

Campus News

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Pulitzer Prize winning poet to visit campus, read from collected works

CHRISTINA HOLDER
Editor in Chief

□ **If he could choose a meal and a dining companion, he would choose to eat oatmeal with Keats.**

If French artist Manet and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Galway Kinnell had lived in the same time period, they would have had at least one thing in common: an unsullied drive to perfect the art each created.

However, one thing would stand between them.

For Manet it was the museum curator, who Kinnell mentions in the Author's Note of his most recent book of poetry *A New Selected Poems*, who wrestled Manet's paint box from the artist so he would not try to retouch his own creations on display in the museum gallery.

Kinnell claims his own gatekeeper--his editor--was a bit more tolerant than Manet's curator. The editor allowed the poet to coddle his typewriter, mull over rewrites, replace words and delete lines for *A New Selected Poems*, a volume containing selections from Kinnell's eight previous books.

The volume includes selections from *What a Kingdom Was*; *Flower Herding on Mount Monadnock*; *Body Rags*; *The Book of Nightmares*; *Mortal Acts*, *Mortal Wounds*; *The Past*; *When One Has Lived a Long Time Alone* and *Imperfect Thirst*.

Whether the poems are improved or impaired is a judgment he leaves to the reader.

Kinnell's poems plait rich detail into his simple but graceful verse, verse that can easily satisfy much in the same way as can the act of patting a child on the head or whispering a secret in the night air.

All are pleasing not because they are plain but because they are unwaveringly real and carry with them contentment

that cannot necessarily be pinpointed.

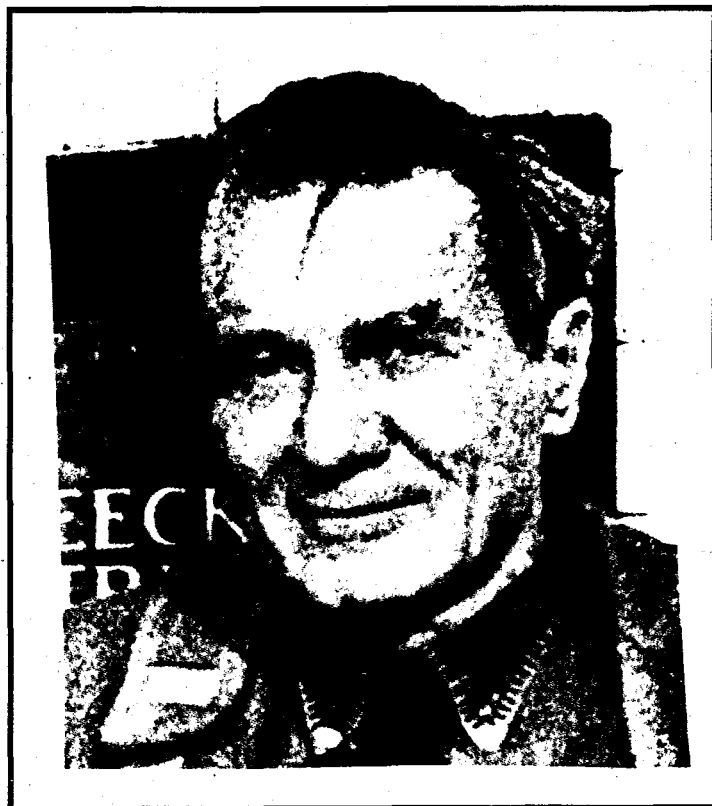
So flows Kinnell's style.

He uses simple subjects--mostly from his life--from his young son to a bowl of oatmeal, to draw the reader into lovely rounds of verse that

come-cry anywhere in the house" and comes running for his parents' bedroom.

The reader laughs.

In the simply-titled "Oatmeal" from *When One Has Lived a Long Time Alone*, Kinnell creates jovial but imagi-



Pulitzer Prize winning poet Galway Kinnell will read from his works on Oct. 1, 2001 in Kresge Auditorium at 7:30 p.m..

PHOTO COURTESY OF FELIX CANDELARIA

leave him or her satisfied, full and quiet at the end.

Often, his simple subjects give way to witty reflections of life. For example in his poem "Kissing the Toad" from *Mortal Acts*, *Mortal Wounds*, Kinnell likens the "immense ivory belly" of a toad to "those old entrepreneurs sprawling on Mediterranean beaches."

The reader laughs.

Or the unpredictable but amusing actions of children are venerated in "After Making Love We Hear Footsteps," in which Kinnell's young son Fergus, who can sleep through his father's snoring "like a bull-horn" or talking loudly "with any reasonably sober Irishman," awakes at the sound of "heavy breathing or a stifled

nary conversations with John Keats while both men eat oatmeal. Keats divulges how "eating oatmeal alone" inspired him to write parts of "To Autumn."

Yet Kinnell warns the reader in the fourth line that he is "aware it is not good to eat oatmeal alone" or any other food.

The reader sees he means it when in the last three lines he says he will eat a "damp, slippery, and simultaneously gummy and crumbly" leftover baked potato and will therefore bid Patrick Kavanagh's company for dinner.

The reader cannot help but to laugh.

Kinnell's poetry is seldom dark, but it is not without aggression or melancholy. A

cluster of his pieces are dribbled with powerful graphics that leave the reader with unsettled thoughts to ponder.

For example in "The Supper After the Last" from *What a Kingdom It Was*, Kinnell creates a "wild man" who viciously "forks the fowl-eye" from a roasted chicken on the table.

In stanza four of "The Bear" from *Body Rags*, Kinnell writes of extreme survival and spiritual self-discovery. He creates a starving and frozen narrator crawling in the woods, a man who decides to "hack a ravine" in a bear's thigh "open him and climb in and close him up...against the wind, and sleep."

Kinnell's first edition of *Selected Poems* won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in 1982.

He is a MacArthur fellow, a recipient of the prestigious grant awarded to those who show potential in producing creative works.

Currently, Kinnell teaches at New York University where he is the Erich Maria Remarque Professor of Creative writing.

Throughout his career, he has written thirteen books of poetry.

A New Selected Poems was selected as a finalist for the 2000 National Book Award.

He will read his works on Monday, Oct. 1, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. in Kresge Auditorium.

A reception and book-signing will follow after the reading.

The reading is free and open to the public.

Campus Briefs

Not all Meredith students eligible for club sports at NCSU

BRIAN GREENWOOD
Assistant Director
for Club Sports, NCSU

I am writing as a representative of the Intramural-Recreational Sports program at NC State University to clarify our policy in regards to Meredith student eligibility in our Club Sports division. With the interinstitutional exchange program that exists between NC State and Meredith and the close physical proximity between the two campuses, it seems that various sport clubs at NC State have misinterpreted our club sports eligibility policies.

Active recruiting of Meredith students was taking place with the misrepresentation that all Meredith students were eligible for club sports at NC State.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP

1) Participants must be recognized as a current student, faculty or staff member of the university.

2) Membership will also be approved by individual club constitution guidelines.

3) A correspondence course does not constitute being recognized as a current student.

"Current student" means at least one credit per semester at NCSU with payment of both tuition and student fees as well as a valid All Campus card. Meredith students taking credit hours at NCSU are billed for both tuition and student fees and are eligible to receive an All Campus card.

However, various individual clubs may have their own membership requirements as dictated by their national governing bodies.

SUBMIT YOUR PRESS RELEASE TO THE HERALD. THE DEADLINE IS 1 P.M. ON THE MONDAY BEFORE WEDNESDAY'S PUBLICATION.