Growing up is a ritual—more deadly than religion more complicated than baseball, for there seem to be no rules. W. P. Kinsella

W. P. KINSELLA GRETEL EHRLICH MICHAEL PEARSON TINA MCELROY ANSA SUSAN BROADHEAD

equivalent and can heal what is divided and burdensome in us... Gretel Ehrlich

My impulse has been to travel, to see for myself what lies on the other side

MAGGIE ANDERSON WAYNE UDE ALF MAPP PHILIP LEVINE HENRY TAYLOR JACK MYERS

of the mountain, not to accept hearsay but to see with my own eyes.

Michael Pearson...Chosen by God as a special person on this earth.

LIAM RECTOR TREE SWENSON W. P. KINSELLA GRETEL EHRLICH MICHAEL PEARSON

Tina McElroy Ansa I am interested in strengthening the network among literary programs throughout the country. Susan Broadhead

TINA MCELROY ANSA SUSAN BROADHEAD MAGGIE ANDERSON WAYNE UDE ALF MAPP

evitably the savings of the desperate poor pile: old car parts and empty bottles, broken dolls and rusty buckets hung on nails, and always cats, who

PHILIP LEVINE HENRY TAYLOR JACK MYERS LIAM RECTOR TREE SWENSON W. P. KINSELLA

see the indigent out. Maggie Anderson That's where the memory ends.

Wayne Ude What manner of men were these who stood unabashed upon

GRETIEL EHRLICH MICHAEL PEARSON TINA MCELROY ANSA SUSAN BROADHEAD MAGGIE ANDERSON

the storm-swept threshold of a new era? Alf Mapp It's wonderful how I jog

on four honed-down ivory toes my massive buttocks slipping like oiled

WAYNE UDE ALF MAPP PHILIP LEVINE HENRY TAYLOR JACK MYERS LIAM RECTOR TREE SWENSON

parts with each light step. Philip Levine Riding a One-Eyed Horse...

One side of his world is always missing. Henry Taylor And now my

W. P. KINSELLA GRETEL EHRLICH MICHAEL PEARSON TINA MCELROY ANSA SUSAN BROADHEAD

brain outweighs me, now I’m tired. Jack Myers Coming in for a

moment, out of the cold, we wonder if anything we have built is that thing

MAGGIE ANDERSON WAYNE UDE ALF MAPP PHILIP LEVINE HENRY TAYLOR JACK MYERS LIAM RECTOR

which will outlast the sorrow, the seeming not to last. Liam Rector It is easy
to forget, here in America, that people have been shot for poetry. Tree Swenson

TREE SWENSON W. P. KINSELLA GRETEL EHRLICH MICHAEL PEARSON TINA MCELROY ANSA

14th
Annual Literary Festival
Old Dominion University
October 8-10, 1991

BETWEEN
fact or fiction
THE LINES
BETWEEN THE LINES

Wayne Ude is the publisher of Copper Canyon Press, which she co-founded (with Sam Hamill) in 1972. Now one of the most respected publishers in the country, Copper Canyon Press publishes a notable range of poets from many languages and cultures, including Pablo Neruda, Thomas McGrath, Vicente Aleixandre, Olga Broumas, Odysseas Elytis, and others. Books published by the press have received numerous awards for literary content and design. Swenson is currently president of the Board of Directors of Copper Canyon Press and also serves as art director of Graywolf Press. Swenson will take part in a panel discussion at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, October 8, in the Hampton-Newport News Room.

Michael Pearson has published poetry and short stories, but he is primarily a non-fiction writer. He has written sports, travel pieces, features, and personal reminiscences for the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, and the Boston Globe, among other newspapers. His book Imagined Places: Journeys Into Literary America, published this fall, is part travelogue, part meditation, part biography, and part reportage. It is a story about how the visions of great writers in our country collide with or are comprised by the dreams and stories of ordinary Americans. He is also director of this year’s literary festival. He will be reading on Tuesday, October 8, at 11 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room.

Tree Swenson is the publisher of Copper Canyon Press and also serves as art director of Graywolf Press. Swenson will take part in a panel discussion at 11 a.m. on October 10, in the Hampton-Newport News Room.

