

Betts receives literary award

Author discusses role as woman and writer

by Tim Harrel
Staff Writer

For the third time, Doris Betts, noted author and director of the freshman English program at UNC, has been selected to receive the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for writing.

The highest prize of its kind in North Carolina, the award goes to Betts' recent collection of short stories, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. In an interview last week, Betts discussed the award and some of the events that led to her career as a writer, particularly a writer in the South.

She has mixed feelings about her regional heritage.

"I think there's a lot of things wrong about the South, but the South is like my family. I may criticize it, but I don't want anybody else to. I have loved a great deal about the South that I might have missed in another atmosphere—the love of family, tradition, history seasons, the outdoors and closeness to the earth. There are lots of priceless things out of it that I wouldn't trade for anything.

"I enjoy my Southern accent and I notice when I travel to New York or Chicago my accent gets thicker and thicker. I get like Scarlett O'Hara and I don't have to carry a suitcase anywhere. I get so helpless; it's just pitiful."

Betts said she would not live in the past if

she had the chance.

"I think part of what one writes is part of one's dissatisfaction with the modern world or whatever world you happen to be in. I'm sure if I lived in 1865, I'd find a lot wrong with that one.

"No, I'm not satisfied with the modern world at all and I'm not much satisfied with the writers it has produced. That is, I'm not a Kurt Vonnegut fan, for example. I've read

I feel I should teach in that area in order to know my students better. All of my classes are small and I like it that way. By the end of the semester, I have come to know many of my students very well. I like freshmen. I know a lot of professors here at the university do not like to teach freshmen, but I think they are interesting, fresh, enthusiastic and not familiar enough with college life to be cynical about it.

immature girl and the experiences she has in her first childbirth. "I'm saying here that during childbirth, this immature person realizes her life is the one that's going to be changed. She is now responsible for another life, and in that moment, you lose something; you lose your freedom. And you gain something also. You gain responsibility which is innately very human and very precious."

Betts said *Bitches* and *Sad Ladies* will probably be used in women's studies courses "and will reinforce our paranoia, which I don't consider healthy."

"I really don't see what all the shouting's about. It seems to me that people who believe the constrictions that are placed upon them are at fault, that is, if society says you're a second-class citizen and you believe it, you're pretty dumb. If society says you're second-class and you say back, 'Who says so?', then you're as liberated as you're ever going to be.

"But it seems to me, if somebody has to say it for you, if you have to join a club to say it, or take a course to say it, then the liberation, in and of itself, is just letting somebody new tell you what you are.

"I have not really been mistreated by men. In fact, most of the opportunities that have mattered have come from men. If I have been oppressed, it doesn't seem to have done much damage. That's why I say I probably sound to the movement like an Aunt Jemima. I'm not that angry at men.

"I think that men in America are at least as oppressed as women, by women, by the necessity to work, by the same pressure against dreams that women have.

"I never occurred to me when I was young that life was fair and it hasn't been. It's not fair; it's not fair to men or women. What is so amazing is that so many men and women manage in spite of that to be intelligent and kind and responsible human beings. That's what is worthwhile."

'No, I'm not satisfied with the modern world at all, and I'm not much satisfied with the writers it has produced.'

everything he wrote. But I think he's easy and he's superficial and he is clever. He is so clever, you can't stand him to keep on being clever for one more sentence. Because it's a nuisance. It's a decoration and if you take off the decoration, there's no cake underneath.

"So many times, I feel I'd rather live in another century or age. But I don't think any woman would want to go back and live then. This is certainly the best age to be a woman in. I suppose I could have borne children in the back of a wagon crossing the Great Plains but I'd just as soon not."

Being a teacher, Betts naturally has student contact. "Being director of the freshman and sophomore English program,

"What I like best about my freshman English students is that I am able to watch them grow, and that pleases me. They change so quickly in just one semester. It's an exciting time for them and it's an exciting time for me."

What about students who come to her and say they are failing English because they can't write? "People like that better watch what they say. Writing is not simply a creative gift. It's also a craft and a skill. And I think everyone can learn to write better than he wrote before."

