

# Laurence graces her audience

By KIM ECHLIN

I am sitting in Bloor Street United Church, sniffing with a cold, waiting for the main attraction of the morning — an interview with Margaret Laurence.

When Laurence finally steps up to the front she is greeted with applause by the standing congregation. From the first question there is an odd mélange of Christian problems of faith and the clichéd Canadian writer's for roots and identity served up to our hungry congregation. The minister raises the question of grace.

"You use in your novels the word 'grace' very much in a religious sense. Do you think your readers can understand it in that sense?"

Laurence speaks with her hands and directly to the audience. She describes characters from *The Diviners* as if they are alive, maintaining they are often born in a moment filled with something like grace.

"You don't know how they come into your head," she observes. "Inspiration is not a word I like very much. A character comes by itself. Many writers say that they have these moments.

Nobody deserves grace, you can't deserve it, but it happens."

We hear her character, Royland, the water-diviner echoing, "You don't have to have the mark of God between your eyebrows . . . Or if you do, quite a few people have it."

Laurence draws for the congregation the analogy of mothering real children. "As a mother, in a sense, or even wat-

ching other people's children, you feel the mystery of life which I think is the core of my world-view, if you like," she says. "I don't know what God is, but I don't need to define it now. Defining things is something I did alot when I was much younger."

The minister quotes someone who called her a pessimistic writer. Laurence objects.

"I'm not pessimistic. I think you must make a distinction between hope and optimism though. I have tremendous hope that we won't destroy ourselves but I was in Calcutta, you know, and I have never seen suffering like there — it will take work, not just blithe optimism."

Clara Thomas has described *The Diviners* the "endless, stumbling pilgrimage of the tribe of man towards God." Rev. David Allan, who preached a series of sermons on the book used it as an example of irony and the hidden, divining capacity everyone has for understanding. But Laurence speaks with equal concern of the

quest for roots in her writing. Thankfully, she doesn't say Canadian writers need roots, but discusses the problems of art in the broader framework of her personal expression, lending even Canadian criticism the universal perspective which Canlith band-waggon-riders might consider.

The past and the muth compose the Laurence reality. Her only generalized comment on Canadians throughout the interview is that she feels the mythic consciousness of Canadians is generally more Hebraic and bible-oriented than classical. When describing the significance of myth she echoes young Morag in *The Diviners*, who describes the gift of the rediscovered past as "a place to stand on".

"The river which runs both ways is the reality," suggests the minister, quoting the first lines of *The Diviners*.

"Yes," agrees Laurence. "And it's also inside."



**ONE FLIGHT HIGH**  
46 BLOOR WEST  
TORONTO, CANADA  
921-6555



**ONE FLIGHT HIGH**  
46 BLOOR WEST  
TORONTO, CANADA  
921-6555

## Discover FRANCE and EUROPE.

Travel by train.

Anti-inflation Student-Railpass and Eurailpass as well as point to point tickets and reservations for travel in France and in Europe are available through your travel agent or our Montreal or Vancouver offices.

### FRENCH NATIONAL RAILROADS

Room 436, 1500 Stanley Street, Montréal, (514) 288-8255  
Room 452, 409 Granville Street Vancouver, B.C. V6C 1T2 (608) 688-6707

## YIN COURT

FAMOUS CHINESE FOOD

10% DISCOUNT  
ON PICK-UP FOOD ORDERS OF \$4.50 OR MORE OR FREE DELIVERY AFTER 5 P.M.

OPEN Monday to Saturday 4 p.m. till 1 a.m.  
Sunday 4 p.m. till 11 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 667-8282