Tina McElroy Ansa's first novel Baby of the Family was honored as one of the New York Times Book Review's Notable Books of the Year. The book received the Georgia Authors' Series Award and was named by the American Library Association as a Best Book for Young Adults for 1990. McElroy Ansa has written reviews and articles for the Atlanta Constitution, The Charlotte Observer, and other publications. Tina McElroy Ansa has taught at Spelman College (her alma mater), Clark College, Brunswick College, and Emory University. She has also published non-fiction in Atlanta Magazine, American Magazine, and Ms. magazine, among others.

On St. Simons Island, Georgia, where she resides, Ansa was the director of the Georgia Sea Island Festival, a 13-year-old grassroots event that seeks to preserve the crafts, music, slave chants, games, food, and spirit of the African-American people who lived and worked as slaves on the rice and cotton plantations along the Georgia coast. 8 She'll be reading from her novel-in-progress at 11 a.m., Wednesday, October 9, in the Hampton-Newport News Room. At 1 p.m., she will be giving a talk about the writing of fiction.

Alf Mapp, Jr., is a critically acclaimed historian and biographer. A writer with a subtle narrative ability, the skill to make history into a compelling story, Mapp is the author of eight books and the co-author of numerous others. He has written more than 800 articles in the New York Times and other metropolitan newspapers, scholarly journals, and popular magazines. His books have been translated into nine languages. He has received world-wide praise for Thomas Jefferson: A Strange Case of Mistaken Identity, which was cited as one of the "Forty Best Books of 1987" and chosen as a featured selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

This year, scheduled for a mid-October publication date, Alf Mapp's Thomas Jefferson: Passionate Pilgrim will be in bookstores around the world, but residents of Hampton Roads and visitors to the 14th annual Old Dominion University Literary Festival will get a sneak preview. Mapp will read from his new work, and the book will be available exclusively in this area at that time. The work, an anxiously-awaited second volume on Jefferson, will trace his story from his inauguration as president through his death. Mapp's book departs from the stereotypical view of Jefferson as a man of pure reason. Although he sees Jefferson as a man with great intellectual and reasoning powers, Mapp offers the story of a man who reacted passionately to ideas and the people around him. "Jefferson's life," according to Mapp, "was a pilgrimage of discovery." Alf Mapp will be speaking on Tuesday, October 8, at 8 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium.

TINA McELROY ANSA

WAYNE UDE

MICHAEL PEARSON

TINA McELROY ANSA

ALF MAPP, JR.
Liam Rector
Liam Rector is the author of The Serene of Architecture, a book of poems. He’s also the editor of The Day I Was Older: On the Poetry of Donald Hall. He has taught at Old Dominion University, George Mason, Goucher College, and Phillips Academy at Andover. In addition, he has administered literary programs at the Folger Academy of American Poets. Currently, Liam Rector is executive director of Associated Writing Programs, which has lately taken a leading role in defending the 1st amendment. Rector has been awarded both NEA and Guggenheim fellowships for poetry. He will moderate a panel discussion of censorship on Thursday, October 10, at 11 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

W.P. Kinsella
W.P. Kinsella has published 15 books and over 200 short stories, but he is best known for his award-winning novel Shoeless Joe, which was made into the highly praised film Field of Dreams. The New York Times has said that his work “defines a world in which magic and reality combine to make us laugh and think about the perceptions we take for granted.” His life, like his fiction, seems to have an element of magic to it.

Kinsella writes primarily about baseball (The Thrill of the Grass and The Iowa Baseball Conference) and Indians (The Moccasin Telegraph and The Fencepost Chronicle), but he is quick to point out that he is neither an Indian nor a baseball player. He grew up in Canada, an only child, in almost total isolation on a farm in Northern Alberta. He did not attend school until fifth grade, studying at home by correspondence. Having no playmates, he created fictional friends and wrote about them from age six on. He worked on ranches lambing, branding, herding sheep, and calving.

