

Comedy explodes on Harris Stage

BY MICHELLE WALL
STAFF A&E WRITER

MFA playwright candidate Erik Ramsey delivered another excellent play, *The Exploded View*, a full-length comedy performed by UNLV's University Theatre in the intimate Paul C. Harris Theatre March 27-31.

Ramsey got the idea for the comedy from his experience of seeing the film *Pulp Fiction* and re-reading Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* all in the same day. Combined with reflections of Ramsey's upcoming marriage, this provided him with the insight to write this exceptionally mature and polished play, which provides a poignant commentary on the things that affect our lives the most.

The four-member cast portrayed their respective characters eloquently. Cheryl Edson played the vibrant and sometimes overbearing Honey Pappas, a law student who wants to give her significant other, Thom Bruce (Michael Bunin), a shove in the right direction. Bruce, on the other hand, wants Honey to let him follow his dream of being a clown.

Wendy Bagger was cast as Grace Coombs Lort, as a composed and seemingly cold school nurse. Bob Lort, portrayed by Walter Wykes, is an appliance repairman whose career aspirations remained unfulfilled. His only wish is to

surprise Grace just once.

The characters interact as Bob fixes Thom's refrigerator and Honey and Grace meet up in a hospital waiting room. Each pair, unbeknownst to the other, discuss ideas of life, love and relationships. Eventually, their conversation comes down to these questions: What do we really want, and how can we learn to appreciate what we have before it's too late?

The action of the play was performed in a non-linear, yet surprisingly easy-to-follow style. This added tremendously to the development of both the plot and the characters.

The play was a masterful production, comparable to a professional work. Ramsey was pleased with the play's cast and staff. "I believe I had the best director, assistant director and actors that I could ask for," he stated.

Ramsey is a second-year graduate student in UNLV's playwriting program. He has written three short plays, and is a past recipient of the Kennedy Center's National Short Play Award. *The Exploded View* is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

If you missed this fine UNLV theater production, don't despair. *Ring Round the Moon* opens tonight at 8 p.m., with *110 in the Shade* starting on April 25. For more information, call the Performing Arts Center box office at 895-3801.



PHOTO BY VASNA WILSON

Michael Bunin stars in MFA Playwright Erik Ramsey's "The Exploded View."

Kimchee Hut: Healthy and smart

The Korean restaurant offers tasty alternative to oriental dining

BY JAN WILLIAMS
A&E EDITOR

With all the emphasis on eating healthy, restaurants have taken to slim-this or fat-free that. Now, Kimchee Hut lets you have your goodies (and eat them too).

Located just across the street from campus on 4550 S. Maryland Pkwy., in Running Rebel Plaza, the Korean restaurant has dine-in or take-out service. Brothers Hak and Brian Kim started their first franchise in November, 1994 at Fort Apache near The Lakes, and opened the Maryland Parkway location last month.

"We wanted to change the image of the oriental restaurant," Hak Kim, our host for the afternoon, said. "We wanted to provide a healthier, alternative way to eat oriental food."

Quick, affordable and healthy are definitely three words that describe Kimchee Hut's cuisine. "The marinade for our meat is a 1,000-year-old tradition," Hak Kim said.



PHOTO BY VASNA WILSON

Watch Chong Kang prepare your food at the Kimchee Hut.

Featured are boneless, skinless chicken breasts, lean cuts of beef (bulgoki) or ribs (kalbi), which were tender, tasty and tantalizing, all priced between \$3.99 and \$5.49.

"The Kimchee Grill is an original concept we are very proud of," Hak Kim explained as he showed us how this dish is prepared. Customers heap vegetables such as bean sprouts, green peppers, carrots, bok choy (Chinese cabbage), zucchini, pea pods, broccoli, scallions, mushrooms and celery into a wooden bowl. Then the chefs, location owners Chong and Stella Kang, stir-fry it right in front of your eyes, laying it to rest over a

nice serving of white rice. Prices range from \$3.59 for vegetable grill up to \$5.99 for the combination of shrimp and chicken or beef.

While there, students as well as professionals were taking advantage of the dine-in service. First-time customers Jeff Grundstrom and Ramon Lasao, from nearby International Health Services, enjoyed their lunch.

"The spicy chicken (\$2.79) was very good," Grundstrom said of his dish. "It clears your sinuses and does the job." Lasao, who had the BBQ plate, agreed. "It's pretty lean and

See Kimchee, pg. 9



Wind Symphony spring concert

BY JAMES KIM
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UNLV's Wind Symphony performed to a sizable audience in Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall March 28.

The concert featured conductor Takayoshi Suzuki, currently an artist-in-residence at UNLV, and the talents of tuba soloist Hideo Sano. The ensemble, composed entirely of students and faculty, skillfully performed a varied musical program.

One of the high points of the evening was the performance of Frank Ticheli's "Amazing Grace," inspired by the spiritual of the same name written by John Newton. Newton, who was a slave ship captain, realized the inherent immorality associated with this profession which prompted the writing.

Published in 1835, the spiritual continues to serve

as an inspiration. Thomas Leslie, a UNLV professor and director of the Wind Symphony, dedicated the piece to his father.

"The first time I remember hearing 'Amazing Grace,' the symphony director recalled, "was when my father and I attended the Wesley Methodist Church in his hometown of Emma, Kentucky."

Although Leslie was only four-years-old at the time, he vividly recalled the impact of this traditional hymn as he listened to his father and the congregation gloriously singing it.

Sano delighted the audience with his solo performance in *Concertino for Tuba*, by Rolf Wilhelm. He masterfully eased through the difficult piece, handling the large, brass instrument with style and bravura.

The 60-piece wind sym-

See Wind, pg. 9