

# CITY OF WORDS

ETHELBERT MILLER E. ETHELBERT MILLER  
KIM SEITH SMITH  
KIM KELLY CHERRY  
DONALDSON SCOTT DONALDSON  
PEGGY SHUMAKER PEGGY SHUMAKER  
TODD DERRICOTTE TODD DERRICOTTE  
GALWAY KINNELL GALWAY KINNELL  
ANNE BERNAYS ANNE BERNAYS  
ALF WAPP JR ALF WAPP JR  
JUSTIN KAPLAN JUSTIN KAPLAN  
ANNE BERNAYS ANNE BERNAYS  
LUCILLE CLIFTON LUCILLE CLIFTON  
HAL CROWTHER HAL CROWTHER

THE 13TH ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL  
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY  
OCTOBER 2-4, 1990

BENEFIT READING, SEPTEMBER 27 — GALWAY KINNELL



# CITY OF WORDS

## LEE SMITH

Lee Smith has been mentioned as the heir to Carson McCullers, Harper Lee, Flannery O'Connor, and Eudora Welty in the tradition of sharply ironic Southern humor, with a keen eye for an oddity in character or community. Smith, who was born and raised in Virginia and now resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is proof of Flannery O'Connor's statement, "All great writing is regional writing." Smith is the author of nine books, which have been critical and popular successes. Twice winner of the O'Henry Award for short fiction, she has also received the John Dos Passos Award for Literature, the Sir Walter Raleigh Award, and the North Carolina Award for Fiction. Annie Dillard has called her "the best of the younger generation of Southern writers," and with each successive novel she has laid better claim to that title. Among her books are **The Last Day the Dogbushes Bloomed** (1968) **Black Mountain Breakdown** (1981), **Oral History** (1983), **Family Linen** (1985), and **Fair and Tender Ladies** (1989). ■ Lee Smith will read from her fiction on October 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium.



ETHELBERT MILLER E. ETHELBERT MILLER

## SCOTT DONALDSON



Scott Donaldson has written half a dozen books, edited several others, and published many articles on American literature and culture. Formerly a newspaperman in Minneapolis, Donaldson is best known for his literary biographies, particularly of Hemingway (1977), F. Scott Fitzgerald (1983), and John Cheever (1988). He is presently at work

on a biography of Archibald MacLeish. ■ Scott Donaldson will take part in a panel discussion on the art of writing biography on Thursday, October 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

## HAL CROWTHER



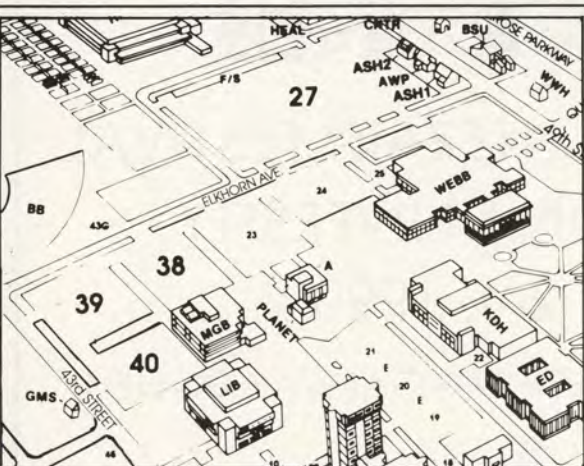
A graduate of Williams College with a master of arts in journalism from Columbia University, Hal Crowther has been a writer for the **Buffalo Evening News** and the **Toronto Star**. A native of North Carolina for the past ten years, Crowther worked as an editor for both **Time** and **Newsweek**. Crowther, who now writes for the **North Carolina Independent**, is a respected columnist syndicated nationally in over 20 independent newspapers. ■ He will give a talk on "a journalist's view of the current state of the media" in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center on October 2 at 11:00 a.m.

