

## Small town writer with big ideas

by HEATHER McNAUGHT

Douglas Glover, UNB's 1987/88 Writer in Residence, is an author with small town roots and big city ideas.

Glover still writes about the Ontario tobacco farm where he grew up, but his characters are just as likely to turn up in an Indian ashram or an Austrian old folks home or the swamps of the Florida Panhandle.

"I am definitely not a regional writer," says Glover, "although place, the sense of place in a piece of writing is important to me. It's all one country to me, the country of imagination."

It was this diversity, Glover's cosmopolitan approach to style and subject matter, which attracted the attention of the UNB Writer in Residence selection committee.

After filling the position for several years with noted regional writers, Alden Nowlan and David Adams Richards, associate committee chairman Kent Thompson said, "We felt it was important to go outside, to bring a fresh perspective on writing and on life to the students here."

Thompson added, "We also wanted someone on the way up, first of all, to give that person the freedom and opportunity to continue writing. Also, universities like to bring in writers who are on the way

up because it tends to bring prestige to the university if the writer is successful."

Glover certainly looks like an author on his way up.



DOUG GLOVER

He has already published two books of stories, *THE MAD RIVER* and *DOG ATTEMPTS TO DROWN MAN IN SASKATOON*, and a novel, *PRECIOUS*. And his second novel, *THE SOUTH WILL RISE AT NOON*, a satire on Hollywood movie-making and the American Civil War, will be published next May by Viking/Penguin.

Glover has won the literary Press Group's Writers' Choice Award and the *CANADIAN FICTION MAGAZINE* annual short story award. His novel *PRECIOUS* was a finalist for the *BOOKS IN CANADA* First

Novel Award, and he has twice had stories included in the annual *BEST CANADIAN STORIES* anthology.

Glover began his writing career in the early 1970's as a reporter for the Saint John *EVENING TIMES-GLOBE*.

"I walked in off the street with no experience," recalls Glover, "and very little sense. The first day I typed five obituaries and interviewed George Hamilton IV, the country and western singer. I felt like Walter Cronkite."

Glover spent six years working at the *TIMES-GLOBE*, the Peterborough *EXAMINER*, the Saskatoon *STAR-PHOENIX* and the Montreal *STAR*, first as a reporter, and later as a sports editor and copy editor.

Says Glover, "Newspapers were a terrific education. They shook all the pretence and false sophistication out of me, taught me about difference of

form, that everything isn't written one way. They also cured me of anything remotely like writers' block."

In 1981/82, Glover took a Master of Fine Arts degree at the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop.

"It was a hot place," says Glover. "Eight of my twelve classmates have published at least one book since Iowa. One man has won an American Book Award."

"My best teacher was a Kanas cowboy who came to class in a vest and boots and wrote across the blackboard, 'Remember to tell them the novel is a poem.' And he was right."

Despite his success and the diversity of his background, Glover remains deeply attached to his small home town of Waterford, Ontario. Since his father's death in 1984, Glover had alternated between living

and writing in upstate New York and helping his mother keep the family farm in operation.

"My very first published story, 'Hail', was about the farm," Glover said, "and just a year ago I published another story in UNB's *THE FIDDLEHEAD* about growing up in Waterford (the sex-life of a thirteen-year-old farm boy) called 'I, A Young Man Called Early to the Wars.' I keep returning to the farm, home, in the flesh and in my mind, and then rushing out again to look for fresh characters and ideas."

"It's frenzied. Sometimes I feel like I'm living in five places at once. But it's good for a writer to worry occasionally about nemotodes and covering crops and tobacco subsidies in Argentina. It keeps him from getting above himself."

## Third world craft sale

By NATALIE FOLSTER

It has been a long time coming, but *CARAVAN* is back at UNB. It will be in the Blue Lounge of the SUB from 9 am to 9 pm, Nov. 26, 27, and 28.

*CARAVAN* is a Third World craft sale that tours university campuses across Canada every year. It is sponsored by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), a non-profit organization involved in international development and education.

The sale provides an outlet for artisans in cities, villages and refugee camps throughout the Third World. This year's *Caravan* will carry beadwork, carvings, batiks, toys, carpets, alpaca knits and more from Afghanistan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Lesotho, Cameroon, Bolivia, Haiti and India. WUSC

purchases the items from local cooperatives and self help organizations. Whatever profits accrue from their resale in Canada are used to fund various WUSC projects. Rural development schemes such as this have aided the growth of thriving small-scale industries in many communities. Traditional skills are perpetuated and made profitable.

On its way across Canada, *CARAVAN* also serves to inform the university community and the public about the activities of WUSC and international development issues in general. A video presentation will accompany the sale.

Since 1985, WUSC has sponsored fifteen students from Bhutan to come and study at UNB, five of whom just arrived this Fall. The campus WUSC committee has been dormant for a number of years, but it is

hoped that the return of *CARAVAN* and the presence of the WUSC scholars on campus will stir up some interest in the organization. For students with a desire to learn more about the countries of the Third World, WUSC offers a unique opportunity. For six weeks every summer, thirty students selected from Canadian universities participate in a seminar somewhere in the developing world. Applications have already closed on this summer's French-speaking seminar to be held in Mali, but plans for an English-speaking study tour of either a Caribbean or Central American country are already in the works.

Anyone interested in this or any of WUSC's activities is encouraged to stop by the *CARAVAN* display or to phone Ginny Zisk at 459-3338.

APPLICANTS TO  
UNB LAW SCHOOL  
1988-1989  
ALL STUDENTS WHO ARE  
INTERESTED  
IN APPLYING TO UNB LAW SCHOOL  
ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN  
INFORMATION SESSION

Date: Wednesday, November 25, 1987

Time: 3:30pm

Place: Room 2, Ludlow Hall, UNB

Speaker: Professor Brian Bruce  
Admissions & Scholarships  
Committee, UNB Law School

## SMART PACC ADVENTURES

