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Marty Silverthorne Wins The Chapbook Award

BY BRIGITTE TOMASOVIC

Marty Silverthorne is a senior. He came to St. Andrews after six years of rehabilitation following his motorcycle accident. Marty had business as the original field of study he wished to pursue. However, this was to change soon.

Marty was quickly turned to English after taking Bayes' creative writing class and hearing him read his own poetry. The Writer's Forum was another influential factor in his decision to both study and write poetry. Bayes had told Marty once, "just listen to the music." And listen he did. Yet that did not seem to be enough. Marty felt the need and desire to write the music, like the "perfect country song" he used to dream of writing as a child.

The poetry Marty writes stems from present environments or past experiences; all the poems are real and lived. His themes of writing are particularly character sketches; what he calls "institutional poems", those are hospitals, rehabilitation centers and brick buildings of business; his family; and the

desire to be a real part of the "flower child" generation. Marty says that in some way he is present in all his poems, and not just as the writer.

Marty has taken poetry from being a classroom assignment to an emotional release to a true creation of art. Of all the forms of writing Marty enjoys poetry the most. He defined poetry as being "a bunch of sentence fragments strategically placed and somehow linked."

This year is not the first year Marty entered the Chapbook competition. He entered last year as well in hopes that his name would become familiar in the circle of writers. Perhaps it was this that aided his chances of winning or perhaps it was the true perfection of the poems themselves. As Joel Oppenheimer said, "Marty's poems are alive and sharp beyond his years. It's a pleasure to see them in one place." In response to having won the award Marty said, "I'm too proud to put it into words. This award has made these past four years the best

spent years in my life."

Marty and his fellow writers will be honored at the Annual Writer's Banquet on Thursday, April 18. Afterward Marty and Dr. Robbins, a professor of

creative writing at Radcliffe and Harvard, as well as other student readers will hold a Writer's Forum in the Belk main lounge at 8:00 p.m.



He Started Out Teaching Soccer And Wound Up Teaching Creative Writing.

George Bruce Visits St. Andrews

BY NEIL LESLIE

The career of Dr. George Bruce, Scottish poet, visiting professor of poetry and creative writing at St. Andrews, and E. Harvey Evans, Distinguished Fellow for Spring 1985, had an expected and surprising start.

Dr. Bruce recalls that in his high school days in Fraserburgh, Scotland, he was an "irregular scholar," and "a very

poor examinee." One of his professors told him he was "not regarded as university material." yet he was, "very highly regarded as a footballer (soccer player) and a gymnast," and even went to London for a tryout with Arsenal, a top British soccer team. With such a mediocre school career behind him, how did his family react to his chance for athletic glory? Dr. Bruce says dryly, "My father was not impressed." Bruce failed university en-

trance examinations - including those in English twice - but did score very high in mathematics. But after making a poor showing as a math student, he decided to give English another try. The result: a first class honor degree in English Literature and Language from Aberdeen University.

Since then Dr. Bruce's career has definitely been on the upswing. He has published four volumes of poetry, two of which have won awards; he has

lectured and taught extensively in Scotland, Australia and the United States. He has worked with the British Broadcasting Corporation and produced films and radio and television programs, and written a satirical "entertainment" for the stage which he described as a "perverted history of Scotland." He has received the Order of the British Empire for his contributions to the arts.

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