## JUSTIN KAPLAN



"I'm drawn to people whose lives have a certain mystery—mysteries that aren't going to be solved, that are too sacred to be solved," Justin Kaplan once said. As an award-winning biographer, Kaplan has been drawn to some of the great, mysterious literary figures of our time, in particular Mark Twain and Walt Whitman. In 1967 he won both the

National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for **Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain**, a biography in which he said he attempted "not only to explore the mystery of this man but also to respect it. . . . Two currents flowed through his life. One flowed away from Hannibal, Missouri, toward a world of wealth, fame and materialities. The other flowed back to Hannibal again. Out of the opposition of these currents, out of the turbulent dark waters, came one of the great styles and dazzling personalities of our literature." Clearly, Kaplan, has written the definitive life story of one of America's legendary figures. In 1981 he wrote the biography of another American legend and received the American Book Award for **Walt Whitman: A Life**. Kaplan's biographies have been praised for their narrative skill and historical breadth, for having the power and hypnotic effect of good novels. His books are artful, sentence by sentence, unraveling legends and leaving a fascinating truth in their place. He has also written a biography of Lincoln Steffens and has been editor of half a dozen other works. For the past two years he has been working as editor of the 16th edition of **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations**. ■ Justin Kaplan will be part of the panel discussion on the art of writing biography on Thursday, October 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center. That evening at 8:00 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium he will speak about the making of **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations**, a fitting finale for a festival of words.



## PARKING

For evening events at Mills Godwin Auditorium, parking is available in lots 40, 39, and 38, north of 43rd Street and east of Elkhorn Avenue.

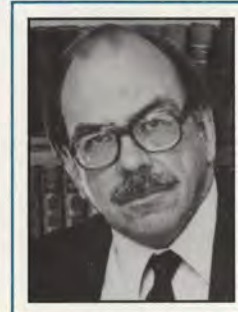
For daytime events in the Hampton-Newport News Room of Webb Center, parking is available in lot 27, west of Elkhorn Avenue.

## KELLY CHERRY



Kelly Cherry, a novelist and poet, is a professor of English at the University of Wisconsin. Originally from Richmond, Virginia, she has taught at Western Washington University, Rhodes College, and in the Vermont College MFA program. Her fifth book of fiction, described as a novel in stories, titled **My Life and Dr. Joyce Brothers** has been called "affirmative, heartbreaking, funny, and beautiful" by Andre Dubus. Her poetry has been praised for its "powerful ironic wit which is allied to rare good humor." Her first book of nonfiction, **The Exiled Heart: A Meditative Autobiography**, will be published by LSU Press in 1991. ■ Kelly Cherry will read from **My Life and Dr. Joyce Brothers** on Wednesday, October 3, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center at 3:00 p.m.

## ALF MAPP, JR.



An Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University, Alf Mapp, Jr., is the author of six books, most recently **Thomas Jefferson: A Strange Case of Mistaken Identity**, cited as one of the "Forty Best Books of 1987." He has written many other books and is the author of more than 800 articles in the **New York Times** and other metropolitan newspapers, scholarly journals, and popular magazines. ■ Alf Mapp will be part of the panel discussion on writing biography on Thursday, October 4, at 11:00 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

## TOI DERRICOTTE



Toi Derricotte has published three collections of poetry, most recently **Captivity**. Her previous collections are **Natural Birth** and **The Empress of Death House**. She is a recipient of two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as numerous other awards. Her work has appeared in many journals—**American Poetry Review**, **New England/Breadloaf Quarterly**, **Ploughshares**, and **Iowa Review**. Sharon Olds has described her work as "one of the most beautiful and necessary voices in American poetry today." She teaches at Old Dominion University. ■ Toi Derricotte will read from her poetry at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

## PEGGY SHUMAKER



Peggy Shumaker has published two books of poetry, **The Circle of Totems** (1988) and **Esperanza's Hair** (1985). In 1989 she was awarded an NEA Fellowship in Poetry. Her work has appeared in **American Poetry Review**, **Manoa**, and **Ploughshares**, among other magazines. Formerly an assistant professor of English at ODU, she currently lives in a log house outside of Astor, Alaska, and serves as co-director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. ■ Peggy Shumaker will give a poetry reading on Tuesday, October 2, at 3:00 p.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