1033 STEELES AVENUE WEST  
(1 block west of Bathurst; Willowdale)

## Classified Ads

TYPING	TYPING	WANTED	SERVICES	
<p><b>FAST EFFICIENT TYPIST.</b> Rush jobs no problem, electric typewriter, reasonable rates. Call Ellie 494-1148.</p> <p><b>ESSAYS, THESES, RESUMES, etc.</b> - fully experienced in all phases of typing. I.B.M. Selectric. Yorkdale area. Mrs. Fox 783-4358.</p> <p><b>PROFESSIONAL TYPIST.</b> Reports, term papers, etc., on I.B.M. Selectric, reasonable rates. Phone: Mrs. Tarter, 491-6191.</p> <p><b>EXECUTIVE TYPIST</b> will do fast accurate work at home. Essays, letters, resumes, etc. Ida 249-8948. Reasonable rates.</p> <p><b>EXPERIENCED, FAST, ACCURATE TYPIST,</b> essays, theses, etc. Electric typewriter, paper supplied, rush jobs no problem - Call Sharyl - 491-2423.</p> <p><b>ACCURATE GENERAL TYPING</b> done at home evenings and week-ends. North York area 222-7170.</p> <p><b>ESSAYS, THESES, LETTERS,</b> manuscripts, etc. Experienced typist. IBM Electric. Jane-Steeles area. From 50c. per page. Phone Carole, 661-4040.</p> <p><b>UNIVERSITY CITY</b> - Keele &amp; Finch, neat and efficient typist for essays, theses etc., call 661-3730.</p> <p><b>FAST, ACCURATE TYPING</b> done at my home paper supplied reasonable rates. Call Laura 491-1240.</p> <p>* Professional typist * Pick-up &amp; delivery * Prompt next day service * Plus extra copy of essay * Paper provided * Please Call Norene at 663-9231 or 667-8308</p> <p><b>EXPERT TYPING</b> done by experienced secretary fast and accurately on I.B.M. electric typewriter (essays, theses, manuscripts, etc.) paper supplied. Dufferin/Finch area. Call Carole 633-1713.</p>	<p><b>A SUPERIOR TYPIST</b> will do your essays, thesis, etc. I.B.M. Selectric with correcting feature. Call 425-5616.</p> <p><b>TYPING</b> - essays, theses, factums experienced, reasonable - will pick up and deliver. Call 636-6165 mornings and evenings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>GARDENS, BROOKLIN,</b> cultivated and fertilized ready to plant must be booked by March 20, call 1-655-4492.</p> <p>A wide collection of <b>personalized products</b> includes leather goods, jewellery, photo stamps, 2'x3' posters and playing cards. For free catalogue write <b>Rebel Investments Box 160 Brampton, Ont.</b></p> <p><b>Fur Sale</b></p> <p>Fur - Coats jackets and stoles used \$10. up. New \$99. and up -</p> <p>Most furs at 1976 sale prices. Buy now and save 30-50%.</p> <p><b>PAUL MAGDER FURS</b> 202 Spadina Avenue Store Hours: Mon. - Thurs. - Friday 90 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tues. - Wed. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 363-6077</p> <p><b>AROUND AGAIN</b> recycled records and books, 12 noon till 6, 18 Baldwin Street 979-2822.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WANTED</b></p> <p><b>FLUTE PLAYER WANTED</b> to double on piano for dynamite folk duo. Michael B. 961-5173.</p> <p><b>NEED A GOOD PART-TIME JOB?</b> Earn \$80. any 3 evenings and Saturday. Must be over 18 with car, pleasing personality, helpful. Call 743-9827 between 3:30 - 7 p.m. for appointment.</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">PART TIME HELP WANTED</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">-Car Necessary - 6-10 p.m. - \$6.90 per hour</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">741-9720</h2> <p><b>PHOTOGRAPHER REQUIRES MALE PHYSIQUE</b> models. Please include a full length photo and phone number. Photos for personal use only. Contact: D. Lees, P.O. Box 43, Etobicoke, Ontario.</p> <p><b>TEMPORARY BOARDING HOME FOR MALE CAT</b> used to apartment living but not children. He is gentle, affectionate, and loveable but sheds fur, sharpens claws and occasionally howls. Tel. 266-5561 7-9 a.m.</p> <p><b>STUDENTS OF OBJECTIVISM</b> interested in informal discussions and meeting others of like interest, female or male, phone 6-10 p.m., 822-8925, 449-6022.</p> <p><b>Metro Toronto Ladies' Fastball League</b> Player Positions Open, Intermediate Calibre. Coach needed. If interested contact: Judy Lee 787-5437</p>	<p><b>HARBINGER Community Services</b> Information...Counselling...Referrals</p> <p><b>BIRTH CONTROL ABORTION VENEREAL DISEASE DRUGS/ALCOHOL SEXUALITY</b> also</p> <p><b>WOMEN'S SELF-HEALTH GROUPS MEN'S CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING GROUPS SEXUALITY EDUCATIONALS</b></p> <p><b>667-3509 or 667-3632</b></p> <p><b>Rm. 214 Vanier Residence York University</b> 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. Monday - Friday</p> <p><b>Dr. J.W. CAPELL and Dr. M.L. GROSS OPTOMETRISTS</b></p> <p><b>CENTRAL SQUARE YORK UNIVERSITY</b></p> <p><b>667-3700</b> By Appointment</p> <p><b>BIRTH CONTROL</b> information and referral, Call anytime - 367-7442.</p> <p><b>FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING PLEASE CALL 667-3800</b></p>	<p><b>YORK UNIVERSITY DENTAL SERVICE</b> By Appointment</p> <p>Rm. 114 Founders Residence Tel. 667-6327 or 749-6631</p> <p><b>THE COUNSELLING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE</b></p> <p>Welcomes you to drop by any time. We are a York Community Service, offering</p> <p><b>Personal Counselling and Programmes in the areas of</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Skills Enhancement</li> <li>• Personal and Interpersonal Heightened Awareness</li> </ul> <p><b>Rm. 145, BSB, 667-2304</b> Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 24hr. emergency service: 667-3333</p>