

# Poetry readings offer different perspective

By LINDA KLINE

## Review

Sometimes it seems that few people would choose to attend a poetry reading.

Poetry is difficult to understand when read as well as when printed on a page. However, one at least has the advantage of reading or re-reading the poem or poems and ultimately coming to a somewhat sensible reading.

A poetry reading, on the other hand, requires even more concentration. Unless one is familiar with the work that will be read during the presentation, it is necessary to extrapolate a meaning from the words as they are being spoken. One is no longer afforded the luxury of returning to the printed word for a verification of what has been spoken.

Nonetheless, a new perspective of the poetry is gained when it is read aloud. The printed words come alive through the poet's voice. Through his or her tone and inflection it is possible to visualize more vividly what has been written. The disadvantage of not being able to study the poem in more depth still exists, but to hear a poem renders it a quality not readily apparent when it is read silently to oneself. It gives the listener a chance to enjoy poetry in a way not often experienced.

Derek Walcott recently visited the campus to read his poetry. It is not

often that a poet and playwright of Walcott's stature visits North Carolina Wesleyan. His reading to a standing room only crowd was challenging.

Listening to some of his poems required one's complete attention to his every word. It was often easier to listen to the poems that contained more concrete images than to those containing many allusions and metaphors. Yet, this disadvantage was minimized by the richness of the words being spoken.

The influence of his homeland was evident in the poems that Walcott read. By using his region's history and culture he writes not only for his people but for the outside world as well. His poems enable us to take a look at our society through the eyes of one from a region close to ours geographically, but very different culturally.

Born in St. Lucia in the Caribbean, Walcott possesses a mixed French Creole and English dialect. His dialect and flawless diction are a pleasure to listen to. Also, his poems reflect Walcott's love of language and the countless ways in which

words can be used to convey a message.

It is the ability to look at society from a different perspective that makes a literary event such as Walcott's reading enriching and rewarding. Indeed, the notion of a new and different "look" is one of the most valuable aspects of the poetry reading series at North Carolina Wesleyan College.

The readings at NCWC also give the audience some sense of each poet's perspective in his work. For instance, during the spring of 1987 American poets Robert Creeley, Ed Dorn, and Jonathan Williams each visited the campus to reflect upon how their work was influenced by the reknown Modernist poet William Carlos Williams, as well as read from their works.

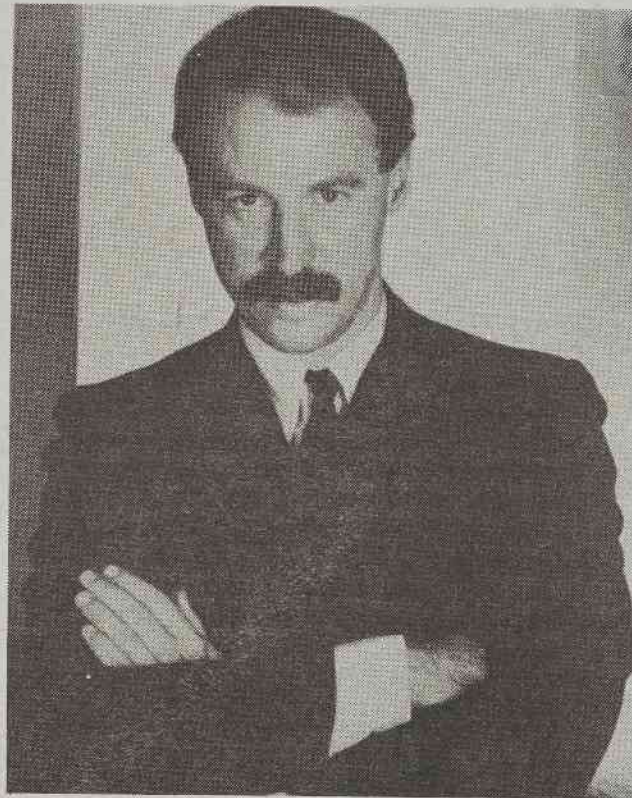
Through the visits of these highly respected artists the individuals and the community of North Carolina Wesleyan and Rocky Mount are enriched culturally.

Poetry readings may be viewed by some as only for egghead academics wearing tweed jackets. But the fact is that a reading can be enjoyed by everyone. An event that occurs rarely in this community, each reading allows us to experience the beauty of poetry as it is read. A poetry reading will not only reveal how others view life, but affect how you view life as well.



GUEST SPEAKER — NCWC Librarian Anne Wilgus (left) chats with Dr. Maud Chaplin, professor of philosophy at Wellesley College following Dr. Chaplin's afternoon talk on "The Impact of the Computer on Privacy" on Feb. 9. Dr. Chaplin, this spring's visiting scholar, also addressed the issue of "Technology and Gender" in a morning lecture. Chaplin last visited Wesleyan in the fall of 1986.

Photograph by Becket Logan



## ALLAN GURGANUS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLICATION OF

### GOOD HELP

FROM NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE PRESS  
WILL READ FROM HIS WORK ON FRIDAY EVENING

**FEBRUARY 19, 1988**

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE COLLEGE LIBRARY



Mr Gurganus will appear with copies of *Good Help* on Saturday, February 20th at:

J. J. HARPER'S BOOKS  
142 SW Main Street in downtown Rocky Mount  
from 10 am until noon

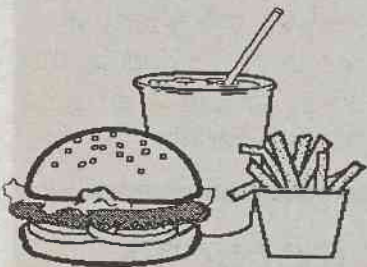
WALDENBOOKS  
Golden East Crossing Shopping Center  
from 12:30 to 2:30 pm

BOOKE SHOPPE  
Englewood Square Shopping Center  
from 3:00 to 4:00 pm

### What's New At...

## DOC'S RESTAURANT

N.C. Wesleyan College Campus



### Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 9-10 a.m. Coffee Only  
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Sunday-Thursday: 8:30-11:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

(Pizza and Soft Drinks Only)

Restaurant (by the slice) and dorm delivery, Call 977-3388

## Luncheon Specials at \$2

February

**Monday** — Tuna pita, fresh vegetables w/salad dressing, diet cottage cheese

**Tuesday** — Homemade soup, tossed salad, mini ham or cheese sandwich

**Wednesday** — Stuffed baked potato, fresh broccoli, cheese and bacon

**Thursday** — Marinated breast of chicken, wild rice, vegetable garnish

### Movies on Wednesday

9:30-11:30 p.m. on the Big Screen

Tom Cruise and Kelly McGinnis fight  
Ruskies and each other next in *Top Gun*.

