

Centennial: from Flora M

Forum informative

by Amanda Willoughby

St. Andrews took full advantage of the range of experience offered in the four recipients of its honorary degrees, by making them the panelists in the interactive forum, "Liberal Arts in the Public Life." Guests Peggy Harris Cleveland, '47, Charles McCoy, '42, Flora MacDonald and Billy Howard '77 fielded questions from students, faculty and alumni, and addressed what they saw as the social responsibility of a humane being.

When asked what they thought the leaders of the twenty-first century would be like, minister and humanitarian Peggy Harris Cleveland stressed the need for "compassionate imagination," the need to "have

an understanding of life in another person's shoes."

Billy Howard's answer was that people should have "a passion, and a passion for that passion." Flora MacDonald, in a slightly different vein, stressed that people, particularly women, should develop a more comfortable relationship with power and not "stand on the sidelines." Flora MacDonald suggested that people may want to begin work in their local governments, where they have the best chance of being heard.

In the forum, and at the reception that followed, Cleveland, McCoy, MacDonald and Howard shared some important secrets on the vital, responsible life with St. Andrews.



SAPC President Warren Board presents Flora MacDonald with her

Honorary degree recipient's story an inspiring one

by Amanda Willoughby

As a teenager, Billy Howard stayed in so much trouble that he was

on a first name basis with some of the Raleigh police department. As a young adult, he came to St. Andrews,

tried to understand what Neal Bushoven was talking about, and got an English degree instead. Nearly

twenty years later, Howard was back at St. Andrews—this time to receive an honorary degree as a Doctor of Humane Letters, in recognition of his career as a photographer.

I went to the Belk Center on a Sunday afternoon, with pencil and paper, all ready to get something profound out of Billy Howard, something about what inspired him to do the things he'd done, why he became a photographer,

how he chose his subjects. I asked standard nosy questions for a photographer.

Then, I took a look at the photographs in the exhibit "Portrait of Spirit: One Story At A Time." The entire plan was blown to bits. Billy Howard was only a very small part of this story.

As he walked me through the exhibit, and I read Holtzberg's text, I felt as though I was actually being introduced to a new generation of brand new people. I met a man who spent his days in St. Andrews City, dragging his wheelchair up the curbs when he wasn't training for the paralympics, and a woman who has traveled the world, deaf and blind. In the afternoon, I cringed at the thought of these people have had



Freshman Matt Saurwald examines one of the displays that made up Billy Howard's exhibit "Portrait of Spirit: One story at a time."

Photo by Rooney Coffman