

Meredith Herald

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Meredith welcomes Canadian writer David Adams Richards

by Jo Hodges

He has been called the "William Faulkner of Canada." His powerful novels follow the drab lives of poverty-stricken families in eastern Canada. David Adams Richards is one of the most talented writers coming out of Canada in a long time. On February 23, Richards gave a reading, answered questions about his writing career, and was treated to lunch by the Colton English Club.

Hailing from the maritime province of New Brunswick, Canada, Richards has published four novels, one collection of short stories, one play, and two screenplays. He read excerpts from two of his novels, including his most recent, *Road to a*

Stilt House, "a story about spiritual poverty not economic poverty."

His literary voice is not unlike his reading voice, direct, even toned but hard edged with bitter emotion. His characters are round, colorful, complex. Richards' writing parallels closely with poetry, with careful catalogings of minute sense perceptions. He writes close to the surface—often too close—to the harsh reality of living in poverty and pain.

After reading from his work, Richards talked about his new novel. "The new book is about a gal of fifteen. It follows her life and the lives of the women around her, her mother, her aunt, etc., for about ten years. It's written in two parts. The first one has been sent to the publisher already. It's a

story of her growing up; her rebellion against her parents, school, and society, and how she tries to find herself."

Richards first took an interest in literature when he was 14 years old. He hadn't read a novel until then. "I never read a book until I was 14. The first one I read was *Oliver Twist* by Dickens. I finally understood why someone would want to read a book without pictures. But when I read *Oliver Twist*, I knew I wanted to be a writer." He continued to write, joining writing clubs and classes. He developed more strongly in the university he attended in Canada. His favorite is Tolstoy; his favorite book, *War and Peace*.

After reading and answering a few questions, Richards shuffled around quietly,

smoothing the sides of his black houndstooth jacket with his palms. He shook hands and smiled shyly when complimented by a student or faculty member. "I can truly say that I'm doing what I want to do. Having my first book published was unreal, really a dream. When I was younger, I felt like the most I could ever do would be to be successful by writing what I knew and what I felt honestly and without prejudice. I feel pretty successful now, although, of course, there are more things I'd like to do, maybe another play. But that's what I tell writers just starting out. Keep writing. Keep it honest and don't forget who you are and where you come from."

College loans available for North Carolinians

Three college loans programs for North Carolina residents attending schools in- or out-of-state are available through College Foundation Inc. in Raleigh.

One program is for students, either dependent or independent and either undergraduate or graduate/professional. The second program is for undergraduate independent students and for

graduate/professional students, either dependent or independent. The third program is for parents of dependent students, either undergraduate or graduate/professional.

For more information, write College Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 12100, Raleigh, NC 27605 or call 919/821-4771.

Area colleges and universities unite to feed Raleigh

Feed Raleigh is an annual food drive sponsored by Raleigh area colleges and universities. Held in March each spring, the project is aimed at helping to relieve some of the hardships facing the needy of our city. We, as students, would like to show our concern for Raleigh's needy and hungry. We believe that we can make a difference.

Feed Raleigh is a one-day event involving thousands of students and residents alike. In just one day, our first Feed Raleigh food drive last March resulted in the collection of over 30,000 cans of food for the hungry. Students from N.C. State, Peace, Saint Mary's, Meredith, Shaw University, and St. Augustine's all joined forces to collect food from many Raleigh communities. This year will be our second Feed Raleigh; we hope to make this worthy event a Raleigh tradition.

This project is special because it involves both the students and the community, working together to solve a tragic and unnecessary problem in our society. Hunger should not exist where there are people so willing to reach out and give.

With the help of WRAL-FM and Domino's Pizza, we hope to reach every person in the Triangle with this cause. It is our goal to inform the public of our concerns, not only as Raleigh students, but as compassionate human beings.

Feed Raleigh will be held on March 21, 1987 on the NCSU Parking Deck (near Reynold's Coliseum) from 9:30-4:00. Those interested meet in front of Johnson Hall at 9:15 a.m. There will be a grocery cart in the cafeteria this week to put all canned goods collected on campus. There is competition between schools; therefore your participation will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, call Libby Dew (7815) or Angie Bryant (7663).

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For your information: Facts about hunger and poverty

Each year Americans throw away 1 out of every 5 lbs. of food produced (137 million tons) — enough food for 50 million people.

Every minute 28 human beings die of starvation, 19 of whom are children under 5.

Every 3 days, hunger claims as many lives as were lost at Hiroshima.

74% of America's impoverished are women and children.

46.7% of all black children live below the poverty line in the United States.

Every day the U.S. throws away enough usable food to fill a baseball stadium 12 feet deep.

1 out of every 5 children live in poverty and is unable to maintain a minimally adequate diet.

Federal food programs have been cut by more than 12 billion dollars since 1980, despite 15 separate studies which concluded that hunger is a serious problem in the U.S.

In 1981, 15.4% of N.C. families lived below the poverty line; in 1982, 18.2%; 1983, 21.5%!

The U.S. Conference of Mayors declared hunger to be "probably the most prevalent and the most insidious problem" facing American cities.