

Student Poet Selected For Seminar



ELIZABETH WOODY

GRANDFATHER (GHOST)

YOUNG INDIAN WOMAN LISTENING

Silent, tall man walking among the melting people -
Watching the longness of your attractive walk,
Your feet beat softly, and the hairs of your head rub sweetly.
Gazing admiration of which you can not see
Your transparency allows me to think of you clearly -
Your words are mellowed through your throat,
Your lips create a slight drawl.
When you speak . . . I strain my body to reach them . . . your words . . .
Your power seeps into mine and we feel strong.
Reach you I try . . . Too young am I.
A man with children,
A woman with many births around her.
A man with strength . . . there are hardly any left.
The scarcity of my fellow man-people shivers my soul.
Your human softness leaves behind the boiling body of human kind.
This thunders in my ears, and softly travels to my heart.

ELIZABETH WOODY

For Madras High School senior Liz Woody, going back to school this summer will be an honor and not a chore. Liz will be one of twelve students attending a five-day workshop at Lewis and Clark College in late June — an opportunity provided by the Oregon Arts Foundation.

The seminar, which will give students a chance to work with two published writers, was the prize offered in a statewide creative writing competition held last month for all high school students in Oregon.

Liz submitted three poems at the last minute and was genuinely surprised to receive word of her selection a few weeks later. Believing that competition shouldn't be part of writing, the talented young writer entered because of the unique opportunity to work with professionals of such caliber.

Teaching the seminar will be novelist and poet James Welch, a Blackfoot-Gros Ventre Indian best known for his novel *Winter in the Blood*; and poet Sandra McPherson who has appeared in several leading magazines and journals as well as her

own books. Both are experienced teachers with whom students will be able to share their own work and explore directions in contemporary literature.

Liz is taking with her to the workshop a sensitivity to her cultural background that has found expression through the years in story-telling, drawing and more recently poetry.

In two of the three works entered in the competition, Liz addresses herself to her Indian background. "Still I Can Remember the Brown Stone Color of My Skin" describes the poet's re-awakening to the fact and the beauty of being an Indian. "Grandfather (Ghost)", which is printed here, was inspired by Liz's own grandfather Louie Pitt, Sr., but also contains her observations of two younger men.

Liz's family looms large in her future — "I plan to live with my family a lot off and on and help them out," she said of her post-graduation plans. But she has many other ideas about what lies ahead. Law is a field she would like to pursue, perhaps at the paralegal level. And

art school is a very real possibility for the multi-talented student who won first prize at the 1976 Oregon State Fair for a black and white photograph.

Acknowledging the difficulty of living off her poetic abilities, Liz said she nevertheless would feel she was "cheating" if she didn't continue to write and share her poetry with people. Besides, she noted, you "don't plan on being a poet — it just happens."

The ability Liz has discovered and cultivated with the support of her English teacher Mr. Carlson and the feedback of her mother and friends, should prove to be handy no matter what she chooses to do.

"My writing's always going to help me," she predicted. "I'll be writing all the time."

Plus there is the notion that "generally a poet or writer can talk people into things." Liz admitted to having the knack.

And yet Liz didn't need to talk her way into the summer seminar with its free tuition, room and board. She simply wrote from her heart and wrote well.



After entertaining students at the Petersburg School, Warm Springs kids visited classrooms and answered questions. Group leader and community liaison Delson Suppah told one class about the traditional language of the Warm Springs visitors.

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Madras High News . . .

Students Benefit From OTIS

Madras High School "struck it rich" when they acquired an Oregon Total Information System, better known as "OTIS", at the beginning of the school year.

OTIS, is a terminal worth \$40,000 which is used for both student purposes and administrative purposes alike. The terminal is hooked up to the main computer, which is located in Eugene, by telephone line. The terminal can call upon the computer at any time.

The administration used the computer for keeping attendance records and scheduling classes. Attendance records can be stored in the computer to be pulled out at any time if a problem arises. The computer also works out the scheduling a year ahead. If one class appears to be overloaded, the computer will even it out.

Students benefit from this computer as well. Math teacher, Jack Gallagher uses it in math-teaching Computer Programming. They work out problems on the computer and check to see if they are correct.

But learning computer programming can't be all that hard, especially if the computer can teach the student just that. The computer has a tutor program and can do anything from teaching a child the alphabet to teaching a student how to write poetry or stories. Students can also play educational games on the computer. "Not games in a sense that you play at home," commented Gus Roberts, Librarian at Madras High School. The games are one you learn by, such as, games dealing with Chemistry, etc.

OTIS also has a Career Information System. This system has every known occupation in Oregon, and in a matter of minutes, a student can find out working conditions, salary, job outlook fringe benefits, and even where that job might be located.

Or if the student isn't certain what career he is going to pursue he goes through the "Quest Program." The student answers 24 questions and the computer will tell what kind of job is suitable for him.



Children at the rural Petersburg School outside of The Dalles enjoyed watching Warm Springs kids do such traditional dances as the Butterfly Dance (above), Skip Dance, Owl Dance, and War Dance. Then joined their visitors in a snaking Circle Dance. The cultural exchange trip was one of several made by local students this year.

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