Kinsella’s compassionate and funny stories appeal to critics and audiences alike. According to the Village Voice, “Kinsella’s style functions to get you some place, not just point at itself. He has learned from Twain, has studied Hemingway. The talent that lifts up off these pages is special.” Kinsella is a romantic, a humanist, a poet, and as Elspeth Cameron has said, “He is simply irresistible.” W.P. Kinsella will give the 1991 Benefit Reading for the Festival on Wednesday, October 9, at 8 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium. Admission is $7, $3 for students.

HENRY TAYLOR
A Virginia-born poet, Henry Taylor won the Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for his collection of poetry The Flying Change. Taylor, who is noted for the formality and elegance of his poetry, is a writer who speaks with great clarity and honesty about the unavoidable changes people must go through in life. As Richard Dillard has said of his poetry, “Henry Taylor’s work has all the ring and authority of an American Hardy. He is intensely aware of the darkness that moves around us and in us.”

A graduate of the University of Virginia and Hollins College, Taylor grew up in rural Virginia and his poetry reflects his upbringing in its themes and subject matter. He is well versed in country things. As one critic has pointed out, “Henry Taylor has for all his poetic career been drawn inexorably to questions of time and mutability, of inevitable and painful change in even the most fixed and stable circumstances.”

Among his other books of poetry are The Horse Show at Midnight, An Alternate of Pocket Billiards, One for the Rose and Selected Poems. He has earned a well-deserved reputation as a teacher of writing not only in colleges but also in the Poetry in the Schools Program. Henry Taylor will be giving a dual reading with Philip Levine on Thursday, October 10, at 8 p.m. in Mills Godwin Auditorium.

SUSAN BROADHEAD
Susan Broadhead is the executive director of the Loft, a major literary center for awards and annual readings in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She has been instrumental in creating important new programs in creative non-fiction, two theater projects, and the Loft-McKnight Awards for individual writers. During the past year she has been on the steering committee for the Coalition of Writers’ Organizations. Susan Broadhead will be part of a censorship panel discussion on Thursday, October 10, at 11 a.m. in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.

GRETEL EHRLICH
Novelist, poet, and essayist, Gretel Ehrlich is the Whitman of Wyoming, writing about that vast landscape with the same poetic intensity Whitman used for 19th century America at large. She has published two books of poetry, short story collections, and a book of narrative essays.

Ehrlich, a California native, first went to Wyoming as a documentary filmmaker. She began to write full-time in 1979 and has also worked on ranches lambing, branding, herding sheep, and calving. She now lives with her husband on a ranch in Shell, Wyoming. She was educated at Bennington College, UCLA Film School, and the New School for Social Research. Her prose pieces have appeared in the New York Times, Atlantic, Time, and Harper’s. She has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Wyoming Council for the Arts. Heart Mountain, her novel, was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. A new book of essays, Islands, The Universe, Home, will be published this fall.

Newsday called her collection of essays that focuses on life in Wyoming, The Solace of Open Spaces, “a stunning rumination on life...Ehrlich’s gorgeous prose is as expansive as a Wyoming vista, as charged as a bolt of prairie lightning.” Ehrlich will read from her new collection of essays at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 8, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center. She will also discuss the craft of writing non-fiction at 3 p.m. on October 8 in the Hampton-Newport News Room.

GRETEL EHRLICH

Photo by John Doonan

Photo by John Doonan
PLANNED EVENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSTUbURGH

OCTOBER 9-10, 1991

Thursday, October 10

11 a.m. Maggie Anderson / Jack Myers—A joint poetry reading

8 p.m. Phillip Levine / Henry Taylor—Two award-winning poets read from their works.

Schedule of Events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

11 a.m. Wayne Ude / Michael Pearson, a dual reading—Reminiscence: Fact and Fiction

1 p.m. Gretel Ehrlich—Reading from her new collection of essays

3 p.m. Gretel Ehrlich—Speaking about the craft of writing non-fiction

8 p.m. Alf Mapp, Jr.—Reading from Thomas Jefferson: Passionate Pilgrim

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

11 a.m. Tina McElroy Ansa—Reading from her novel-in-progress

1 p.m. Tina McElroy Ansa—Speaking about the art of writing fiction

8 p.m. W.P. Kinsella—The Fourteenth Annual Literary Festival Benefit Reading by the renowned author of Shoeless Joe (Sponsored by the Old Dominion University Student Activities Council).

