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## "WYOLITMAIL"

from Mike Shay of the

## WYOMING ARTS COUNCIL

*Wyolitmail is an e-mail newsletter featuring weekly updates of literary activities in Wyoming and the West.*

[MSHAY@state.wy.us](mailto:MSHAY@state.wy.us)

See the *Wyo Arts Council Calendar* at <http://www.wyoarts.com/>.

WYOLITMAIL

May 31, 2002

NEWS

IN MEMORIAM: My father died in Florida May 14. He was an accountant, a WWII veteran, and a guy who loved to read. When I was in third grade, he showed me his bookshelves and said: "You can read any of these books." I took him up on it. By the end of fourth grade, I had read "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," "Berlin Diary," and many other huge volumes that I only partially understood. But I was hooked and have been reading ever since. The other day, I told my third-grade daughter Annie she could read any volume on my bookshelves. A few mornings later, I found her curled up in bed with a battered old copy of "Memoirs of U.S. Grant." My father would have gotten a kick out of that.

ADLER DEADLINE LOOMS: Monday, June 3, is the postmark deadline for the Warren Adler Fiction Award. The winning short story receives a \$1,000 award. Applications still are available on-line at <http://wyoarts.state.wy.us/>. FMI: 307-777-5234.

FELLOWSHIP UPDATE: Forms for the 2003 literature fellowships are complete and will be mailed on June 3. Printable forms will be available on the WAC web site by June 7. Deadline has been pushed back to Friday, July 19, since I'm running a bit late with the applications.

BOOK SENSE PICKS: Two novels with Wyoming settings made the Book Sense 76 list of top mysteries. No. 2 is "Savage Run" by C.J. Box and No. 7 is "The Edge of Justice" by Laramite turned Denverite Clinton McKinzie. See the full list at the Book Sense web site at <http://www.booksense.com/>.

LAST CALL: June 1 is the postmark deadline for applications for Young Writers Camp, scheduled for Aug. 10-17 at Thorne-Rider Youth Camp in Story. Open to U.S. writers 14-18 years old. Tuition is \$250. Send writing samples and applications letter to Jane Wohl at 631 S. Jefferson, Sheridan, WY 82801. You can e-mail her at [janewohl@attbi.com](mailto:janewohl@attbi.com) & YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0.

SUMMER IS FOR READING: Public libraries throughout Wyoming offer summer reading programs. Most get cranked up with the end of school, which is this Friday in some counties and next week in others. The Campbell County Library in Gillette invites teens to get a jump on summer reading by coming to a party on Friday, May 31, in the library's Teen Room. Call the CCPL at 307-687-0009. 3-5 p.m. The Teton County Library's summer reading for teens kicks off on Thursday, June 13, 3-5 p.m., with a party, picnic, and miniature golf at Snow King's Alpine Slide in Jackson. FMI: Lori Clark-Erickson, 307-733-2164. Call your local library for info on

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summer reading programs.

WWP OFFERS SUMMER COURSES: The Wyoming Writing Project offers a variety of courses this summer: June 3-7, Saratoga School, contact Bob Krisko at 307-326-5271; June 10-14, Burlington Reading Institute, contact

<http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=mdavidson@bgh1.k12.wy.us&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0;>

June 17-28, Laramie Writing Project, contact

Rhonda Anderson at

<http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=andersenr@sage.ac1.k12.wy.us&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0;>

July 8-19, Dubois

Writing Project, contact Sue Bodar at

<http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=sus56@hotmail.com&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0;> July

22-Aug. 2,

Douglas Writing Project, contact Fred George at 307-358-9771; Aug. 5-9,

Wyoming Summer Reading Institute, contact Rhonda VanKirk at

307-777-3338; Aug. 12-16, Cody Reading Institute, contact Doris Woodbury at

307-572-6332 ext. 18. FMI: Sheryl Lain at

[http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=sheryllain@aol.com&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0.](http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=sheryllain@aol.com&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0;)

HIGH PLAINS TO PUBLISH WOHL: Nancy Curtis at High Plains Press recently announced that the press will publish the first collection of poetry by Jane Wohl in summer 2004. A fine poet, Wohl also was on the short list for the inaugural Warren Adler Fiction Award last year. She is co-founded and director of the Young Writers Camp held each summer in Story.

