

# Fortner Writing and Community Awards Recently Presented

By Malissa Talbert  
Communications Director

Three North Carolina journalists received the Ethel Nestell Fortner Writer and Community Award Friday, February 22 at St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

Rolfe Neill, chairman and publisher of The Charlotte Observer; Roy Parker Jr., contributing editor to the Fayetteville Observer-Times; and Roy H. Park, of Ithica NY, founder and chairman of Park Communications Inc., are all key figures in journalism today. They were chosen to receive the Fortner awards in recognition of their support of beginning writers, as well as their continued support of the fine arts.

Published frequently by the St. Andrews Review, Fortner was a major benefactor of the St. Andrews Press

and routinely encouraged the efforts of beginning writers until her death in 1987.

Sam Ragan, Poet laureate of North Carolina and publisher of The Pilot in Southern Pines, knows each of the recipients personally and presented the awards during a luncheon at St. Andrews.

Ragan called Park, "A man of great vision who has made tremendous accomplishments. The development of Park Communications is one of the most significant developments in journalism in this country."

Ragan said of Neill, "One of the things that has most stood out about Rolfe Neill is the integrity he has maintained as a reporter, editor, columnist and publisher. He is one of

America's great newspaper men."

Ragan said Parker, "has contributed so much to the arts and culture of North Carolina. It is fitting that he has received this award."

Also during the luncheon, Associate Professor of History, Tom Williams, discussed a trip that he and nine students recently took to Vietnam. Williams said that the experience helped to, "shrink the distance" of Vietnam and the Vietnam War and thus, "enlarged the sense of community."

Lane Moore, a senior from Georgia, said the trip helped, "expand my awareness of world events. It opened my eyes, my ears and my heart to the greater community."

Following the luncheon, Neill,



Award winners Rolfe Neill, Roy Park, Roy Parker, Jr. and mediator Sam Ragan participate in a panel discussion on censorship. (Photo by Rooney Coffman)

Parker, and Park took part in a panel discussion, moderated by Ragan, concerning censorship and the Persian Gulf War.

All four men acknowledged censorship in reporting the war is prevalent, but expressed varying opinions about that censorship.

Noting the axiom "truth is the casualty of war," Ragan said, "It is a very serious matter when we are lied to day after day and we do not do anything about it."

Park agreed with Ragan, adding that the censorship does not allow for a "free press" and that reporters, particularly those in broadcasting, often report events without citing sources. Without substantiation, television reporters, "end up writing fiction many

times," Park added.

Neill took a somewhat different viewpoint, saying, "Yes we do have a censorship problem with this war," but that some degree of censorship in the media is inevitable.

Parker agreed, saying that the reporting of the war has so far been accurate. However, he added, "The military really has us over a barrel and there is not much we can do about it."

Reporters in both the print and broadcast media can only work with the military officials and try to get any additional information on their own, Parker added.

Neill said reporting of the war's events are controlled by the military. "Basically we know only what we have been told. In that sense, we are being deprived of America's oxygen."

## Primal Screen

By Angela Lynch  
Contributing

### "Awakenings" is a Real Hit

On the widescreen this month, a delightfully light-hearted and yet profound emotional film takes a panoramic view of life's precious moments and meanings. Awakenings, directed by Penny Marshall, focuses on the transference of friendship among Dr. Malcolm Sayer (Robin Williams) and a group of post-encephalitic patients—victims of a sleeping sickness that emerged in the 1920s.

Emotionless and frozen in a suspended world, these patients are brought into a new reality led by Dr. Sayer's medical treatment and their own awakened desires to grasp onto any emotion that will confirm that they are, indeed, alive. Robert DeNiro also stars in this film as Leonard Lowe, a "dormant" patient which is the first



Leonard Lowe (Robert DeNiro) lost in a sleep-like state for decades, is brought back into the real world when Dr. Malcolm Sayer (Robin Williams) treats him with an experimental drug in "AWAKENINGS." (Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures)

to receive the experimental treatment. Through this summer of awakening, it is the connection that Leonard and Sayer share that uncovers a layer of care, warmth, and love in them both. Director Penny Marshall shows a considerable growth in vision from her last film, Big, and allows this true story—based on Dr. Oliver Sack's book—to be both fun and touching. DeNiro turns in a wonderful performance and Williams definitely proves himself worthy of another Academy Award. Julie Kavner (the voice of Marge Simpson) makes a commendable performance as Nurse Costello with the right touches of laughter and heart. All in all, Awakenings is a wonderful picture—let's hope that it is not overlooked on Oscar Night.

MPAA Rating: PG-13  
Running Time: 121 mins.

### "Flatliners" on Videocassette

Joel Schumacher's 1990 box office hit could be characterized as a chilling, modern day version of the Prometheus myth. Kiefer Sutherland, along with Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon, star as part of an ambitious group of medical students who dare to breach the infamous "undiscovered country" to bring back the secrets/meanings of life, death, and the after-life.

Following the successful deaths

and resurrections, each character finds that he/she has not only brought back a glimpse of the "other" side but, the horrors that have manifested themselves from their sins. Having reached into the realm once held sacred by religion and philosophy, they must search for their own catharsis through atonement and redemption.

Under the direction of Joel Schumacher (also of *The Lost Boys* fame) and Production Designer Eugenio Zanetti, *Flatliners* is a visually provocative and lyrically symbolic film.

Much of the action takes place in an atmosphere surrounded in darkly lit Gothic and Greek architecture while "shielded" from overhead by ubiquitous frescoes of angels and the ethereal. Suggesting the pull between the light and the dark forces of the world, Sutherland and the others find themselves caught in the middle - frantically searching for the answers to worlds they are not meant to understand.

MPAA Rating: R  
Running Time: 111 mins.



Nelson Wright (Kiefer Sutherland), David Labraccio (Kevin Bacon), Rachel Mannus (Julia Roberts) and Randy Steckle (Oliver Platt) revive Joe Hurley (William Baldwin), who had his heart stopped as part of a chilling life-after-death experiment in "FLATLINERS." (Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures)

## Jazz Ensemble to Perform at Monday Night in the Arts

By Heather Lyn Gupton  
Staff Writer

St. Andrews Presbyterian College's "Monday Night in the Arts" series will present The Classic Touch Orchestra March 10.

The concert will begin at 4 pm, in the Belk Center Lounge at St. Andrews. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

The Classic Touch Orchestra was organized in 1984 by five former members of the 1976-77 Appalachian State University Jazz Band. The eight-piece ensemble is based in Rock Hill S.C., and travels throughout North and South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia. The ensemble performs big band music of the 1940's, adult contemporary hits and light jazz.

Jon Entzi, a frequent performer with the USAir Jazz Band and the Guy Lombardo Orchestra, is the orchestra's manager and lead trumpeter. Band personnel is comprised of

high school and collegiate educators, business professionals and free-lance musicians, including Laurinburg resident Debbie Bridges. Ms. Bridges is a 1990 graduate of St. Andrews who plays piano for the ensemble. Entzi and other band members have performed with Clark Terry, Lew Soloff, Bill Watrous and Rich Matteson in clinics and concerts at Appalachian and other universities.

The group consists of trumpet, trombone, alto/baritone sax, tenor/soprano sax, piano, bass, rhythm guitar and drums with vocals as well. Bridges and her husband Willie are the only Laurinburg residents in the group. Other members come from Columbia, Rock Hill, Clover and Charlotte.

The Classic Touch Orchestra features the work of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Woody Herman and other big band legends as well as popular music from the fifties through the nineties.