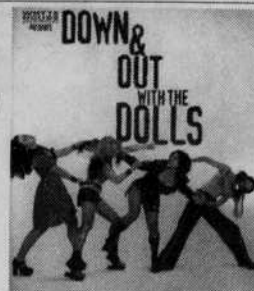


Pulse Editor:
Jacquelyn Lewis
jacquelynlewis@dailyemerald.com

Pulse Relax

On Thursday
Pulse gets down
with the "Dolls"



Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Dad should respect new religious beliefs, ideas

Dear Nat: My parents are divorced, and my mother is Christian and my father is Jewish. I recently converted to Christianity because it is a religion I feel strongly about. My father and I have a close relationship, but I have to hide my religion from him because he is anti-Christian. Keeping this a secret is a burden on me, but I'm afraid he won't respect me if I tell him. What should I do?

— Christian in the Closet

Dear Christian: Message to your dad — don't expect a carbon copy of yourself in your child because your offspring only holds half your genes!

Of Pop needs to realize that marrying someone of a different faith and raising kids without any specific religious identity leads

to only a 50/50 chance of his children choosing his spiritual side when then grow up. Unless kids are raised under one primary religion, they are going to make their own spiritual decisions later on, sans parental influence.

How heavy of a burden is this? If you think the first time your religion will be out in the open is when you get married and you want to have your wedding in a church, keep your lips zipped for now and spare any extra years of remorse from your dad.

But if you've been sneaking around every Sunday morning or feel close to exploding during every moment spent with him, slowly ease the cat out of the bag. Approach him with, "Dad, it's really important for me to devote myself to one religion. How would you feel if I decided to become Christian?" If he protests, explain that it was his choice to put you in this confusing situation.

However, spilling undesired secrets to parents is always risky if they're supporting you financially. Is there any chance of your father being so appalled that he would cut you off? If so, I would suggest doing your worshipping on the sly until you're on your own. In any case, if being a Christian brings fulfillment to your life, don't let Dad's close-mindedness cast a shadow over your spirituality.

Dear Nat: I'm a 23-year-old female graduating this spring, and I've been having recurring dreams about weddings! In the most recent one, I was running around a mall in a wedding dress frantically looking for underwear for my wedding night, but I couldn't find any. Can you decode this for me?

— Bride by Night

Dear Bride: After scouring several dream dictionaries on the Web and at Waldenbooks, I've discovered this wedding plot is perfectly appropriate for your current life situation. A wedding

Turn to **Ask Nat**, page 6



Natasha Chilingarian
Ask Nat

No Kidding about words

The Kidd Tutorials Program offers creative writing students a year-long session and flexible schedules

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

The creative mind might be wired to resist the rigid schedule and curriculum of a university setting. Registration, midterms, required texts: these are not phrases often associated with fostering creativity. However, for the past 10 years, the Kidd Tutorials Program has existed for one purpose: inspiration.

The Kidd Program is a year-long creative writing session unlike most university classes. According to Kidd Director Robyn Schiff, prospective participants play an active role in the entire learning process — guiding the progression of the sessions from their initial application to the program to their own final written works.

Schiff said the interactive approach to the process distinguishes the program from other courses. Undergraduates interested in the Kidd Tutorials must complete introductory 200-level and intermediate 300-level courses in creative writing.

However, these prerequisites alone are not enough. Applicants must also submit a personal statement, a letter of recommendation, transcripts and a writing sample — a process that whittles the applicant pool down to a few.

"It's really an opportunity for writers to work with other committed writers," Schiff said.

Success within the Kidd Tutorials hinges on commitment. The program accepts about 30 applicants a year, then separates them into groups of four to six. Each group is teamed with a graduate student whose function is to cultivate an environment of discussion and creativity within the realm of poetry or fiction writing. Over the next three terms, the tutors slowly



Creative writing Professor David Bradley, left, speaks to creative writing students in the Kidd Tutorials Program, which splits about 30 accepted applicants into teams led by graduate students. Jeremy Forrest Emerald

guide students from an appreciation of established artists to the creation of their own works.

