

Dynamic Doc Wood hits the road as a poet

by Celia Alves

Dr. Clara Wood of Brevard College shared her poetry with the Chapel Hill Women's Club earlier this month.

Dr. Wood wrote her first poems when she was about 8 years old. She said that she was fascinated with just words; however, after that period she did not write any more for a long time.

In the fall of 1976, she moved here and started teaching English at Brevard College. But the next spring she began writing again, just for herself. Dr. Wood also said that about five and a half years ago she began to get really serious about writing. As she described her feelings on writing, she said, "It depends on what stage. Usually it starts with a phrase that I get in my mind, and I have a feeling of pressure until I start writing about it. Then, this feeling of relief, when I finally have something on the paper. And also dissatisfaction, because it is never right. I guess it would be something like a student who is really trying to write a good essay."

Dr. Wood's mother, who is the chairman of the literature and drama subgroup of Chapel Hill Women's Club, asked Dr. Wood to take part in the Jan. 5 program.

Dr. Wood said, "I believe that a poem really isn't finished until somebody has read it, and heard it, and responded to it. So, at the lecture, a lady came up to me and having no previous contact with me or my poetry, started quoting me. That's the communication."

As a writer, Dr. Wood says that she values actions and opinions of others. She stated, "I'll always change if somebody says 'Why don't you say something different?' It makes me think," she said, "why I said what I said."

She defines her writing as "short". "I like to find two or three words," she said, "that will say as much as I can possibly say — and go 'click,' but more often they go 'clunk.'"

Dr. Wood concluded, "I cannot picture myself not writing any more. Even if I never get anything else published, I'll keep on writing and keep on trying, because this has become something very important to me."



"Doc" Clara Wood in action: never a dull moment in her class. (Jock Lauterer photo)

"I am Lou!"

by Bill Meiners

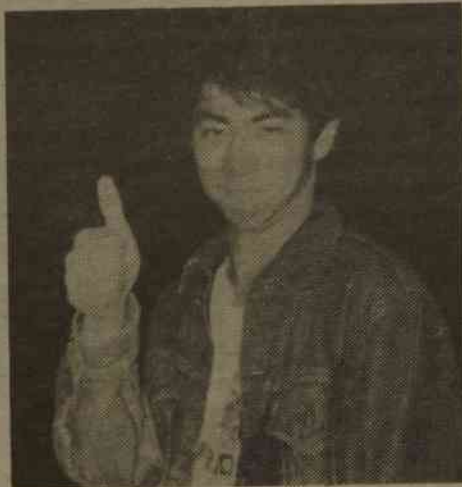
Knock. Knock.

"Who's there?" the paranoid students ask. "I am Lou!" yells the screeching voice beyond the door. The door is opened and the party continues.

Ryuichi Ishikawa, better known as Lou, is a 19-year-old sophomore from Tokyo, Japan.

When asked how Lou came to choose Brevard he replied, "At first I love skiing; so I heard Brevard is in mountains. In the snow a student can ski." Lou was also informed of Brevard's academic reputation by his high school guidance counselor.

Lou misses his girlfriend and Japanese food back home. "Sometimes I think I miss sushi more than I miss my parents," Lou says with a smile.



Lou says, "No problem." (B.R. Orrell photo)

Like many people who visit the United States, Lou has seen a great deal more of this country than most Americans. Living out West last summer, Lou is convinced that California is the place to be. The climate, the girls, and the natural parks in California made quite an impression on the Japanese lad. Lou also said, "Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming is the best national park all over the world."

Asked what he liked most about Brevard campus, Lou replied, "Taylor Dorm is party. I like conversations in cafeteria. This campus girl students are prettier than other college girls. I think. I don't know."

Lou has made many friends here at Brevard. When he first arrived here Lou

could not speak any English. A lot of people took a great deal of time to teach Lou the phrases to help him get along. Today Lou's English is much improved.

What does Lou dislike about Brevard? "Brevard law," Lou said, "and eight o'clock class. Brevard law is more strict than my high school law."

Lou's preconception of the United States was that it would have more major cities and not as much country. Japan is relatively small but is densely populated. Lou enjoys the nature, but at the same time misses the Tokyo night life.

There is a great deal of American influence in Japan. For example, Lou saw Simon and Garfunkel in Tokyo when he was 15. Lou's musical taste ranges from Boston to Jimmy Buffett.

When asked about his dreams Lou said, "I dream in English when I dream American life. When I see American friends in dream I am speaking English. For example, a couple of days ago I dream Taylor dorm party in friend's room. Somebody shot bear. Everybody cutting bear in friend's room. The meat was incredibly delicious." Lou claims he dreams in Japanese when he dreams of home or his Japanese girlfriend.

Lou would like to pursue a career in business. Lou would also like to live here in the United States, but he first must obtain his citizenship.

Overall, Lou is happy with his decision to come to Brevard. "I'm glad to be here because I got good friends. They are wild and crazy. At first I got culture shock, but more and more," Lou says in his improving English, "I belong to be here."

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