

## Book Views

### Plain Text essays by Nancy Mairs

The art of writing personal, yet informative essays and, better still, those that grasp the very heart of a universal human condition, is alive and well in Nancy Mairs' "Plain Text."

Institutionalized for severe depression, stricken with multiple sclerosis, Mairs is a college instructor, a PhD. in English, a feminist and author of an award winning volume of poetry, a mother of three, an agrophobic and a keeper of a wide variety of house pets. Biographically recorded, Nancy Mairs emerges, through her essays, to the present, witty, intact and with an amazing capacity to witness humor in her setbacks. She covers a broad plane of subject matter ranging from being a "foreign student advisor" to "a potential teenage suicide," from "an incompetent scientist" to "a cripple." Each essay is saturated with historical, observational and clinical fact depicted through a fluid, conversational tone and manner. And funny. In letter-form Mairs speaks as a feminist and as a mother to her adult son—

I am demanding something of you that takes more courage than entering a battle: not to enter the battle. I am asking you to say "no" to the values that have defined manhood through the ages — prowess, competition, victory — and to grow into a manhood that has not existed before. If you do, some men and women will ridicule and even despise you. They may call you spineless, possibly even (harsh as of curses) womanish. But your life depends on it. My life depends on it. I wish you well.

Now go help Aunt Helen with the dishes.

I love you —

Mother

"Plain Text is a lesson in persistence and courage of one woman's learning process. The author is a feeler, a questioner and a seeker of ideas. But, above all, Nancy Mairs remains a scholar with an insatiable quest to know. "Plain Text" deserves wide attention and praise. I say brilliant.

Reviewed by Kerry Paul May

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## Dormitory RAs selected for next year

Dormitory resident assistants, or RAs, for next year have been tentatively selected and the Housing Department now is waiting for acceptance letters from the students.

Fifty-four RAs were chosen from 137 applicants. The selection process began in early April with general meetings for all applicants, followed by group exercises and 45-minute individual interviews, said Dick Romm, residence life director.

Romm said 10 of the chosen applicants will be seniors next year, 15 will be sophomores, nine more will be sophomores academically but have been in school for more than a year and the rest are juniors. He declined to give a list of names since he has not yet received all the acceptance letters.

RAs already have been assigned to com-

plexes, and the Housing Department has a good idea of which dormitory each person will be assigned to, Romm said.

In order to recruit students according to affirmative-action guidelines, Romm said he has taken posters around to various ethnic student unions, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance and student organizations.

"The last two years, we've tried to go beyond just the Housing Department itself," he said.

The department is looking at proposals to put two RAs, rather than just one, in each dormitory, Romm said. That system was implemented at the University Inn last year because of the size of the floors. Romm said the department has appointed a committee to study the idea, but the soonest it would be implemented would be the 1987-88 school year.

## Et al.

### MEETINGS

The Student Senate meets today at 4:30 p.m. in Room 337 EMU.

New Phi Eta Sigma members will meet tonight at 6 to elect officers in Room 112 EMU. All new members are encouraged to attend.

The vulnerability and shortcomings of "Star Wars" as a defensive system is the topic of a lecture today in Room 116 Esslinger. Professor Davison Soper of the Physics Department will speak. All are welcome. Check EMU Schedule for time of lecture.



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### Correction

The May 30 edition of the Emerald incorrectly identified Jodie Mooney as one of three summer Incidental Fee Committee members. The three summer IFC members are Armando Morales, Bob Baldwin and Laurie Clark.

# PARTING SHOTS!

Time to say get out of here, you knucklehead, write me you oaf, or tell that favorite professor exactly what you think of him (well, maybe not exactly). Just don't leave without giving your friends a **PARTING SHOT**

## 15 words for \$2.00







Deadline is **Friday June 6, 12 noon**. Place Parting Shots at the Emerald Office (Room 300, EMU), UO Bookstore, and the EMU Main Desk

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ ART NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AND IF YOU ACTUALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM THEM AGAIN...**

*Add some artwork printed in Parting Shot Blue for only \$1.50:*

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 

**Some classic Parting Shots from last year:**

**JAY:** Keep your fart in New York. I'm moving on to bigger and better things.  
**DAISY**

**CHRISTY:** It's been a great year and I will miss you very much. You're a super roommate, and don't worry, I haven't given up on you yet! **D.**

**S.D.:** Things at Shasta were bright and colorful. The sun on the water was like lightning and diamonds. The beer could have been better, but who cared?

**TIGER:** Happy seven months! Good luck on all of your finals. I will miss you this summer. **LOVE, BEAR**

**MARY MARY QUITE CJK:** Shouldn't I pay your rent too? I mean you can go in the back seat for that matter so can your big sis HA!

**KIM C.:** We'll miss you, but we'll miss your cool clothes even more. Have much fun and pub action in Europe!  
**LOVE, PRODO GANG**

**TAMMY MORRISON:** Here's your damn personal! I told you we wouldn't forget!  
**Happy 21st! LOVE, KRIS AND JIM**