"I do think there are people for whom writing is difficult. But if it's very difficult, the problem is that thinking is difficult. Try thinking without words; you can't. That's the way we are built. So, students ought to be careful when they say they can't write. Secretly, they're saying they can't think in words. If you can think in words, then you ought to be able to think on paper."

One of Betts' most recent works is a short story that "most males hate to read." "Still Life With Fruit" was published in January's issue of *Ms.* magazine and will appear this winter in a collection of stories, *Bitches and Sad Ladies*.

The story concerns a selfish and somewhat

Union presents . . .

ANGELA DAVIS, outspoken critic of the Establishment and center of one of the most celebrated political trials in U.S. history, will speak at noon Tuesday in Memorial Hall as part of the Colloquium on Individual Rights and Liberties.

Davis' stormy public career had conservative origins in academia.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., Davis left the South at the age of 15 to attend Elizabeth Irwin High School in New York City on a Quaker scholarship. She later attended Brandeis University and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris under Herbert Marcuse.

After graduate work in philosophy at Goethe University, Davis returned to the United States to study at the University of California at San Diego. There she soon became a full-fledged member of the Communist party.

MARTHA W. GRIFFITHS, Democratic representative from Michigan and sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, will speak at 8 p.m. Thursday in Memorial Hall.

The Congresswoman is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the new House Committee on the Budget, and is chairman of the Fiscal Policy Subcommittee.

Griffiths has introduced a major health insurance proposal designed to make comprehensive health care services available to all Americans.

THE COLLOQUIUM ON INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES this week will also feature a discussion on Affirmative Action and a discussion on the rights of students in University housing.

Dr. John Dixon of the religion department and Dr. Charles Daye of the UNC Law School will debate the effectiveness of the present AFFIRMATIVE ACTION Policy at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in room 213-215 of the Union.

Betsy Jones, president of RHA, Nita Mitchell, UNC attorney general and Sandy Ward, spokesman for University Housing, will discuss the RIGHTS OF STUDENTS in the wake of the WINSTON Dormitory and the MCIVER incident this summer. The discussion will be at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in room 213-215 of the Union.

The Carolina Gay Association's discussion of personal lifestyles previously scheduled for Monday night has been cancelled.

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON and RITA COOLIDGE will perform at 9 p.m. Friday in Carmichael Auditorium.

Kristofferson, a former Rhodes scholar turned musician, performer and actor, has gained fame for such songs as "Lovin' Her Was Easier," and "The Lady's Not For Sale" which he wrote for wife Rita Coolidge. Rita Coolidge is a former member of Delaney and Bonnie and performed in Joe Cocker's "Mad Dogs" tour. Tickets, \$4 in advance and \$5 the day of the concert, are available at the Union desk.

THE BLUEGRASS EXPERIENCE will perform in the Great Hall at 2 p.m. Monday. The group is comprised of Al McGanless on fiddle, High Point's Charles Lee Conrad on rhythm guitar, Snuffy Smith on bass, Don Beane on banjo, Paul Beane on mandolin and Tommy Edwards on lead guitar.

The SOUTHERN STATES Fidelity Choir and the RED CLAY RAMBLERS will be featured in a joint concert at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the Great Hall. Both groups were included in the original cast of DIAMOND STUDS which had its world premier at the Ranch House in October. This will be one of the last Chapel Hill appearances for the groups before they leave for New York and rehearsals for the show which will open at the Chelsea Theatre Center in January.

The final class in the CLOWN WORKSHOP will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in room 207 of the Union. The session will feature the final makeup, costume and props of the clown troupe and possibly some skits towards the end of the class. There is no charge for the workshop.

Tickets are now available at the Union desk for the EARL SCRUGGS REVUE/LINDA RONSTADT concert at 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 in Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 on the day of the performance.

Gene Barbour and the Cavaliers and The Vandales will play at a DANCE in Woolen Gym Saturday after the Duke game. Admission is by student ID.

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2 vegetables, Delicious Homemade
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TUES:
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fresh salad, hot rolls

WED:
VEAL PARMESIAN With Spaghetti

THURS: CHICKEN w/ DUMPLINGS
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FRI: BRAISED BEEF TIPS
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soup, crackers

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DTH Classifieds

FOR SALE

For Sale: Lafayette 8-track stereo cartridge playback unit. \$80 new. Will sell for \$35. Call 933-8038.

