

BOOKS

Review:

ARTS

EXHIBITS

Linden Hills

By Gloria Naylor, published by Ticknor & Fields, 1985.

Gloria Naylor's second novel, *Linden Hills*, is about a tyrannical undertaker and wealthy landowner, Luther Needed, and the exclusive black country club development he calls Linden Hills. Needed alone decides who does and who does not get to live in his prestigious mansions on the hill in this fictional southern community. He envisions Linden Hills as a thorn in the flesh of the whites he wants to impress with the trappings of black success and power. But *Linden Hills* creates more divisiveness within the black community than outside it. Impenetrable sociological walls spring up between the ambitious and wealthy who seek the elite Linden Hills address and those who are deliberately left out. Few can see the spiritual vacuum behind the affluence.

Luther Needed ruthlessly manipulates both rich and poor, newcomers and old families alike. The man has an unsavory personality driven by a greed for power inherited from male ancestors who were possessed of equal cunning and singlemindedness. In his own house, he is master in the upper levels, but down below where he performs his undertaker role he imprisons his wife and young son,

literally starving them to death.

Last year Gloria Naylor won critical acclaim for her novel, *The Women of Brewster Place*, which is soon to be seen on public television. Naylor writes of the black experience with an insider's critical eye. I found *Linden Hills* more social commentary than fiction: Getting to the top means losing one's humanity and connectedness, choosing power instead of compassion and love brings loneliness and emotional isolation.

I find it fascinating that *Linden Hills* could be written at all. The conflicts which come with success and wealth are not traditional black themes, unlike the struggles of poverty and hardship. Fifteen or 20 years ago large numbers of young people consciously chose lifestyles and values different from those into which they were born or to which they were supposed to aspire. They knew they did not want to be presented to society at debutante balls, go to West Point, take over the family business, marry money, or climb the corporate ladder to the boardroom. Back then, relatively few blacks could reject the values of a society whose fruits they had never tasted. Gloria Naylor's *Linden Hills* suggests that although a larger number of blacks may now be dining on the fruits of material success, the taste is bitter and the apples overpriced.

—Lois Wadsworth

Book & Tea Shop, 1646 E 19th Ave. *Hand Illuminated Certificates* by Pamela Enberg through June 28. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10-6; Sun, 12-5.

Cafe Central, 384 W 13th. Papercuts by Charles Wiens through June 14. Hours: Mon-Fri, 11 am-11:30 pm; Sat, 10 am-11:30 pm.

Collier House, UO Faculty Club, 13th & University. Drawings and watercolors by students of Ellen Gabehart. Hours: Weekdays, 9-3.

Community Center for the Performing Arts, 8th & Lincoln Sts. *The Arts*—paintings by Ellen Gabehart—through June 30. Hours: Tues-Fri, 3-6 pm; Sat-Sun eves.

Eugene Public Library, 100 W 13th. Watercolor retrospective by Frances Cushing Hall; sculpture, bronzes by Carol Jackson; oils by Mary Dement-Smith. Hours: Mon-Tu, 10-9; Wed-Sat, 10-6.

Excelsior Cafe, pastels by Alice Rush through June. 754 E 13th.

Gallery 141, Lawrence Hall, UO Campus. Advanced Ceramics by students June 3-7; sculpture, paintings, multi-media, June 1-14. Hours: Weekdays, 9-5.

Green Earth Art Center, 1155 W 1st. *Blue Ribbon Winners of 1985* through June. Also watercolors by Richard Quigley. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10-5.

Keystone Cafe, 395 W 5th. Oils by Eve Ujhelyi through June 30. Daily, 7-2 pm; also Fri-Sun evenings, 5:30-9:30.

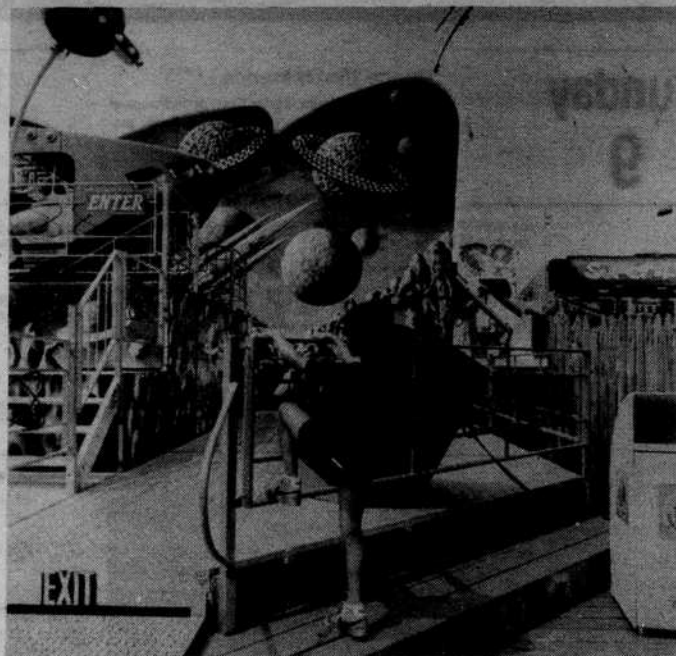
Lane Community College, Art Department Gallery, 4000 E 30th. Student Art Exhibit through June 7. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8 am-10 pm; Fri, 8-5.

Lane Community College Library Gallery, 4000 E 30th. Sketches and watercolors by Carolyn Nuesle Orum. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8 am-10 pm; Fri, 8-5.

Lane County Museum, 740 W 13th. Permanent exhibit of Lane County artifacts. Also 150 years of wedding clothes and customs. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10-4; Sun, noon-5.

Made in Oregon, 295 E 5th. Ongoing works by regional artists. Hours: Mon-Sat, 10:30-5:30; Sun, 1-5.

Maude Kerns Art Center, 1910 E 15th Ave. 10 Artists: An Ongoing Group features a variety of media by local artists. Hours: Wed-Fri, 12-5; Sat, 10-3; Sun, 1-5.



Color photographs by Timothy Tracz entitled *South Jersey* are on display in the Photography at Oregon Gallery, UO Art Museum, June 5-30.

New Zone Gallery, 411 High St. *State of Mind* includes works by Harold Hoy and Carol Westlake. Hours: Mon-Sat, 11-5.

Photography at Oregon Gallery, UO Museum, UO Campus. Color photographs entitled *Timothy Tracz: South Jersey* are on display through June 30. Hours: Weds-Sun, noon-5 pm.

University of Oregon Museum of Art, UO campus. Opening June 23: Two exhibits of Japanese Woodblock Prints; Chinese paintings and prints. The museum will remain open all summer. Hours: Wed-Sat, noon-5 pm.

University of Oregon Museum of Natural History, Science Complex, UO Campus. *Oregon & The Pacific Rim* returns June 11. Other exhibits include: *Plant & Animal Fossils*, *Ravens Cousins: Traditional Arts of the Native Northwest*, Botanical Photographs of the Pacific Northwest and Stone and Bone Carvings from the Columbia River. Hours: Tues-Sat, noon-5 pm.

WISTEC (Willamette Science and Technology Center), 2300 Centennial Blvd. *Jupiter and Its Moons*; *Space Place*, an indoor science playground; *Small World*, a Nikon photo micrography exhibit; planetarium shows Saturdays and Sundays. Hours: Tues-Sun, 12-5. \$2 adults, 75¢ kids, \$1 seniors, college students. 484-9027.

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