



**Kathy Myers, left, shows Theatre Appreciation classmate Jennifer Barnes the autographed copy of "W;t" Myers received from the playwright Margaret Edison.**  
**PHOTO: CHRISTA FRYAR**

### Student goes directly to source

By JENNIFER L. BARNES

Few students have gone as far as Kathy Myers in doing research for a class project.

For Rosalyn Lomax's Theatre Appreciation class, each student has to make a presentation on a play.

Myers, once a long distance truck driver who is now taking Drama as an elective in her criminology justice major, chose to present Margaret Edison's *W;t*.

Myers said she chose this play because it was the first one mentioned in the book.

Though she didn't think much about picking a particular play, Myers put a lot of extra effort and thought into the research of the play.

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, she traveled to the historical Barter Theater in Abingdon, VA, the second oldest working theater in the United States.

By far, the most interesting source in Myers' research of *W;t* was the playwright herself. Myers learned that Edison is a kindergarten teacher in Atlanta. One day the idea just struck her. What if she could interview Edison via telephone?

Myers decided to ask information for Margaret Edison's home phone. The nervous Myers placed a call to Edison.

The student and playwright had an interesting chat about *W;t*. When Myers asked Edison why she wrote the play, Edison told her the story needed to be told and someone had to write it.

*W;t* is about a professor of 18<sup>th</sup> century literature who is dying from cancer. In fact, this production is the first to present the trials of a cancer patient on stage.

Myers says the play really struck her because cancer is not selective and can strike anyone.

The professor is a John Donne scholar, and the play's title honors Donne's use of the semicolon.

As well as agreeing to the interview, the playwright sent Myers an autographed script from the play. In return, Myers sent a copy of all her research to Edison.

The 2 have since been corresponding and plan to meet one day.

## Chorus

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Chris White had the spotlight on "Joy" (with "Joy to the World"), and Carolyn Cissel soloed on "The Jesus Gift."

The familiar "Silent Night" was performed next, with Cullen Jarman as soloist.

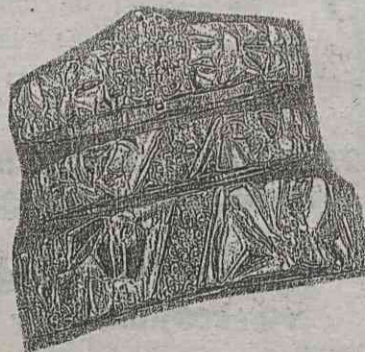
To wrap up the evening's festivities, percussionists Curl and Tim Heath accompanied the chorus in Benjamin Harlan's "African Alleluiah."

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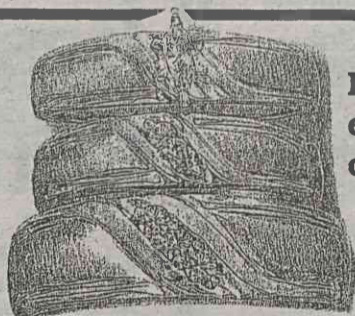
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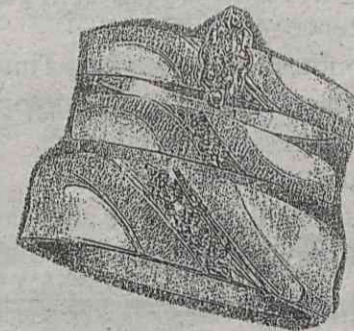


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