

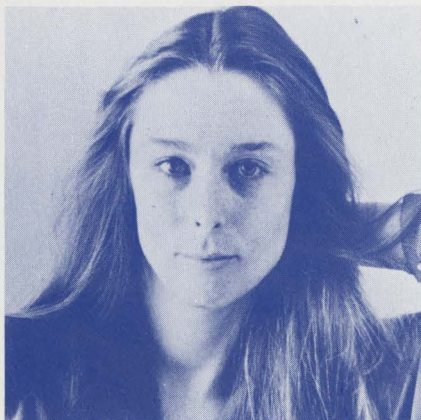
**The Sixth Annual
Old Dominion University**

LITERARY FESTIVAL

October 3-6, 1983

**ANN BEATTIE
WILLIAM LEAST HEAT MOON
CHARLES JOHNSON
DIANE ACKERMAN
FRAN McCULLOUGH
CAROLYN FORCHÉ**

Free and open to the public.
Sponsored by the Department of English, the Arts and Letters Public
Service Program of Old Dominion University, the Activities Programming
Board, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Norfolk Commission on
the Arts and Humanities, and the Associated Writing Programs.

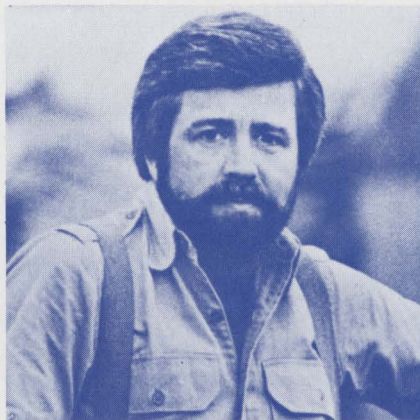


ANN BEATTIE

"A new Beattie is almost like a fresh bulletin from the front," wrote Margaret Atwood in The New York Times about Ann Beattie's latest short story collection, *The Burning House*, honored by the Times as one of the twelve Best Books of 1982. "We snatch it up, eager to know what's happening out there on the edge of that shifting and dubious no man's land known as interpersonal relations." Perhaps no other American writes about contemporary love with such brutal honesty as she. Her power of description is magnificent. As her many readers already know, Beattie is an incomparable stylist; "no one is better at the plangent detail, at evoking the floating, unreal ambiance of grief." Atwood continues, "If Miss Beattie were a ballerina, you could sell tickets to the warm-ups."

Beattie is also the author of two other story collections, *Distortions* and *Secrets and Surprises*, and two novels, *Chilly Scenes of Winter* and *Falling in Place*. Her work appears frequently in The New Yorker.

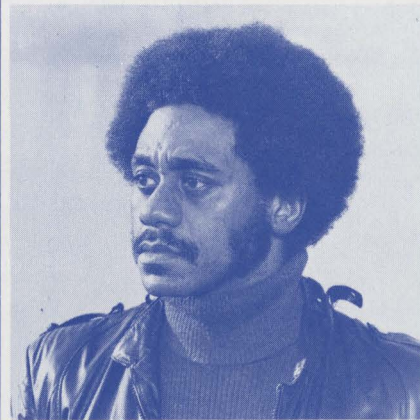
In addition to her Monday evening fiction reading, Beattie will also present a Tuesday afternoon talk on "Writing as an Unconscious Process" and answer questions from the audience.



WILLIAM LEAST HEAT MOON

In 1978 William Least Heat Moon put a sleeping bag and blanket into the back of his Ford van and drove over fourteen thousand miles down the back roads of America. The result of his journey was *Blue Highways*, a marvelous book that has received not only popular success—since its publication eight months ago it's been a nationwide best seller—but also critical acclaim. Robert Penn Warren hailed it as "a masterpiece," and added, "Least Heat Moon has a genius for finding people who have not even found themselves, exploring their lives, capturing their language, recreating little (or big) lost worlds. In short, he makes America seem new, in a very special way." N. Scott Momaday wrote, "If you would like to know who and what America is at the center, read *Blue Highways*. This is what we, as a people, are about." Anatole Broyard remarked, "The book is wonderful. On finishing it, one can be forgiven a little flush of national pride."

On Tuesday afternoon Least Heat Moon will talk informally, and that evening he will read from his nonfiction. On both occasions he will answer questions from the audience.



CHARLES JOHNSON

"Versatile" is an accurate word to describe Charles Johnson. He created, hosted, and coproduced the PBS series *Charlie's Pad*, is the author of the PBS *Visions* drama "Charlie Smith and the Fritter Tree," and is a producer and writer for the PBS series *Up and Coming*. Johnson is also the fiction editor of the Seattle Review and a professional cartoonist whose work has appeared in *Ebony*, *Jet*, and The Chicago Tribune. His short fiction has been widely published, most recently in *The Best American Short Stories 1983*. Johnson's first novel, *Faith and the Good Thing*, was called by the Washington Post a book "of rare eloquence and originality, a fable that entertains and informs." *Oxherding Tale*, his second novel, has been praised for being "a rich stew of savory language" (Bestsellers), "a comic metafiction reminiscent of John Barth and Ishmael Reed" (Choice), and "a work of courage and compassion, virtuosity and intelligence" (The Village Voice). "Charles Johnson has enriched contemporary American fiction as few young writers can," the Voice concludes.