PRONGHORN RELEASES NOVEL: Pronghorn Press recently announced the publication of the novel, "Montana Spring" by Richard Magniet. A press release describes it this way: "It is based on a true story and revolves around 11-year-old Clay Brewer as he leaves Virginia with his family in 1856, headed for California. The family changes plans along the way and heads north, settling in Washington Territory which will eventually become Montana. The story is set against the broad canvas of the settlement of Montana, the discovery of gold, the evolution of the cattle industry, the struggles of the Indians against the tide of emigrants, the outlaws and renegades that make up the colorful history of our neighboring state." Pronghorn publisher Annette Chaudet (a.k.a. Richard Magniet) says that the book is selling well and seems to have a broad appeal. Chaudet also has been working to finish the latest book from Cody's Western Design Conference. FMI: <http://www.pronghornpress.com/>.

JUNGE WINS FILM AWARD: Cheyenne native and East High grad Daniel Junge won the award for best documentary feature at the inaugural Tribeca Film Festival May 12-14 in NYC. The film fest was founded by Robert De Niro. Junge's film, "Chiefs," documents the ups and downs of the boys' basketball team at Wyoming Indian H.S. on the Wind River Reservation. He filmed the team through the course of the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 seasons. A one-time high school basketball player himself, Junge became a fixture on the reservation as he filmed games, locker room scenes, bus trips, and classrooms. He documented the players at home and cruisin' the Rez. Before receiving the Tribeca honor, Junge debuted the film in Ethete. He had high hopes that it would be shown on Wyoming Public TV and maybe PBS. That seems almost a certainty now. Maybe we could even talk some of the state's theater owners into screening "Chiefs." Here's an idea: Apply to WAC for an Open Door grant to bring Junge (I hear he lives in Denver now) and his film to your community. Tie it into a lecture by Junge about documentary filmmaking techniques, just to give it that artsy spin. While the Open Door category is out of money for this fiscal year, a new budget kicks in July 1. Call me or Donna French at 307-777-7742.

PLEA FROM LEE: From writer Brent Lee: "A few weeks ago I started working on my new nonfiction book which will help parents recognize and understand their child's ability to interact with spirits and/or invisible friends. The manuscript is titled "Children of the Light." I have added to my web site a new page entitled "book research" that has a form where people can share what they have experienced dealing with a child who can interact with spirits, converse with an invisible friend, talk with animals, etc. I am seeking these experiences to share with other adults so they will see they are not alone, and that these interactions are O.K." See <http://www.brentlee.com/>.

**MCCUTCHAN ON THE ROAD:** Laramie's Ann McCutchan will be heading back to Texas this summer to teach a four-week creative nonfiction class sponsored by the Writers' League of Texas in Austin. After that, she will go to Rabun Valley, Georgia, for a July writing residency at the Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences. McCutchan, a writer and musician, will be working on an essay about the French composer Olivier Messiaen's visits to Bryce Canyon. She also will be collaborating with an artist and choreographer on a multi-media work that will debut at Cornell in December. McCutchan will be back in Laramie in August, where she will begin another year as a professor in writing/music at UW.

**ART FOCUSES ON BILL OF RIGHTS:** Greenwich Village artists and bookbinder Richard Minsky "likes art that gives you a reality fix," according to a May 20 NY Times article. Minsky gives us a dose of reality with a series of ten artworks, each dedicated to one of the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. For the First Amendment, which protects freedom of expression, Minsky sealed a charred copy of Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses" in a reliquary with arabesque windows. For the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures, he selected a copy of "Neuromancer," the 1984 sci-fi novel by William Gibson that features a cyberspace immune to government intrusion. Minsky built a slipcase for the book that includes an imbedded network interface card and hot-stamped it with the text of the amendment in hologram foil. You can see the works at <http://www.minsky.com/>. Twenty-five editions of the 10-piece set are available for \$18,000 each. He won't sell them piece-by-piece. "The government is trying to take them away one by one; you have to have them all," Minsky says.

