

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

Prepared by the Communications Department, S 802 Ross, 667-3441

Scottish Writer at Glendon



Liz Lochhead in "Sugar and Spite"

Liz Lochhead, Glendon College's first Writer-in-Residence, is no Emily Dickinson.

She is an accomplished poet, one of Scotland's best-known younger writers — but unlike the eccentric Miss Dickinson, she does not plan to spend all her time hidden in a garret, writing for herself. Ms. Lochhead has projects underway in film, theatre, and journalism, as well as plans for extensive contact with student writers, and, of course, writing poetry.

One week after her recent arrival at Glendon, she said: "I've really been enjoying it here. I've done more work in the past week than I

have in three months."

Her guest suite in the Hilliard Residence will supply her with what Virginia Woolf said was a basic necessity for a woman writer: "a room of one's own." Ms. Lochhead has an office in Glendon Hall where she will be meeting student writers.

She is the first Scottish writer to be awarded the Scottish/Canadian Writers Fellowship, an exchange program co-sponsored by the Canada Council and the Scottish Arts Council. Novelist Graeme Gibson will be spending eight months in Scotland as Canada's choice.

"When I saw the advertisement for the award I thought, 'That would really be fantastic,' to get a year to write, she explained. "I'll return to Glasgow eventually, as I feel committed to living there. But a year away from Scotland would be bloody great, because it's a small country. Coming here should wake me up quite a lot."

Pleased to be at Glendon, she recalled her first impressions: "Of course it's very beautiful, everyone must be very proud of it."

For me it was a fantasy thing, like walking through the corridors of an American academic novel. I only say 'American' because I haven't yet read a Canadian novel set in university.

"But I thought, ah, the groves of academe. I didn't go to university at all, but to Glasgow Art School, and everyone there lives in flats in the city."

Among the College's resources which she hopes to explore are its French courses and theatre department. "I can be an elderly student here; I'm going to finally learn French", she said. Last year she and two other women performers created a feminist literary cabaret titled "Sugar and Spite" which was quite popular, and toured throughout the summer. Describing it as "about a reading that went wrong", Ms. Lochhead added that she hopes to stage it at Glendon with a couple of women students there. Working on "Sugar and Spite" has also inspired her to work on a "more naturalistic" play set in a women's washroom.

"I'm hoping to learn something about theatre from the people at Glendon," she said. Other hopes for the near future include seeing much of Canada, and giving readings outside Toronto.

Her first collection of poetry, *Memo for Spring*, was published in 1972. A new book, *the Grimm Sisters*, which incorporates retellings of old ballads and folktales, will be released shortly. Between publication of the two collections, her work has appeared in several anthologies.

Teaching poetry to university students will be a new experience for her. However, she led an evening course in creative writing in Scotland, and is anticipating the challenge here.

"They tend to think that creative writing can't be taught, in Britain. But you can be a focus for beginning writers, the equivalent of first publication. I hope to get a group of student writers together here, perhaps act like a chairman, and gradually phase myself out as they help each other with their work," she explained.

Some of the poetry she is writing currently is intended for a BBC film of herself and English poet Roger McGough giving readings around the Lake District in England. The BBC is flying her back for ten days to film the readings in late October.

Other projects she has begun are a film script, and a series of "Letters from Canada" for Scottish radio. "The script is being co-written with a director; it's about a guy who falls in love with a girl who's better than him at football," she laughed.

She summed up her feelings about her appointment: "In a sense I'm lucky to be here by myself, and I'm looking forward to making lots of friends, and meeting many students and Canadian writers while I'm here." Her residency at Glendon lasts until the end of the academic year.

POEM FOR MY SISTER

My little sister likes to try my shoes,
to strut in them,
admire her spindle-thin twelve-year-old legs
in this season's styles.
She says they fit her perfectly,
but wobbles
on their high heels, they're
hard to balance.
I like to watch my little sister
playing hopscotch,
admire the neat hops-and-skips of her,
their quick peck,
never-missing their mark, not
over-stepping the line.
She is competent at peever.
I try to warn my little sister about unsuitable shoes,
point out my own distorted feet, the callouses,
odd patches of hard skin.
I should not like to see her
in my shoes.
I wish she could stay
sure footed,
sensibly shod.