## GALWAY KINNEL



Galway Kinnell is one of the most highly esteemed contemporary American poets. In 1982 he received both the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award for his **Selected Poems**. There are very few poets whose music can compare to the great poetry of the past, but many critics feel Galway Kinnell is one whose poetry is equal to such comparisons. Lines such as "seed dazzled over the footbattered blaze of earth" will stand the test of time. So will this stanza describing his daughter's birth: "she skids out on her face into light, / this peck / of stunned flesh / clotted with celestial cheesiness, glowing / with the astral violet / of the underlife." As Richard Tillinghast said of him, "He always meets existence head-on, without evasion or wishful thinking. When Kinnell is at the top of his form, there is no better poet writing in America." ■ Besides **Selected Poems**, Kinnell has eight books of poetry, four books of prose, and five works of translation. In addition to the Pulitzer and the American Book Award, he has received the Shelley Prize, awarded by the Poetry Society of America, and the Medal of Merit, given by the National Institute of Arts and Letters. One of Kinnell's admirers described the poet's quest in life as a search for innocence. Others focus on what they see as his preoccupation with death, his "insistence on peering at the bones behind the face—death beneath the mask of life, yet also some kind of ecstatic survival beyond the mask of death." ■ Kinnell's vision is in the tradition of Whitman, generous, realistic, and honest. His poetry is proof, as critics have said, that poems can still be written movingly about those subjects that in any age for any people fascinate, disturb, confound, and sadden the heart: poems about the family, mortality, war, a spiritual life, our connection to the natural world. ■ Kinnell will give the 1990 Benefit Reading for the Festival on Thursday, September 27, at 8:00 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium. Admission, \$7, \$4 for students.

## LUCILLE CLIFTON



Nominated for Pulitzer Prizes for three of her collections, **Two-Headed Woman**, **Good Woman: Poems and a Memoir 1969-1980**, and **Next: New Poems**, Lucille Clifton's succinct comment on her work in the third edition of **Contemporary Poets** consists of one sentence: "I am a Black woman poet, and I sound like one." In their distilled brevity, her poems are strongly connected to Black spirituals and folk songs, to the rhythms of jazz and blues, to revival meetings and magical incantations. In addition to her poetry, she has written for television, winning an Emmy for her contribution to **Free To Be You and Me** and high praise for her many children's books. The hallmarks of her writing are a belief in the language of poetry, the power of song, and the courage of the human heart. ■ Lucille Clifton will give a talk at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 3, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center. She will also give a reading that evening at 8:00 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium.

## E. ETHELBERT MILLER



E. Ethelbert Miller is the director of the Howard University Afro-American Resource Center, and host of a weekly radio program on WDCU-FM. He also is the author of several books, including **Season of Hunger/Cry of Rain** and **Where are the Love Poems for Dictators?** Gwendolyn Brooks, poetry consultant to Congress, has called Miller "one of the most significant and influential poets of our time." ■ E. Ethelbert Miller will give a talk at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

## ANNE BERNAYS



Anne Bernays has published non-fiction in **Sports Illustrated**, **Washington Post**, and **The Atlantic Monthly**, but she is best known as the author of eight novels, most recently the controversial **Professor Romeo**. The daughter of Edward Bernays, known as "the father of Public Relations," and the grandniece of Sigmund Freud, she lives in Massachusetts, and has been a key figure in forming the New England P.E.N. Her writing has been called "clean and uncluttered . . . like the smooth-flowing language of conversation." She has been praised for her acute ear for dialogue, her ability to handle complex plots, and her awareness (perhaps inherited) of the chemistry of the mind. ■ She will read from and talk about **Professor Romeo** and work-in-progress on Thursday, October 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

All Festival events are open to the public; all but the Benefit Reading are free. ■ Sponsored by the Old Dominion University Creative Writing Program ■ The Department of English ■ The College of Arts and Letters ■ The Student Activities Council ■ The Virginia Commission for the Arts ■ The City of Norfolk ■ The Associated Writing Programs ■ and many local supporters.

