

Rick Gray

# Novelist blasts N.C. education

**CHANGE: A Handbook For The Teaching of English and Social Studies.** Edited by Sylvia Wilkinson. Learning Institute of N.C. Press. 225 pages. \$5.50.

As a North Carolina public school student, I look back with resentment; I resent my poor education, much of it impossible to catch up, since I, with a number of my high school friends as well as recent graduates, speak of success not because of, but in spite of."

In the preface to the teaching handbook she has edited, Sylvia Wilkinson, novelist, former teacher and sports car nut, blasts the North Carolina public education system.

But she doesn't stop with issuing an

idictment. Working with co-editor Ed Campbell, a former reporter and columnist for the Winston-Salem Twin City Sentinel, and the Learning Institute of North Carolina in Durham under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and local funds, Miss Wilkinson has put together a handbook which, if followed, could do more than anything else to improve the quality of secondary education in the state.

The following passage from her preface to the handbook, a preface entitled "Holden Caulfield is 35 years old," tells why Miss Wilkinson undertook the project:

"Each teacher stands in an individual box before a block of students reading from a thick book in front of a blackboard. When the bell rings, I hit the wall because after the gates open, that block of humanity turns into a herd stampeding for its freedom. I wonder how they can be getting what they need in those classrooms; the human animal is not that disinterested in his needs. I know that I didn't get what I needed there, twelve years ago. Thinking and creating were avoided, hidden, and ignored; memorization and regurgitation were the bywords."

From that preface, "Change" goes into three sections, each designed not so much to teach as to help students learn. English, Social Studies and the Arts are covered, and each section outlines sections of study with heavy use of audio-visuals, student-participation, creative thought and individual study.

The individual sections of the books are written by high school teachers who have tried a new approach to education in public high schools and who have found that the students there actually do want to learn, if only they are given the opportunity to learn, not forced into

memorization and regurgitation.

Perhaps the best example is the section on social studies which includes study guides and outlines for classroom studies of human rights, minorities and prejudice in American society.

The unit includes three lectures, but they are only basic background material on the history of the blacks, the Chicanos, the Puerto Ricans and the American Indians in today's society.

The lectures are designed to take up only one class period and are not intended to tell the whole story of American discrimination against minority groups.

The discovery of that discrimination is left to the students themselves.

The most representative subsection is on the black in American society. The bibliography of materials is ten and a half pages long, but the two most utilized books in the unit outline are Harper Lee's "To Kill A Mockingbird" and Richard Wright's autobiographical novel "Black Boy."

One tells the story of a white man fighting discrimination in a southern town, the other is the story of a rural American black in the South fighting discrimination for which he can see no justification.

Role playing is the way to get the idea across, according to the course outline.

Students are placed in situations spelled out by the scenes in the two novels. They play the roles, write what their reactions would be and then read the scene from the book.

And by reading the student evaluations which are presented one can see that the method works.

And that is the whole purpose of "Change," to show the teachers in North Carolina's public schools that the lectures and the textbooks they have used since the beginning of the 1950s don't work. They never have really, and they are hopelessly outdated now.

As Miss Wilkinson says in her preface, there are some teachers who will read this book and take some of the suggestions offered. But there are others who will ignore the whole thing saying, "What I've been using up to now had worked fine. The principal likes it so why should I change?"

And, like Miss Wilkinson, we can only hope that those teachers will soon retire. They aren't helping the state's public schools at all.

But if the teachers in the state system would give the programs outlined in this book even half a chance, there will be a lot of students graduating from high schools in a few years who won't have to take courses in the college they should have had years before.

## Campus calendar

All horseback riders: Harold Glascock has office hours from 7-8 p.m. Monday through Friday in the basement of the Carolina Union next to the bowling alley for complaints and help.

Undergraduates, graduate students and

faculty interested in talking about or working with the Carolina Symposium 1972, "The Mind of the South," please come by Frank Porter Graham Lounge of the Carolina Union any time Monday, April 26, or Friday, April 30, 1-5 p.m.; or Tuesday, April 27, and Thursday, April 29, 2-5 p.m.

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Howie Carr

## Oldest talkie back

Having reached that point in the year where the networks show almost nothing but re-runs in prime time, it seems only natural that Channel 28 should broadcast the oldest "talkie" of them all, "The Jazz Singer," starring Al Jolson.

Originally released in 1927, "The Jazz Singer" was first shown on Channel 28 on Classics Theater last night. It will be rebroadcast this afternoon beginning sometime between 4:30 and 5:30. Along with Jolson, the film features May McAvoy and Warner Oland, who later starred in 15 Charlie Chan movies ground out by Twentieth-Century-Fox's B division.