JACK MYERS

Jack Myers is a Professor of English and director of Creative Writing at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, a tenyear faculty member of the Vermont College MFA Program in Writing, and poetry editor of Cimarron Review. He has written five books of poetry and has co-edited five books about poetry. His latest efforts are a volume of poems, Blindsided, an anthology of contemporary poetry, New American Poets of the '90s, a critical history entitled A Profile of American Poetry in the Twentieth Century, all forthcoming in 1991. He is a winner of the 1985 National Poetry Series, an award from The Texas Institute of Letters, and a two-time recipient of National Endowment for the Arts fellowships.

PHILIP LEVINE

Philip Levine's fourteenth book of poetry, What Work Is, was published this spring. Perhaps the title of this most recent collection summarizes much of what is central to his remarkable poetry. Most of his work concentrates on the working class, particularly those auto workers in Detroit with whom he is so familiar. His poetry has been a search to find a voice for the voiceless.

As he explained in Detroit Magazine, "In terms of the literature of the United States they weren't being heard. Nobody was speaking for them. And as young people will, you know, I took this foolish vow that I would speak for them and that's what my life would be. And sure enough I've gone and done it. Or I've tried anyway...I just hope I have the strength to carry it all the way through."

Levine has won an assortment of awards, from a Notable Book Award given by the Library Association to the National Book Critics Award. He has read poetry at the Library of Congress, been an adviser to the Academy of American Poets, and has been named an outstanding lecturer by California State University.

According to the New York Times, Levine has become "the elegist of lost souls beaten down by forces they could not understand or control." Joyce Carol Oates said in American Poetry Review, "He is one of those poets whose work is so emotionally intense, and yet so controlled, so concentrated, that the accumulative effect of reading a number of his related poems can be shattering." The Literary Festival will conclude Thursday, October 10, at 8 p.m. when Philip Levine will give a dual reading with Virginia poet Henry Taylor in Mills Godwin Auditorium.

MAGGIE ANDERSON


She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. Anderson is an assistant professor at Kent State University and teaches undergraduate and graduate poetry workshops and minority literature. Maggie Anderson will be part of a dual poetry reading with Jack Myers at 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, in the Hampton-Newport News Room in Webb Center.
The theme of this year’s festival is “Between the Lines: Fact and Fiction.” The relationship between a work of fiction and a work of non-fiction can be subtle, mysterious. Often the lines are blurred. Some of the best poems and novels spring from historical situations or personal experiences. Real people and imagined ones may populate the same universe, especially if it is one created by a Kurt Vonnegut or a W.P. Kinsella. Some of the best pieces of non-fiction are shaped by the narrative techniques we associate with short stories or novels. At times the sentences in great biographies or works of journalism are chiseled with the artistry and emotional intensity of poetry.

This year the Old Dominion University Literary Festival welcomes a diverse group of writers, many of whom travel along the magical boundary line between fact and fiction, creating works that straddle the real and the imaginary, shaping stories that defy categories. With the narrative abilities of a skillful novelist and the careful research of a meticulous historian, Alf Mapp, Jr., recreates the second half of the life of Thomas Jefferson. Gretel Ehrlich, whose prose, according to the San Francisco Chronicle, belongs in a league with Annie Dillard and even Thoreau, has written essays that have been described as “stunning ruminations on life on Wyoming’s high plains.” W.P. Kinsella writes stories in which strange things happen—fabled heroes are resurrected, reclusive authors are kidnapped, the line between the real and the surreal becomes, as one critic said, “as thin and squirrelly as sewing thread.” Philip Levine and Henry Taylor, who will conclude the festival with a dual reading, tap into the roots of their experience through poetry that focuses on inner-city Detroit or rural Virginia.

These and many other outstanding writers will read from their works, leading the audience between the lines of fact and fiction, allowing us to discover the places where history and the imagination intersect.

Michael Pearson, Director