On Wednesday morning Johnson will discuss screenwriting and answer questions from the audience. He will read his fiction on Wednesday evening.



DIANE ACKERMAN

Few poets possess the verve and brilliance of Diane Ackerman. Her first poetry collection, *The Planets: A Cosmic Pastoral*, combined scientific fact with imaginative fancy so gracefully that Carl Sagan called her work "stunning . . . spectacularly good poetry, clear, lyrical and soaring" and later enlisted her as a researcher in his *Cosmos* series. The Hudson Review said of her second book, *Wife of Light*, "Ackerman takes the American language to school and lets it graduate with her own unique mintage. Her poems reveal a woman of sensitivity, restraint, ingenuity, and passionate daring." Her third book of poems, *Lady Faustus*, released last month by Morrow, extends the range of her interests to learning how to fly, to dreaming and knowing how to dream, and to probing the worlds of possibility and curiosity. Strong, exuberant, and honest, Ackerman has been called by Review, "arguably, the best lyrical poet now writing in the United States."

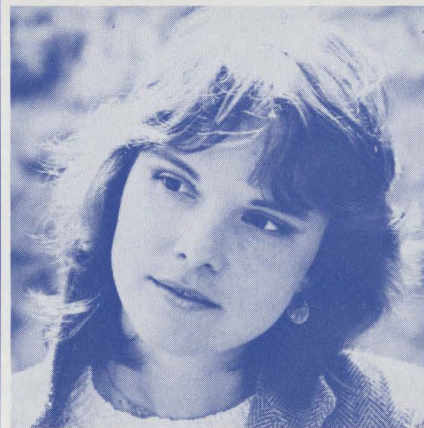
Ackerman has also published a prose memoir, *Twilight of the Tenderfoot*. She will read her poetry on Wednesday afternoon.



FRAN McCULLOUGH

Fran McCullough is a senior editor at Dial Press, where she has worked for the past two years. Before joining Dial Press, she worked as an editor for sixteen years at Harper & Row. Recently she has edited *The Journals of Sylvia Plath* and has published among others the works of N. Scott Momaday, Ted Hughes, Robert Bly, Dorothy Dinnerstein, Diana Kennedy, and Susan Griffin. McCullough was the recipient of the Roger Klein Award for Creative Editing and in 1980 served as the chair of the Literature Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts. She has also worked as a panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts and has edited two anthologies of poetry for teenagers, *Earth, Air, Fire and Water* and *Love is Like the Lion's Tooth*, the latter due to be published by Harper & Row in 1984.

During her Thursday afternoon talk, titled "The Book Business: An Editor's Viewpoint," McCullough will discuss the state of contemporary American publishing and answer questions from the audience.



CAROLYN FORCHÉ

Since the 1976 publication of her first book of poems, *Gathering the Tribes*, Carolyn Forché has been a major new voice in American poetry. Her work as a journalist and human-rights investigator in Europe and Central America led to her second poetry collection, *The Country Between Us*, which was the Lamont Poetry Selection of 1981 and received the coveted Di Castagnola award from the Poetry Society of America. Jacobo Timerman wrote, "Latin America needs a poet to replace the man who represented in his writings the beauty, sufferings, fears and dreams of this continent: Pablo Neruda. Carolyn Forché is that voice." Irvin Ehrenpreis said, "I do not know another poet writing in English today whose work has the force and drama of Carolyn Forché's." Larry Levis observed, "Forché's subject, El Salvador, is one that could have been easily sentimentalized or sensationalized by a lesser poet. And yet it is spoken of here with honesty and tenderness, even amid its tortures." Denise Levertov remarked, "Here's a poet who's doing what I want to do."

On Thursday afternoon Forché will discuss poetry and answer questions from the audience. Her evening poetry reading will conclude the 1983 literary festival.

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LITERARY FESTIVAL

Schedule of Events

Monday, Oct. 3

8 p.m. FICTION READING by Ann Beattie
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

Tuesday, Oct. 4

12:30 p.m. A CONVERSATION ON NONFICTION
by William Least Heat Moon
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m. WRITING AS AN UNCONSCIOUS PROCESS
by Ann Beattie
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m. NONFICTION READING
by William Least Heat Moon
(Batten Arts & Letters Auditorium)

Wednesday, Oct. 5

11 a.m. ON SCREENWRITING by Charles Johnson
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m. POETRY READING by Diane Ackerman
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m. FICTION READING by Charles Johnson
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

Thursday, Oct. 6

12:30 p.m. ON POETRY by Carolyn Forché
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

2 p.m. THE BOOK BUSINESS:
AN EDITOR'S VIEWPOINT
by Fran McCullough
(Rooms 148-150 Webb Center)

8 p.m. POETRY READING by Carolyn Forché
(Kaufman Hall Auditorium)

William Least Heat Moon appears courtesy of ODU's Activities
Programming Board. For further information, call Tony Ardizzone, ODU
Department of English, (804) 440-3991.