

Flynn Communicates Art at Methodist

JOHN ARNOLD
Editor-in-Chief

And yes my friends, the muse has landed. After a long trip away, she has come to visit through one extremely original voice. I had lost all faith in poetry, but on Friday, November 25th, through the wit, wisdom, and humor of poet, author, and rock star, Keith Flynn, I have regained my love.

A humble man, Flynn stepped to the podium and thanked the audience for coming out to see "some shaggy poet." His voice was rusty, like an old blues singer. His jet black hair pulled back into a pony tail touching the small of his back. Flynn took to the audience like an appendage. He belted out line after line in mystic ambiance as both professors and students clung to their seats trying not to be blown away by the sheer intensity of his words.

Closing his eyes softly, Flynn often broke out into song before reading a poem. It was with pure emotion Flynn began harmonizing the lyrics:

"Ain't no sunshine when she's gone..." as an introduction to his powerful love poem, *Dream Trail*. Flynn is no Byron, however. The topics of his poetry ranged from political to abstract to personal. Flynn's poem, *The Secret War of Art*, seemed to convey who he is as a poet. With lines such as:

"Finding your own story is like trying to change a tire under water..."

Flynn unveils the complex nature of the most straightforward line. Flynn's poetry reads almost like a story. He fills the reader's imagination with consequential ad-



photo by John Arnold

Flynn reads his poetry and thanks the audience for listening to some shaggy poet. jectives that convey a central theme with hundreds of underlying meanings.

Flynn feels it is the poet's job to "communicate art." He stressed the necessity of finding one's own voice, and making poetry your own. Like a true poet, Flynn remained off subject but on target. He briefly discussed topics ranging from the current war in Iraq to the rap group NWA, and the effects they have had on contemporary poetry. Flynn was so passionate when he spoke that it was often hard to differentiate whether he was lecturing or just writing a poem out loud. In any case, Flynn is a being of inspiration, a man of motivation, and a poet of declaration; we should all be thankful the muse has decided to land on his shoulders and speak her words through his voice.

Flynn is a native of Asheville, NC, and the author of three collections of poetry including *The Talking Drum*, *The Book Of Monsters*, and *The Lost Sea*. Flynn works as managing editor of the *Asheville Poetry Review*, a literary review which he also founded in 1994. For many years Flynn recorded and toured with his rock band "The Crystal Zoo." For the previous 65 days before coming to Methodist Flynn toured such colleges as Harvard and Brown reading his poetry and promoting his new CD, *Nervous Splendor*, a spoken word and musical compilation. Flynn spends an average of 200 days a year touring the country reading his poetry. We are very lucky he decided to make a stop at MC.

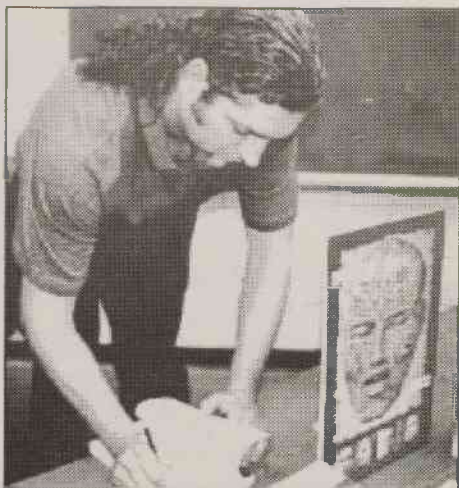


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Flynn takes time to sign a fan's book.

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