

The Decree

A Madam and a Bear Open 2003 Visiting Writers Series

Baggott's Novel Granny Runs House of III Repute in Raleigh

By Maria Walsh, ENG 210, Journalism

As part of the North Carolina Wesleyan College writer's series, Julianna Baggott visited the college on Oct. 2 to promote her third novel "The Madam" that was released in September.

The reading took place in the Dunn Center in the college campus.

Baggott received her MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1991.

Her first novel, "Girl Talk," was published in Feb 2001 and her collection of poems, "This Country of Mothers," followed in April 2001. Her second novel, "Miss America Family," was published in April 2002 and her third novel, "The Madam." was released in September 2003.

She also has two children's books coming out.

Baggott read extracts from each of her novels as well as a few of her poems. She described poetry as 'miraculous.' She says that her 'goal is to create art,' in relation to her work as an author.



Her most recent novel, "The Madam," is based on the life of her grandmother, who was raised in a house of prostitution throughout the twenties and thirties. She describes this novel as 'more and more personal and close to home.'

The writer's series in NCWC has been part of the cultural life of the campus since the 1960's. Other visitors this year will include Wendy Brenner, Daniel Wallace and Haven Kimmel. For more information check the events calendar online.

Brenner's Bear Disturbs the Audience in Powers Hall

By Carla Fitzwater, ENG 111, Composition

Visiting writer Wendy Brenner did a better than average job of keeping the assembled faculty, students and guests entertained Tuesday night, Oct. 21, in Powers Recital Hall with her delightfully disturbing tales of life.

Ms Brenner had her work cut out for her in taming the fidgety room. She herself seemed nervous, stopping often to pour a glass of water or wipe a shaky hand across her sodden brow. The almost panicky energy she generated seemed to flow unrestrained through-out the darkened room, and anyone paying the slightest bit of attention could see that this only added to the intensity of her peculiar brand of story-telling.

The first story she read to us was from her collection of short stories, Phone Calls from the Dead. Nipple, the twisted tale of high school hilarity and gross family secrets had the population of the cozy hall nearly rolling in the aisles.



Ms Brenner, herself, occasionally seemed to be unable to stop an amused snort from surprising her into even more nervous water pouring and forehead wiping.

The second story, <u>I am the</u>
<u>Bear</u>, from the collection <u>Large</u>
<u>Animals in Everyday Life</u>, was
even more disquieting. Although it
lacked the juvenile hilarity of the
previous selection, we all giggled
apprehensively, wondering what

--See "Brenner's Bear" p. 4

Students, Faculty, High-School Students Enjoy 4 Days of Our Homecoming Festivities

By Maria Walsh, ENG 210 Journalism

This year's Homecoming events took place over a number of days with numerous events through the period Wednesday, October 1st to Saturday, October 4th.

All the activities started on Wednesday with Photo Button and Caricatures.

On Thursday there was the opportunity to get airbrush tattoos and picture key chains.

Friday night the Homecoming dance, sponsored by CAB, was held in the Hartness center.

Homecoming events ended on Saturday with Inflatables and a BBQ.

The events that took place on Saturday were open not only to North Carolina Wesleyan College students but to high school juniors and seniors also. It was also open to their parents.

Saturday's events took place on the baseball field with activities for children, students and parents. Many clubs from around campus set up booths and there was also a

Key Chains! Key Chains! Get Your Photo Key Chains!

By Modestine Welch, ENG 210 Journalism

On Thursday October 2, 2003 the Campus Activities Board presented the students, faculty, and staff with Fantasy World Novelty Company. It set up shop on the Hardee's Patio, and provided photo key chains to faculty, staff and students as part of the school's annual Homecoming Activities.

Throughout that day students were seen showing other friends, faculty and staff the picture or pictures they took, students were

searching for other friends and classmates to take pictures with, boyfriends were looking for girl-friends and girlfriends were looking for boyfriends so not to miss their opportunity to grab a snapshot with the one you love.

The photo key chains were available to any and all members of the Wesleyan community. However, the students took more of an interest in the actual picture taking process than the faculty and staff.

BBQ for everyone.

Many clubs joined in such as the Sisters of Distinction who were selling snacks, Psychology Club who were providing face painting, and Alpha Sigma Tau, who had goldfish to be won.