Donor, 1990 Festival: J.M. Prince, Ltd.

For further information call 683-4033



# THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

GALWAY KINNELL once said, "It is the dream of every poem to be a myth." By that he meant, I believe, that every true poem intends to speak in universal terms, to reach toward the hopes and fears of humankind. Similarly, it is the object of any literary festival to establish intensely and dramatically a relationship between important writers and the community, to renew a world that has been lost to us through habit or inattention with a language that "batters it into visibility." A great writer creates a city of words, a place that all listeners or readers can enter to find themselves. ■ This year's literary festival begins and ends with Pulitzer Prize winners, and in between offers a range of voices and visions of the world. The Benefit Reading on September 27 will be given by Galway Kinnell, Pulitzer Prize winner and state poet of Vermont, a writer whose moral alertness and respect for the world around him gives his work the quality of a human chorus speaking for us all. The poet Sharon Olds has said of him, "Galway's intense family feeling doesn't stop at the cabin door, or the edge of the town, or the borders of Vermont, or the American shores. The globe alone is, maybe, the defining border of Galway's works." Likewise, the novelist Lee Smith goes beyond Southern accents in such books as **Oral History** and **Family Linen** and depicts characters who are reflections of us all. Lucille Clifton, who has been nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize and has won an Emmy for her contribution to Marlo Thomas' **Free To Be You And Me**, has written poetry and stories for children and adults. Her writing quickens and shapes an awareness of black heritage. As one of her characters says, "...i got a long memory/and i came from a line/ of black and going on women." Anne Bernays makes a universe of the university, particularly in her sharply ironic **Professor Romeo**, the story of a Harvard professor who is a best-selling author, a leading researcher in his field, and an indefatigable seducer of his female colleagues and students. Kelly Cherry, Peggy Shumaker, Toi Derricotte, Alf Mapp, Jr., Scott Donaldson, Hal Crowther, and Ethelbert Miller will add to the extraordinary range of voices. ■ Appropriately, the festival will conclude with a lecture by Pulitzer Prize winning biographer Justin Kaplan, who will speak quite literally about words. He will talk about his work on the 16th edition of **Bartlett's Familiar Quotations**, a standard reference that, in his words, "has tended to reflect the cosmos through the gates of Harvard Yard." Kaplan wants to open the gates to Woody Allen, Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, and others. Kaplan, famous for his biographies of Walt Whitman and Mark Twain, once described Whitman's life as a "demonstration of the regenerative power of personality, change and language." Language is the heart of the matter, and language that matters is at the heart of ODU's 13th Annual Literary Festival, what we hope will truly become a city of words this fall.

Michael Pearson  
Director of the Festival

## THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27

8:00 pm

**Galway Kinnell**

Literary Festival Preview/Benefit Reading  
Donation: \$7, Students \$4

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 2

11:00 am

**Hal Crowther** (talk on the media)

1:00 pm

**Toi Derricotte** (poetry reading)

3:00 pm

**Peggy Shumaker** (poetry reading)

8:00 pm

**Lee Smith** (fiction reading)

## WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3

11:00 am

**Ethelbert Miller** (poetry reading)

1:30 pm

**Lucille Clifton** (talk on children's literature)

3:00 pm

**Kelly Cherry** (fiction reading)

8:00 pm

**Lucille Clifton** (poetry reading)

## THURSDAY OCTOBER 4

11:00 am

**Justin Kaplan**

**Scott Donaldson**

**Alf Mapp, Jr.**

(panel on biography)

1:30 pm

**Anne Bernays** (fiction reading)

8:00 pm

**Justin Kaplan** (talk on *Bartlett's Quotations*)

Morning and afternoon events will be held in the Hampton-Newport News Room, Webb Center.

All evening events will take place in Mills Godwin Auditorium.

All festival events are open to the public; all but the benefit reading are free.