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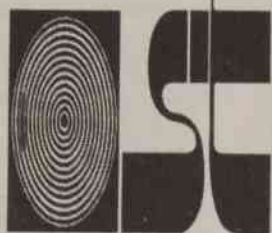
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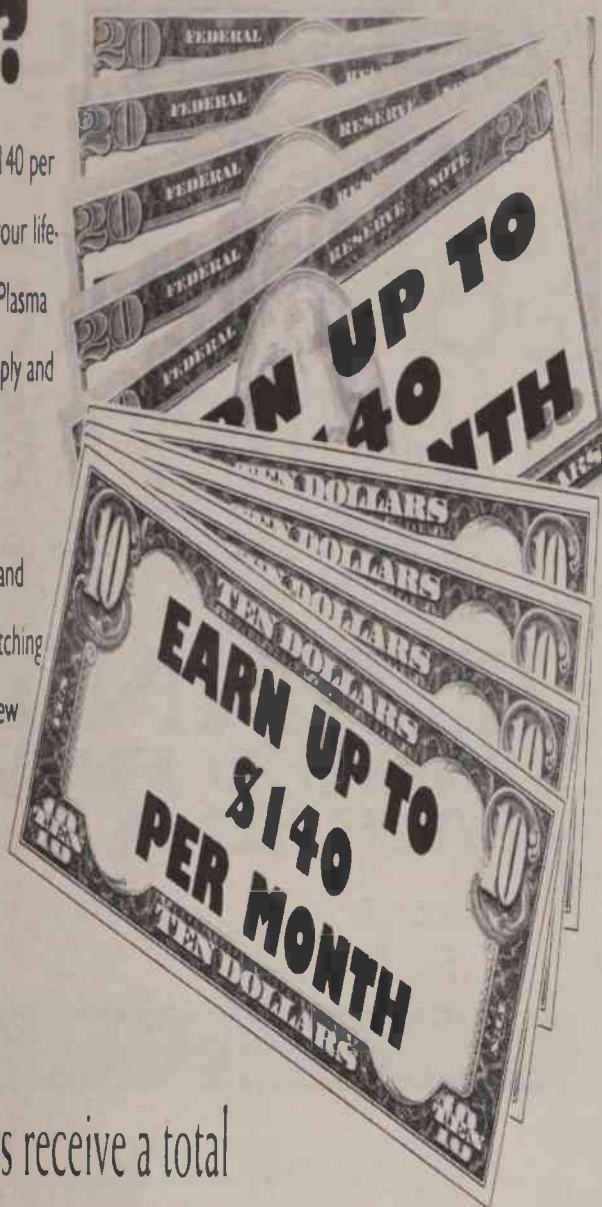
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Poetry reading by Fred Chappell

by JEFF GRISSETT

Staff Writer

The UNCW creative writing department, in association with The King's Road Book and Gift Shop, will present a reading by state Poet Laureate Fred Chappell at 8 p.m. April 13 in Cameron Hall Auditorium.

Chappell will read from his fiction and poetry, with a reception and book signing afterwards in the lobby. This is a free event and it is open to the public.

"[Chappell] is very popular with students. I hear that he has a great sense of humor," creative writing office administrator Lorrie Smith said.

State Poet Laureate Chappell has made the most of his writing career and has the awards and accolades to prove it. He received the Sir Walter Raleigh Prize in 1973, the N.C. Award for Literature (1980), Yale University Library's Bollinger Prize in poetry (1985), a literature award from the National Academy of Arts and Letters (1968), the Best Foreign Novel Prize from the Academie Francaise (1972), and the Aiken Taylor Award in Poetry (1996). Chappell has also been bestowed with the honor of receiving the Ingersoll Foundation's T.S. Eliot Award for Creative Writing in 1993.

Raised in Canton, North Carolina, Chappell has strong ties to the state. He went to Duke University and started his teaching career in the Department of English at UNC-Greensboro in 1964. His long service in the field of education was re-

warded in 1987 with the O. Max Gardner Award, the highest teaching award bestowed by the University of North Carolina system. A year later, he became the Burlington Industries Professor of English. At UNC-Greensboro, he teaches advanced composition, poetry and fiction.

During his writing career, Chappell has written 14 books of verse, eight novels, two volumes of stories and one book of criticism.

He is also a book columnist for the *Raleigh News and Observer*. The monthly column allows Chappell to write about one of the things he loves best, poetry. Among the many fiction novels that he has written are "The Gaudy Place" (1972), "I Am One Of You Forever" (1985), "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" (1989), and his most recent novel, "Look Back All the Green Valley" (1999). His last book of poetry, "Spring Garden: New and Collected Poems," was released in 1995. One of his short stories, "The Somewhere Doors," was awarded the World Fantasy Award in 1992.

"Chappell has long been notably recognized and revered. He is one of our region's most important cultural and literary resources. The King's Road and the faculty of the creative writing department are very pleased to bring Mr. Chappell to the Wilmington area," said Mark Cox, creative writing chair.

The King's Road Writers Series was created to provide distinguished literary events to Wilmington. The King's Road, which sponsor the series, offers cards, stationery, and gifts in Barclay Commons.

AZALEA, from page 13:

mas and Kitty Fitzgibbon. Surf-107's Bryan and Jim, hosts of the "Morning Disaster" show and WECT-6 weatherman George Elliot.

The parade ended with the Azalea Court float, the Queen and Princess Melanie Brooks, a senior at Hoggard High School.

"This is the first year we've come to the parade, and that was really good. We enjoyed that," Linda Barfield said.

The Azalea Home Tour, sponsored by the Historic Wilmington Foundation, opened at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The tours began at the Bellamy Mansion, where a ceremony for Wilmington's Millennium Time Capsule started at noon.

The day was sunny and warm until about 7 p.m. when the clouds opened up and dumped rain on thousands of festival goers. The Saturday night Main Stage Concert, with performers Morris Day and the Time, and the Tams, was cancelled.

Allison Moot, a Wilmington native who attends Warren Wilson College in Asheville, came home for the Azalea Festival and got caught in the rain. "We're having a great time. We didn't even know about the concert," she said. "We're not disappointed at all."

Around 9 p.m., the scheduled fireworks were launched in spite of the slow drizzling rain.

"We still got to see fireworks, even though it was raining, which was exciting," Appalachian State University sophomore Kari Hunicke said. "They were the first fireworks I've ever seen in the rain."

Sunday was still a little windy and cool, but the rain was gone and the sun shone brightly. By sunset, the vendors had packed up, the entertainment was over and the crowds had gone home.

"It was the first time I've ever been in Wilmington, and I thought the festival was a lot of fun. Good food, nice people, and for the most part, beautiful weather," Hunicke said.



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