Liz Lochhead

Footnotes

Scholarships

If you're graduating soon, or continuing post-graduate work, this is the time of year to check scholarship and award possibilities and to submit applications. A series of travel scholarships to such countries as Finland, USSR, Israel, Germany and the Netherlands are administered by the International Programs section of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, with the deadline date of Nov. 30, 1978. For information about these programs, the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Scholarships, and other awards, contact the administrative assistant, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Room N920 Ross, for information and application forms.

Rescheduled

New Burton Auditorium performance dates have been announced for the Whilom Stringband concert and the debut presentation of the theatre company Necessary Angel. The folk group will appear Thursday, November 2 at 8:30 pm. The Theatre company, composed of former York students, will perform *Agamemnon*, part one of *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus, on

Tuesday, November 7 at 8:30 pm. Tickets for both evenings are \$3.00 students, \$4.00 general. Call - 2370 for ticket information.

Roots Too

What could be a better break from essays and lectures than planting a tree? A Tree Planting Day on Thursday, November 2 is planned by the Arboretum Committee and the Grounds Department. Last year, about 300 York people turned out to dig a little dirt and help beautify the campus. Spades, trees, cider and doughnuts will be available from 9:30 on at Parking lot DD, just west of Scott Library. Trees will be sited along the south side of the Petrie Science Building and around Stong Lake.

Views: Japan

Two York institutions are offering views of Japanese culture this month. The Art Gallery of York University, N145 Ross, is exhibiting 45 Ukiyo-e (coloured woodblock prints) from the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. These renowned prints, from the years between 1615 and 1868, reflect the fashions, diversions and favorite

entertainment figures of Japan's middle class. The exhibit closes November 10. The *Canadian Theatre Review* published at York, examines contemporary Japanese theatre in its fall issue, and includes the full script of an experimental play, *My Beatles*, by Sako Makato. The *Review* is available at the York and Glendon bookstores.



Woodcut by Utamaro

Bargaining

TORONTO, October 16, 1978: McLaughlin College will present

the first meeting in its Public Policy Programme Series, Tuesday, October 24 in McLaughlin Junior Common Room at 1:00 p.m. This first session will be a forum on "Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector", and the panelists will be Professor Harry Arthurs, former dean of Osgoode Hall Law School and Professor Graham McKechnie, Chairman of the Department of Economics. The forum will be chaired by CTV broadcaster Lloyd Robertson, who is a Fellow of McLaughlin College.

Preview

Preview, a useful listing of fine arts events on campus, takes on a new format next week. It will be appearing about once a month as a full-page advertisement in Excalibur, handy for pinning on your door to answer that eternal question, "What is there to do tonight besides homework?" Preview, issued by the office of the Dean of Fine Arts, makes its debut in its new clothes next week; subsequent publication dates will be November 30, January 4, February 1, and March 29. Events, lectures, and special guests in the fields of dance, theatre, film, music and visual arts, and gallery shows are listed, including those organized by colleges. Submissions are welcome; contact Heather McArthur in the Dean's Office, -3237 for deadline dates or further information.

Autobio Film

York film professor John Katz has helped organize a series of symposia, with film-makers from across North America, are scheduled for Saturday Nov. 4 and Sunday, Nov. 5. Screenings begin Wednesday, Nov. 1, and end six weeks later. The first major event of its kind in Canada, the films and panels should provide an in-depth look at autobiographical films — and the people who make them. Admission is free with admission to the Art Gallery of Ontario, where all events take place. Passes to the symposia and a buffet lunch can be obtained by sending \$15.00 to AUTOBIOGRAPHY, Education Services, Art Gallery of Ontario. For further information call 361-0414, extension 268.

Draw, Pardner?

Artists who can supply line drawings and cartoons for University publications are sought by the Communications Department. A small honorarium is paid for each illustration used. The Department also seeks photographs from the University's initial years in the early 60's. Contact the Communications Department, Room S802 Ross, telephone -3441.