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UA68/6 Newsletter #4

WKU English

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THE WKU ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER #4 (November 9, 1981)

This newsletter is an internal biweekly publication to help keep everyone informed about activities related to English teachers and English teaching at WKU.

DATE

November 12 (Thursday) The English Department Public Service Committee is sponsoring a workshop and reading by poet Connie Martin, in CH 125

ACTIVITIES

RON ECKARD will be at Indiana University, November 8-10, to chair the annual Region VI Conference of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA). The conference is expected to attract more than 150 participants from Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

On November 2, LAMAR HERRIN, a member of the creative writing faculty at Cornell, conducted a workshop and read from his recently completed novel, Pure Products. His two other novels are entitled The Rio Loja Ringmaster (Viking, 1977) and American Baroque (Avon-Bard, 1981). His visit was arranged by JOE SURVANT.

MARY ANN KEARNY's latest book is The Man Without a Country, an adaptation of the Edward Hale classic. It is a graded reader designed for students of English as a Second Language and is published by Regents, one of the largest ESL publishers in the country.

On November 4, Sigma Tau Delta presented STACY L. TOWLE in "An Evening with Emily Dickinson: Excerpts from The Belle of Amherst." Stacy, a graduate assistant in the English Department, captured her audience with a witty, charming, energetic performance. Emily's remark to T.W. Higginson in 1879--"If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can ever warm me, I know that is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry"--applies to Stacy's one-woman show. It was pure poetry.

BOB WURSTER spoke to four English classes (Juniors and Seniors), a French class, a Spanish class, and the Language Club at Barren County High School, Glasgow, on October 28. His topic as guest speaker for the Language Club was "Four Letter Words Can't Hurt You." For the English classes, his topic was "Yes, Students, There Is English After High School."

Wurster will speak to three classes of English at Edmonson County High School, Brownsville, on November 18. He will be the guest of Yvonne Campbell and her junior and senior students of English.

OLD NEWS WORTH REPEATING

Since one aim of this newsletter is to record significant departmental activities, the following information about the Third Annual Composition Workshop (on October 23) is provided even though most of you are already familiar with it.

Topics covered at the workshop included "Teaching Students to Write About Poetry" (Dorothy and Bill McMahan), "Teaching Students to Write the Essay Test About Literature" (Edna Laman), "Generating Topics for Composition About Literature" (Ron Eckard), and "Teaching Students to Write About Fiction" (Walker Rutledge and Joe Glaser).

(over)

Composition Workshop, continued

Jim Heldman spoke at the luncheon, on "Combining Composition with Other Courses: Problems and Values." Brenda Martin, coordinator of the workshop, reported in a note to the faculty that participants had much praise for the program presentations, especially for the practical nature of the material. Also, WKU is the only university in Kentucky offering this sort of workshop.

SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

Startled by quick desire
in your familiar eyes
my mind keeps warm
beyond the heat of love
remembering gold ways
my days are sometimes
furnished with surprise.

Like discovering my neighbor,
proper in her shorts and tan
tending the lawn,
writes poems at night
when the children are in bed
odd, coiled shadows dancing danger
in her neat WASP head;

or hearing from his teacher
the son I feared a fool
is bright with new-caught balance
this fourth year at school.

Surprise! Surprise!

And after dinner dishes, taxes, lives:
lust thick and sudden in your brown, dark eyes.--Mary Ellen Miller

THE WOOD GRADUATE AWARD

Dr. and Mrs. Willson E. Wood and the English Department of Western Kentucky University in 1981 established the WOOD GRADUATE AWARD, to be presented annually to a selected graduate student. The 1981 recipient is Gail Kienitz.

THE ATKINSON AWARD

The FRANK L. ATKINSON AWARD was established in 1979 by Mrs. Frank L. Atkinson. This award is the first endowed scholarship

Atkinson Award, continued

especially for undergraduate English students in the history of WKU. It is given to English majors for use during their senior year. Irene Wood was the 1979 recipient, followed in 1980 by Vickie Lynne Curtis, and in 1981 by Lanna Gayle Martin.

A SUGGESTION

Before being charged registration fees, students are classified as either Kentucky residents or as non-residents; non-residents pay about 2½ times more for tuition than residents pay. But tuition, we are told, covers only a small portion of the cost of a college education. Tax dollars, state and federal, underwrite the other, larger part. Of course, using tax dollars for educating American citizens is acceptable and desirable for a host of reasons. However, should these same taxes be used to subsidize the education of students from the rest of the world, from Saudi Arabia, for instance? Perhaps a new student classification is needed: USA-non-resident. Shouldn't people from this third group be asked to bear a larger part of the cost, maybe even the full cost, of a college education?

--John Reiss

PLAINSONG REVIEW

"PLAINSONG is, as the editor suggests, an affirmation of place as a source of poetry, of place and time so specific that it can be confused with no other experience, be it the discovery of a white turtle shell on a burned field or the musical sky of the senses with eyes closed. On occasions more consistent than in most small press literary offerings, the words gather together in clear cadences of enveloping song. Robert Bly is there, and William Chapman, established names in the world, but so is Mark Sanders and Andrea Hollander Budy and Samuel Exler, and a host more.

Each of the fifty or more poems is carefully set on cream colored paper and bound together into a tasteful presentation; the eye takes in exactly what the mind can hold. An editor's envy; a reader's treasure. Poetry collections everywhere, take notice: a new gem has arrived." G.W.L.

Title: PLAINSONG
Address: Box U245, College Heights, Bowling Green, KY
Subscription Price: \$5 U.S.; \$6 Canada; \$8 Elsewhere; Sample copy \$2.50
Publishing Frequency: Semi-annually
First Issue: Spring 1979

--Review from New Magazine Review, Vol. 3, No. 4, May/June 1981

REMINDER

next deadline for submitting material: Friday, November 20 (noon)
next publication: Monday, November 23 (Thanksgiving edition--
What is something or someone connected with
our department that you are thankful for?
Think about it and let me know--RM)

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Mary Ellen for her poem.--(RM)