Granville Towers 535 spring semester contract for sale. Call Elaine, 933-0456 after 11:00 p.m.

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FOR RENT

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Available Now: 2 & 3 bdrm. furnished mobile homes for rent, central heat, gas & water furnished. From \$95/month to \$125/month. Call 929-1854 after 12 noon.

For Sale: Housing contract, Ehringhaus dorm room 260. Contact Betsy Lindley at 933-5355.

Would like to sell woman's room contract for spring semester in Craige dorm. Contact Jay Jay Little 933-7118. Leave message if not there.

Winston Dorm Contracts Available Immediately—women's. Can occupy now and not pay until Dec. 1. Call 933-6136 or 967-8087. These are north campus rooms.

Must sell room contract for spring semester in Granville Towers East. Call Betsy at 933-1824.

Good Banjo with case. Loves hard pickin'. \$80. Call John Fielding 968-9305.

For Sale: '71 Capri 2000, 4-speed, air, AM/FM, Tape Deck, Radios. 933-1161, 2-4 p.m.; 942-5288 after 7 p.m.

Two roommates in Granville East want to sell spring semester leases. If interested call 933-7118. Keep trying.

Must sell Granville Towers (West) spring lease. Call 933-2613 anytime after 1 p.m.

Wanted: Roommate to share apt. 1/2 rent plus utilities. Call 929-6749 after six. Keep trying.

HELP WANTED

Male undergrads wanted to assist in psychology experiment. 40 hours of work between now and end of classes. \$125. Call 942-7638 after 6.

MISCELLANEOUS

Happy 8-day Babes Red Beard

REWARD for return of octagonal wire rimmed glasses lost around Hillsboro Street, Wednesday Nov. 13th. Call collect Durham 383-4986 after 5:00 p.m. Kathie Jones.

For personal aid in student travel, see Kathryn Boone Eastern Airlines campus representative. Make your holiday reservations now. Inquire about package vacations and group rates. Call 942-7960.

Norman's TV service. We specialize in repairs to stereo equipment and tape recorders. 30 years experience. 209 N. Gregson Street, Durham. New phone number: 682-8261.

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Crossword Puzzler

Answer to Saturday's Puzzle:

HOD	MIDAS	LAG	AWA	ERECT	ETA	SENATE	TINSEL	ORE	SORES
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LEMAN	ERA	LOT	TRIP	SON	WITH	PADDLE	BITTER	ALL	OILED
PIE	ENATE	ERE							

ACROSS

- 1 Footlike part
- 4 Mass of cast metal
- 9 Remuneration
- 12 A state (abbr.)
- 13 Loop
- 14 Native metal
- 15 Highest
- 17 Standards
- 19 Seep through
- 20 Mine entrance
- 21 Small plant
- 23 Emphasized
- 27 Doctrine
- 29 Land measure
- 30 French article
- 31 Bitter vetch
- 32 Wash lightly
- 34 Metal fastener
- 35 Artificial language
- 36 Organ of body
- 37 Peruses
- 39 Capital of Alberta
- 42 Liberate
- 43 Release
- 44 Dines
- 46 Pattern
- 48 Individuals
- 51 Unusual
- 52 Wear away
- 54 Insect egg
- 55 Body of water
- 56 Frock
- 57 Secret agent

DOWN

- 1 Stroke
- 2 Guido's high note
- 3 Taverns
- 4 Girl's name
- 5 Part of face (pl.)

6 Obtain

7 Bone

8 More delicate

9 Harbors

10 Limb

11 Affirmative

16 Run easily

18 River in France

20 Part of circle (pl.)

21 Cubic meter

22 King of Judea

24 Kind of dance

25 Omit in pronunciation

26 Thick

28 Rolled along

33 Preposition

34 Clergymen

36 Solitary

38 Newtons

40 Murky

41 Wants

45 War god

46 Crowd

47 Room in harem

48 American

49 Pinch

50 Phippen

53 Railroad (abbr.)

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