Unfortunately for its viewers, Channel 28 which bills itself as "the cinema station for the Piedmont," will not maintain its momentum for the rest of this week. On Wednesday night at 7:30, for example, WRDU will broadcast a 1966 movie called "Out of Sight" which concerns "a man rock 'n' rolled into madness (who) plots revenge against the teen set."

The rock immortals in the movie include Gary Lewis and the Playboys, Freddie and the Dreamers, and the Turtles. In other words, a regular warm-up for Jubilee.

The American Broadcasting System (Channels 5 and 8) goes with two first run specials tonight. "Li'l Abner" which begins at 8, is a musical comedy dealing with an ecological problem facing Dogwood, and after an old George Plimpton-John Wayne special, there's an hour-long salute to the Mississippi River by Tom Jones and Mary Travers (formerly of Peter Paul and Mary).

Tuesday night is a total loss until 11:30, when Dick Cavett devotes his full ninety minutes to an interview of John G. Neihardt, the 90-year-old poet laureate of Nebraska. Neihardt is an authority on the American Indian, and the show will

probably be interesting to anyone who's seen "Little Big Man."

As for the other talk shows this week, Joey Bishop is "sitting in" for Johnny Carson, and Merv Griffin is, well, Merv Griffin.

Wednesday night on the networks is exclusively reruns, including even Dick Cavett. Take your pick, Merv or Joey.

The downward slide continues Thursday night as "Alias Smith and Jones," which only began in January, goes into re-runs. Channel 2 has scheduled a 1963 Doris Day movie for 9, "The Thrill of It All."

If for some reason you can't make it to Jubilee Friday night, there's a Humphrey Bogart-James Cagney cowboy movie on Channel 28's Tuff Theater at 11. Channel 2 has a pair of Westerns that night beginning at 11:30, both of which star Guy Madison of "Wild Bill Hickock" fame.

## Choir goes to sing at Daytona

The Carolina Choir departs from Hill Hall today at 1:00 p.m. en route to the Southern Division Convention of the Music Educators National Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Choir, unanimously chosen from over 130 groups as the top collegiate choir in the South, will present the opening concert of the conference on Wednesday. The Choir will also appear Thursday in a demonstration-performance. At both concerts the Choir will be assisted by the UNC Brass Ensemble, directed by John Harding.

The 74-member Choir, under the direction of Dr. Lara Hoggard, will offer a program of sacred works.

The appearance of the Choir at Daytona Beach is financed in part by gifts from the alumni, the UNC administration and faculty, and friends of the University. The Choir also raised money by selling the Choir's long-playing record, "Rejoice in the Lamb," and other memorable performances.

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JET TO EUROPE \$189.00 NY-LONDON-NY June 9-Aug. 25 UNC Flights, 201 Carolina Union

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FOR SALE: 1961 Mercedes 2201 New paint, tires, and upholstery work. Very good condition. \$700. Call 967-5854 and ask for Ed or leave message.

Need responsible female grad/mature undergraduate to share very nice two-bedroom house/Davie Circle. Move in May 20. Inexpensive, convenient. 929-5982 after 9 p.m.

FOR SALE: 10-speed Huffly Bike—3 months old. \$60 or best offer. Call 929-5982 after 6 p.m. or write: Box 495, Chapel Hill.

HOUSE TO SUBLET for summer. 3-bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, completely furnished (renting at unfurnished price—\$150). 967-1095.

1-bedroom apt. to sublet June 1-Aug. 25. Furnished air conditioned, 15 min. walk to campus. \$110/month. Call 967-5173. Ask for Scott.

FOR SALE: 1962 Falcon station wagon. Call 933-4223.

ATTENTION GIRLS: Don't let another month slip by without doing something about your figure. Join Rabano School of Dance Exercise Program. Meet twice a week, 5:00 or 7:00 for college students. More Information: 967-3816.

GUITAR, CLASSICAL in good condition, for sale very cheap. Also, tennis racket for sale, very cheap. Call 967-6443.

SCHOOL BUS: Converted for camping, retirement, vacation, liberation or 7 REBUILT ENGINE, STOVE, REFRIG., TOILET, WATER, WIRED, carpeted, etc. \$3,000 or trade. Mark Nesse, M-W-F, Manning Hall.

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Nice 2-bedroom apt. for rent in Carrboro. Available May 1. 1971. \$105/mo. Call 967-4223.

Have large (4 people), partially furnished apartment for summer sublet—5-10 minutes walk from campus—swimming, air conditioning, \$175 monthly. Call Scott: 942-5955.