

Graduate receives acclaim in literary world

By Laura Dale
Of the Emerald

A University graduate is receiving acclaim in the literary world, and his latest novel, "Cutting Lisa," is getting supportive reviews from some critics who say he may be the nation's best young writer.

Percival Everett was born and raised in the South and came to the University as a philosophy major. He then earned a master's degree at Brown University and now teaches creative writing at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

At 30, Everett has three novels on the market. He says these allegories are inspired by what he sees as a breakdown of American culture. They are about acting out of a sense of moral conviction and maintaining family integrity, he says.

"Cutting Lisa" is set on the Oregon coast, and his characters wander about in familiar places like Newport and the

Devil's Punchbowl. It is a study in the disturbing patterns that comprise modern American family life.

"Walk Me to the Distance" is based on the story of a young man who drives across Wyoming, shooting at jackrabbits and blowing up his own radiator. He ends up having to, and then wanting to, stay in the little town of Slut's Hole (where everybody goes but nobody stays). He becomes acquainted with an old woman with one leg and her retarded son, who has a nocturnal passion for sheep.

The fourth part of the family Everett creates is a baby who was dropped in the young man's lap by an unknown Vietnamese woman at a roadside rest area. The young man is a Vietnam veteran. The child calls him Daddy.

Everett says he left Oregon because he didn't want to have to wear Birkenstocks

and a down jacket. Despite this, he has obviously maintained an affection for the place.

Two problems exist in Everett's writing. His dialogues are lumpy and less interesting than they could be.

The other problem exists with his portrayal of women, who are all either disabled or made into sex objects whose primary role is to entice and then mess things up for the protagonist. Despite these drawbacks, the writing is compelling in its lack of orchestrated settings.

One can't help but think that Everett is a nice guy when reading his books. He seems to care, and he can write about what he cares about in a pertinent way, combing some kind of order and hope into the perversity of modern life.

The University Bookstore carries "Suder," "Walk Me to the Distance" and "Cutting Lisa."

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why, after 10 years' absence, is Stallone suddenly so obsessed with raising him? We are never offered an explanation that seems convincing.

The final icing on this rotten cake is that the arm wrestling proves to be more disgusting than exciting. The sight of muscle-bound oafs straining and sweating like swine is not exactly a sexy image. Especially when they insist on treating us to excruciating and pointless close-ups.

Bad, bad, bad, Sly! Next movie out, try mud wrestling with Brigitte. That at least would be mildly entertaining.

"Over the Top" shows nightly at Cinema World at the Valley River Mall.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED ADS CAN BE PLACED AT

ODE Office, 300 EMU
UO Bookstore Stamp Counter
EMU Main desk

PAYMENT: All ads must be paid for in advance unless a billing arrangement has been established. For billing arrangements, please call 686-4343 or stop by the Emerald Classified office, 300 EMU.

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PERSONALS

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March 30 - April 3
Mandatory Informational Meeting
Interested Men & Women
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Scott-Have a great day. I love you - WENDY

GOOD LUCK MATT REED Love ya, Rom

E-BETH: Happy 21-er. Feel free to borrow my list of "hangover remedies." After all, what are friends for! DEEDUMS 2-20

Cindy M. - So is it pumps or heels tonight? The Wannabe's 2-20

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