

Poets to Read At Weymouth Center *Education Update With Brian Rodgers*

Weymouth Center for the Arts in Southern Pines will serve as host for readings by the winners of Poets & Writers' 1988 Writers Exchange Competition on Saturday, May 7.

Poets Chana Bloch and Craig Taylor will read their poetry at 10:30 a.m. and will be special guests for a picnic lunch on the lawn at 12 noon during the North Carolina Poetry Society's Spring Awards Day. (For lunch reservations, send \$6 to NCPS Treasurer Bob Collins, 1511 Market St., Wilmington, N.C. 28402.)

The Exchange is a nationwide program designated to introduce emerging writers to literary communities outside their home states. Winners meet with a variety of publishers, editors and noted authors and are provided with an opportunity to share their work through public readings. Judges for the California competition were celebrated poets Ron Bayes of Laurinburg, N.C. and Amiri Baraka of New York City. The poets will be accompanied on their visit by Writers Exchange Director Frazier Russell of Poets & Writers in New York and hosted by Marsha Warren, executive director of the North Carolina Writers' Network.

Everything from barbecue to a visit to the North Carolina Museum of Art will be included when the California poets tour the Research Triangle on Friday, May 6. They will meet with representatives from small presses, literary magazines and the Duke Writers Conference. After the Southern Pines reading on Saturday, they will travel to Laurinburg to visit St. Andrews Press at St. Andrews College and to participate in an informal reading there.

Another highlight of the weekend will be a gala reception honoring the Californians from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 8 at Raleigh's Artspace. Writers and literary enthusiasts from all over the state will converge at the renovated former Ford Motor Company building on Davie Street in downtown Raleigh for "Chablis & Canapes." Visual artists who occupy the studio and gallery areas of Artspace will be on hand to display their works. Jazz will be provided by the Jim Crew Trio.

Winning poet Chana Bloch of Berkeley is Chairman of the English Department at Mills College. Her book of poems, "The Secrets of the Tribe," was published by The Sheep Meadow Press in 1981. She has published two translations

of Hebrew poetry as well as translation from the Yiddish of the stories of Isaac Bashevis Singer and poems by Jacob Glatstein and Abraham Sutzkever. Her critical study, "Spelling the Word: George Herbert and the Bible," as published by the University of California Press in 1985. Dr. Bloch's poetry awards include the 1974 Discovery Award of the 92nd Street Y Community Center and the 1987 Pushcart Prize.

Craig Tylor lives in Bonsall, a community between Los Angeles and San Diego, and serves as co-leader of the Writing Workshop at the Social Public Art Resource Center in Venice, Ca. He received the 1986 Editors' Poetry Award from "Columbia: A Magazine of Poetry and Prose" and the 1986 Celia B. Wagner Award from the Poetry Society of America. His poems have been published in "Kansas Quarterly," "Beyond Baroque Magazine" and others. For the past five months, Taylor has held writing residencies at the Ragdale Foundation in Illinois and the Dorset Colony House in Vermont. This summer he will be resident poet at the Djerassi Foundation in Woodside, Ca.

The California poets will spend three days, May 6 to 8, in North Carolina and then will continue their exchange with a three-day visit to New York City. Ron Bayes, founding editor of St. Andrews Press, will introduce the Weymouth reading. North Carolina winners of the Exchange, Mike Chitwood, poet, of Chapel Hill and David Weaver, fiction writer, of Durham will be recognized during the program. Their exchange visits to California and New York will be made this Fall 1988.

Poets and Writers is a national literary service organization which publishes a bimonthly magazine and operates the nation's only Information Center for writers. Poets & Writers also distributes over \$200,000 each year to poets and fiction writers who give public readings.

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Over the last four years, I have seen some positive changes in our Education program. There have been strengths and weaknesses in our program. It has been like anything else, not all bad or good. I like some of the changes they are making in our program, but know that it will take some time to work out the bugs. I was lucky enough to be on the Teacher Education Subcommittee where I got a chance to hear about some of the changes that might be coming in our program. I can't say that I have always understood or agreed with what has transpired in our program, but do feel that the people involved felt that what they were doing was in our best interest. Student teaching was a lot of work, but turned out to be a great experience. I will leave St. Andrews to enter a profession that I intend to be successful at and will enjoy a great deal. So this is Au Revoir and please make your tax deductible contributions to yours truly - Brian Rodgers!

P.S. It has been my pleasure to write my column of the Lance this year. I'm not sure if anyone ever got anything from reading my articles or even if anyone read them. But, I know that I enjoyed writing them because they gave me an outlet to share what I felt about the profession of teaching. As a farewell, I would like to thank the members of the faculty that made my preparation for entering the world of teaching possible. To Dr. Steele and Dr. Dunleavy; there were no fatalities from the student teaching experience, thanks and good luck in the future. I would especially like to thank Dr. O.E. Smith for everything he has done for me as an advisor, professor, and most importantly, a good friend. To the teacher education students; persevere and do the best you can! To the Lance staff: you were great to work with!

Mobley To Compete in ParaOlympics

Deborah Kelly

"Athlete; a person trained in exercises, games or contests requiring physical strength and speed." St. Andrews freshman, Tammi Mobley fits this definition with the addition of one important difference. She has cerebral palsy. That disability doesn't stop her from achieving goals that every athlete dreams about.

Eighteen year-old Tammi will be participating in the Para-Olympics in Seoul, Korea in October. The games are sponsored by the United States Organization for the Disabled. She will be competing in the 100-200-400-800 meter races and the slalom, type of obstacle course with cones and ramps.

"For us (disabled persons), this is the Olympics. Amateur athletes from all over the world come to compete. The only difference is they're disabled," she said.

She emphasizes the point that this is not the Special Olympics which is for the mentally rather than the physically handicapped.

For the first time Tammi is old enough to compete in the Para-Olympics. She has been involved with athletics since she was seven or eight. "I was a very closed child. When I realized that I could achieve and be good at sports, it brought me out," she said.

When she reached high school in her hometown, Decatur, Ga.,

she decided to become a serious athlete by participating in regional meets. In these meets she proved to be a contender in bigger and better contests.

In August '87 she was invited to compete at Hofstra University in New York. Here she placed first in the 200-, 400-, and 800- meter races, second in the 100 meter race and second in the slalom. At that time she was ranked fastest in her division, Class 4. This ranking made her eligible to compete in the games in Korea. "My biggest inspiration? My hometown coaches, Kim Grass and Lela Shoates. They dedicate so much time and want me to do well. That means twice as much to me," she said.

Tammi looks forward to competing against world class athletes in Korea, but says this will be her first and probably her last Olympics. "Now that I'm in college, I can't dedicate myself like I did in high school. Competing interferes with my education," she said with a note of regret.

Susannah Woodson, Tammi's close friend, summed up the hard work and determination that got the athlete to where she is today. "She's spunky and has a lot of fight. When people tell her she can't do things, she goes ahead and proves them wrong."



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