Fall term presents students with a series of lessons and reading assignments focusing on philosophers and art critics, poets and novelists, as well as cultural and literary critics. The groups are led through texts of varied genres.

"These are often materials not found in other classes," Schiff said.

Winter term gives students an opportunity to work within a completely self-guided curriculum. Participants devise a series of questions and a list of readings, visual arts or films — a collection Schiff describes as a "summary of their obsessions." The class uses these chosen preoccupations to promote an environment of independent thought and study.

Creative writing graduate teaching fellow and poetry group tutor Liz Harlan-Ferlo said some students are initially taken aback by the reading-intensive portion of the program.

"A lot of my students said they didn't expect such a high level of reading in the class," Harlan-Ferlo said. "But if you want to be a writer, you have to know about the community you're joining. And all my students totally rose to the occasion."

Schiff describes spring term as a traditional workshop.

The program sponsors a creative writing competition every spring, awarding up to \$4,000 in total prizes to undergraduate poets and fiction writers — not just members of the Kidd

Turn to **Kidd**, page 7

Luna dishes edible, musical treats

Downtown club Luna, located on East Broadway, hosts regional artists as well as drinks and 'late-night munchies'

Hot spots

Mark Baylis
Pulse Reporter

Inside Downtown jazz club Luna, an intimate ambiance strikes the senses. The house lights are dimmed to a roasted amber and the lounge tables host candles that slowly wave like content fireflies impervious to the season. Billowing pillows lull the body toward an inviting seat on one of the plush couches; the waiter approaches with a martini list longer than a senior thesis rough draft, and the brain's serotonin begins to percolate. Next, the jazz ensemble offers a toast with some Coltrane and the audience applauds, seeming to thank the stars for jazz.

Thank Adam Bernstein. Originally from Colorado, the Eugene transplant of 13 years opened the live jazz venue, located at 30 E. Broadway, almost a year and a half ago. Since then, the club has been serving up top-notch local, regional and international performers five nights a week.

"I'm a music lover, and I like different forms of jazz — R&B, soul, some world beat," Bernstein said. "I wanted a place that was warm and friendly in order to enjoy it."

Luna has hosted such acts as Hot Club Sandwich and Pearl Django, as well as local artists Justin King, recently defunct Lazoo and University graduate Tim McLaughlin.

"If anything, there is a glut of musicians in this

town," Bernstein said. "We've brought in a ton of great regional musicians in the last six months, and that's something I feel we do better than anybody else."

With its spacious and prominent stage subtly framed with neo-roman columns, the venue provides vantage points for up to 85 people, from one of a handful of lounge tables, three intimate coves against the west wall or two couch areas.

Bernstein said he invested a substantial amount of finance and energy into avoid the aural pitfalls of other clubs that were designed to host patrons but not the delicacies of live music.

"In a lot of places, what you'll get is every surface will be hard, so there's reflections and every column of sound is bouncing off of everywhere," Bernstein said. "We custom-built the speakers, the sound system is custom-built for the room. It has a real nice balance."

Local jazz drummer Will Clark agreed.

"It's got the best stage and the acoustics are great," Clark said.

According to Clark, Luna's audience — as any jazz aficionado or club owner could predict — is a crapshoot. In a time when jazz continues to sit at the bottom of record sales but remains a staple of any sizable city's music repertoire, Luna clientele on any given night can either be sparse or left with standing-room only as enthusiasts shake it in front of the stage.

"We've played some pretty loud shows," Clark said. "You never know ... but the audiences are typically pretty attentive."

Aside from Luna's bar and its martini and wine list, the venue has a tapa-menu for late-night munchies as well. Luna is also attached to Adam's Place, a restaurant boasting a seasonal menu.



Jessica Waters for the Emerald

Sun Bossa guitarist Edson Oliveira performs at Luna, a Downtown club that serves up both drinks and tunes.

However, Bernstein said students should not be intimidated by the venue's classy atmosphere.

"Because we opened (Adam's Place), which was elegant, people thought we were exclusive," he said. "We're not exclusive ... We offer something for everybody and consistently try to mix it up."

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