

Norman and Thomas to lead Campus Y

BY KATIA MARTINEZ
STAFF WRITER

Though they've only worked together for three weeks while campaigning, the Campus Y's new co-presidents say they complement each other perfectly.

"My weaknesses match up with her strengths, so we're a perfect match," said Allison Norman, half of the Campus Y's new presidential pairing.

The other half of the self-proclaimed "dream team" is Mackenzie Thomas. Both have been familiar faces in Campus Y, with Norman being involved for three years and Thomas for two.

"I started getting involved with Campus Y right after Carolina Kickoff and I just went from there," Thomas said.

The pair chose each other as running mates three weeks ago and have been working on plans for their administration ever since.

"We ran unopposed so we didn't have much of a campaign," Norman said. "We spent that time discussing our ideas and planning for the next year."

The duo has several goals for next year. They say they want to focus on helping students better understand what Campus Y is.

"We want to make sure that



Allison Norman has been volunteering with the Campus Y for three years.



Mackenzie Thomas has a more administrative background in two years at the Campus Y.

people know we aren't a religious organization and we aren't a gym," Norman said. "We want to give the Campus Y a definite identity with students."

In addition to giving their group an identity, both Norman and Thomas have a vision for the organization to become more involved

with the community, both on and off campus.

Through continuing programs like the Three Cups of Tea discussions for students and faculty, they hope to bring the on-campus community together while hosting more public events to raise overall awareness of the group.

Elizabeth McCain, a current Campus Y co-president, said Norman and Thomas come from different backgrounds — but their differences will mesh well.

"Allison comes with more of a volunteering and community perspective, while Mackenzie has had more of an administrative background," McCain said. "I'm excited to see what they can do with that kind of teamwork."

Another goal of the new co-presidents is to make Campus Y a more economically diverse group.

"We want to get people from all kind of circumstances in the organization," Norman said.

They hope to acquire that diversity through giving work-study students the opportunity to work at the Campus Y.

Even though they want to make changes to the group, Norman said its central message and purpose will stay the same.

"We are a group of people who come together under the curtain of social injustice to find ways to solve it," Norman said. "We represent it in so many different ways, and that's what's great about Campus Y and the people in it."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

‘Black Watch’ takes Iraq War to Memorial Hall

Scottish national theater performs

BY BRITTON ALEXANDER
STAFF WRITER

Memorial Hall is being stormed.

Each night this weekend, 12 Scottish actors will take the stage to try to tackle the story of the Black Watch battalion in the Iraq War.

Presented by the National Theatre of Scotland as a part of the Carolina Performing Arts International Theater Festival, "Black Watch" aims to capture what it means to be a part of a military deployment.

The Black Watch, a branch of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, became known after a controversial deployment to Iraq in 2003.

The battalion was sent against the will of British Parliament to aid U.S. troops near Baghdad. Three of its members were killed by a car bomb, making the controversial deployment infamous in Great Britain.

The play's writer, Gregory Burke, conducted interviews with about 50 of the Scottish soldiers, laying out the emotional foundation for the play.

"The play is so important because I think we have a tendency to depersonalize war," said Emil Kang, executive director for

the arts.

"The theater has a very unique and powerful ability to remind us that these stories are real and that the soldiers who go and fight for our freedom are real."

Though all the actors are Scottish, the play is written to represent all soldiers in war, Kang said.

In addition to performing, the cast and crew will visit four or five classes at UNC, Michelle Bordner, director of artist relations for the office of the executive director of the arts, wrote in an e-mail.

Members of the ensemble will discuss their careers as well as the play's creation and its importance in the modern world, Bordner said.

Since its debut in 2006, "Black Watch" has generally featured an older cast. But for this tour, director John Tiffany cast men in their twenties instead.

"These actors are exactly the ages of soldiers that would be there overseas," Kang said.

Gemma Swallow, production manager for "Black Watch," said that the play uses special production techniques — few of which could be disclosed.

The production requires its own set of stage hands to handle the

SEE 'BLACK WATCH'
Time: 7:30 Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday - Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday - Sunday
Location: Memorial Hall
Info: carolinaperformingarts.org

sensitive equipment — including an award-winning sound system, she said.

"We have jet air crafts going overhead and bombs going off," she said. "It does sound like it's inside you."

An intimate seating arrangement will bring the emotions, histories and psychologies of the soldiers to the forefront.

With bleacher seating both upstage and downstage, each performance allows for only about 240 guests — a steep decline from the usual 1,434.

"Black Watch" has already been performed in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and New York to rave reviews.

"The piece doesn't try to push political points too hard," Swallow said.

Kang said the play is instead a reminder that soldiers are human.

"They are not robots," he said. "They are our sons and daughters and nieces and nephews."

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

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Egypt's vice president said he fears escalating situation will turn to coup

CAIRO, Egypt (MCT) — Tensions rose in Egypt's capital Wednesday as the army confronted protesters occupying new territory in front of the parliament building and the vice president warned of a possible coup, saying demonstrations must end or "the dark bats of the night" would emerge to terrorize the nation.

Vice President Omar Suleiman, who has until now presented himself as a soft-spoken voice of reason in discussions with opposition leaders, sounded rattled as he warned of tougher measures in comments to Egyptian newspaper editors published Wednesday. The pro-

tests are "very dangerous for society and we can't put up with this at all," he said. "We don't want to deal with Egyptian society with police tools." He said he foresaw "the dark bats of the night emerging to terrorize the people" if the situation is not resolved. If demonstrations against President Hosni Mubarak's leadership continued, he said, the likelihood is that "a coup happens, which would mean uncalculated and hasty steps, including lots of irrationalities."

A coup could come from within the regime, the army, the police or intelligence services — which he used to lead — or the opposition, Suleiman warned.

Americans rate Obama higher in handling foreign affairs

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — Americans generally give the president worse marks for his handling of domestic issues than for how he deals with foreign affairs, according to a Gallup poll released Wednesday.

With the 2012 presidential election cycle beginning to pick up momentum, the poll found that Obama was rated worse on key voter issues such as his handling

of the economy, the deficit and taxes than how he was seen dealing with foreign issues, especially the political crises in Egypt and Afghanistan.

According to the poll, 48 percent of Americans approved of how Obama handled foreign affairs compared with 45 percent who disapproved. Forty-seven percent approved of the president's handling of Egypt and Afghanistan,

but significantly more people disapproved of his handling of Afghanistan, 46 percent, than of Egypt, 32 percent. But the president's approval rating fell sharply when it came to domestic issues. Only 27 percent said they approved of how Obama was dealing with the federal deficit while 68 percent disapproved. On the general economy, 37 percent said they approved while 60 percent disapproved.

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