll just move away. But there have been times when I find myself trapped. Should I ask the person staring at me, "How can I help you?" I can ignore being stared at for five or 10 minutes, but on occasion it has lasted for an hour or more. — **Uncomfortable in Hawaii**

Dear Uncomfortable: I prefer the direct approach. Say to the person, "I've noticed that you have been looking at me. Is there a reason?"

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Contact us

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J. F. BUDACZ works on his conga drum during class Tuesday at Wintergreen Intermediate School.

Greg Eans/The Daily Reflector

MUSIC

Continued from F1

Jacobs takes time to hear every suggestion, encouraging children to try whatever they like musically without worrying about making a mistake. "You can always change it," he said, during a recent class.

Though he is an award-winning composer, Jacobs refrains from incorporating his own musical ideas into students' work.

"I think this probably comes from my training as a parent more than anything else," he said. "Kids know when you're messing with a project. They don't take as much pride when it feels like *they* helped you.

"There's very little that reflects anything I would write," he said. "But it's inconsequential."

What is important, Jacobs said, is that students collaborate on their composition so that the music is the work of an entire group and not just a few

students.

"This is like a United Nations," he said in a recent class. "We've got to satisfy all of you."

Students seem pleased with their compositions, which they have titled "My Band" (computer composition) and "The Bilfor" (rhythm composition). "You know that it's your own piece," student Justina Clark said. "It's ... like nobody else's."

Jacobs is hoping to expand his unique musical composition program to other schools. He is working to secure funding for the project.

"The next phase is to take a few hand-picked students of mine at ECU and have them do the same thing," Jacobs said. "We would spread out to several different schools."

Wintergreen Intermediate Principal Pat Clark said she hopes to see the partnership grow.

"It's far beyond just general music," she said. "The things they gain ... definitely stretch into other programs."

Wintergreen is studying

groups of students involved in the composition project to see what effect it might have on issues such as attendance and discipline.

"When they feel successful ... it carries over into the classroom," Clark said, adding she thinks the music activity will help students with critical thinking, as well as creativity.

Jacobs hopes the effort will help students learn teamwork as well as an appreciation for all kinds of music. Whether or not it encourages them to become composers or musicians is less important to him.

"I'm just trying to get them to play," he said. "Play is the essential word. In this case, play leads to learning."

"There's no reason sound can't be used in the same way crayons and blocks are used," Jacobs said. "It's not about trying to turn a generation of children into composers. It's about playing with sound."

Kim Grizzard can be contacted at 329-9578 or kgrizzard@coxnews.com.

Go! 2 day

Art sale

The Greenville Brushstrokes will continue its Mother's Day Art Sale and Exhibition from noon-4 p.m. today at the the Bob Pittman Art Studio, 209 Evans St. Artwork in a variety of styles will be available by 25 regional artists.

Custom cars

Animated Attraction's 12th-annual Slamsession car show concludes today at the Pitt County Fairgrounds. Admission is \$10. Call 758-6916.

Choral concert

The Greenville Choral Society's Chamber Choral will present its spring concert, "Music of Our Southern Heritage," at 3 p.m. today at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 E. Fourth St. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 258-3722 or visit www.greenvillechoralsociety.com.

Go! karts

The North/South Dirt Karting Race will be held at Southern Pitt Raceway, 5308 Gardenville Road, Ayden. Gates open at 8 a.m., followed by practice at 10 a.m. and qualifying at 1 p.m. Call 746-9205

Homes parade

The Pitt-Greenville Home Builders Association will hold its annual Parade of Homes from 1-5 p.m. today and May 7-8. More than 50 homes will be on display throughout Pitt County. Free. Call 756-7915.

See the Go! Guide each Friday for a week's worth of entertainment listings. The Go! Guide is also available online at www.reflector.com.

Look ahead

TUESDAY

■ **"My Teacher, My Hero ..."** essay winners announced.

WEDNESDAY

■ **Hot Dish:** Dr. Unk's Oasis opens this week.

FRIDAY

■ **20Egirl** coming to Faith & Victory Church May 7.



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Readers write

Have specific reactions or further information on something you read in Look? Drop us a line, and we'll share it, if we can.

Ed. Note: This reader wrote in response to Jane Hudson's "Not That I'm Gloating" column, which ran in Look on April 10. Jane's column can still be read online at The Daily Reflector's site (www.reflector.com/feat/content/features/stories/2005/04/08/20050408GDRjanecolumn.html).

I just wanted to let you know that I too was baking "heel" cookies that night (of the NCAA championship game) right here in Greenville on Memorial Drive! I am a '79 grad, my husband is a '78 grad, and my "baby" just graduated last May! I loved your column, your wit, and your passion for the heels. It is so funny how it is such a part of us.

I would love to meet you one day. Maybe we can cut out the feet together!

Floridian by birth, Tar Heel by the grace of God,
— Jennifer Elmore, Greenville



Contributed photo

THE JOY CLUB of the People's Baptist Church in Greenville show off a little piece of home — copies of The Daily Reflector, in fact — on the steps of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a trip to Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on April 21.

SOAP

Continued from F1

prising touch especially when, say, he tells his wife, "I need to go to the market to get some bread."

During his scenes, my grandmother requests my grandfather turn up the volume.

"How can anyone hear what he's saying?" she demands.

But her critiques are not all caustic.



KEVIN FISHER

Indeed, she reserves high praise for young Kevin Fisher, a character who, just in the past year or so, has set fire to a restaurant, won the lottery, been accused of electrocuting a stripper, spent time in prison where he was beaten by inmates during a "blanket party," rescued a dying man, and had sex with an underage girl, giving her chlamydia.

"Oh, that Kevin," my grandmother coos. "He's such a good actor."

Like any soap opera, she fills the hour with her own cliffhangers, leaving me uncertain of what she'll say next. I'd linger longer if work would allow.

After all, my grandad says, "You should hear her talk about 'The Bold and the Beautiful.'"

Contact Rob Young at 329-9579 or ryoung@coxnews.com.

A LOOK BACK

The Daily Reflector

Mary Louise Mewborn Worthington, affectionately known as "Miss Mary," was born March 29, 1867. She was the daughter of Louisa Kilpatrick and Lemuel Mewborn.

She married Joseph Thomas Worthington on April 22, 1896. The couple lived on a large plantation that reached from Hanrahan Station to Grifton. Their home was situated on a hill that overlooked the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

In those days, it was quite an advantage and distinction to live near a railroad. The Worthingtons could flag and board the train at the foot of their spacious lawn.

Miss Mary kept her heirloom silver gleaming, floors waxed, fine china ready for afternoon tea, the summer houses abloom with roses and her horse and carriage ready to accommodate unexpected visitors.

Joseph Worthington died suddenly in December 1910, leaving Miss Mary in charge of the plantation, a responsibility she assumed until her own health failed. In 1921, she left her country home to move to Grifton with her daughter and son-in-law. Miss Mary spent her remaining years at their home on Queen Street.

Mary was a devout Episcopalian, a



MARY LOUISE MEWBORN WORTHINGTON

lifelong member of St. John's Church and an active member of the Episcopal Women's Auxiliary. She served as Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star and also was active in the Betterment Society, the forerunner of the PTA.

Miss Mary died on Sept. 8, 1955.

Source: The Daily Reflector and "Chronicles of Pitt County," by the Pitt County Historical Society.

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