**NOT-SO-STORMY WEATHER:** I love the Weather Channel. It's probably a guy thing, but this strange shared passion for cumulonimbus and tightly packed isobars and cut-off lows has nurtured TWC into its 20th year. Certain TWC meteorologists have a talent for transforming forecasts into pretty good descriptive prose. It tends to be heavy on hyperbole but (thankfully) light on jargon. Here's a snippet from Senior Meteorologist Buzz Bernard's on-line forecast on May 28: "Meter by meter it goes up, an atmospheric fortress over the Interior West; a great, hot high being constructed to ward off any threat or even any dreams of rain. But it's an unnecessary and unwanted castle in a kingdom that has taken on the look of a description from the pages of 'The Grapes of Wrath.' " Can Dust Bowl II be far behind? Check out the weather at <http://www.weather.com/>.

**NEW BOOKMARK FROM WCB:** Get your fuchsia bookmarks from the Wyoming Center for the Book that features a sampler of books published in 2001-2002 by Wyoming authors. FMI: Linn Rounds at [lround@state.wy.us](mailto:lround@state.wy.us) or <http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=lround@state.wy.us&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0>.

**HARRY VS. THE HOBBITS:** Harry Pottermania received a new infusion of energy May 28 with the release of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on VHS and DVD. My daughter Annie has been counting down the days on her Harry Potter calendar with her Harry Potter pen, taking breaks from her reading of the fourth Harry Potter book. A few weeks ago, Annie had gone into mourning when rumors began circulating that J.K. Rowling's fifth book in the Potter series would not be released until the summer of 2003. "How can that be?" she screamed, tearing out her hair and rending her garments. Reliable Internet sources (see [www.pagangeeks.com](http://www.pagangeeks.com)) are now saying the book will be available by the end of the year. Meanwhile, Paul V.M. Flesher, director of UW's Religious Studies Program, penned a thoughtful article for UW's e-mail newsletter about Christians' contrasting reactions to Rowling's and Tolkien's magical worlds. Call it Harry vs. The Hobbits. You may recall that Christian fundies went apoplectic over Harry's wizardry but gushed high praise for J.R.R. and his Hobbits. Flesher points out that the two writers have different backgrounds. Tolkien was a devout Catholic and friend of Christian icon C.S. Lewis. Rowling was raised Presbyterian, avows no religion, but allegedly played witch and wizard games when she was a child in Scotland. Rowling's work takes place in a recognizable present while Tolkien invented an entire new world, albeit one based on his knowledge of the pagan Celtic world. Rowling's books are meant for impressionable kids; Tolkien's for adults. Finally, Flesher asserts that conservative Christians may not want to acknowledge the upstart Rowling, possibly out to usurp Tolkien's crown as a writer of fantasy classics. Maybe it's because Rowling is a modern

young woman and Tolkien looked a lot like William Bennett, the wise old wizard of traditional American values. More information about the UW Religious Studies program can be found on the Web at <http://www.uwyo.edu/relstds/index.htm>.

METHANE SUMMER: Our short Wyoming summers are jam-packed with special events. While most seem to be of the Frontier Days/Wild West Weekend/Old-Timey Rodeo variety, Gillette has come up with a new one. Razor City is sponsoring a "Stand Tall for Methane" rally on Thursday, May 30, 6-11 p.m. Hot dogs, buffalo burgers, and methane water will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

#### HAPPENINGS: WYOMING

C.J. Box celebrates the national release of his second Joe Pickett novel with a book signing and reception on Thursday, May 30, 5 p.m., in the Saddleback Lounge at the Hitching Post Inn, 1700 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne. His first novel, "Open Season," has just been released in paperback. FMI: 307-638-3301.

On Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m., Chickering Books in Laramie will host a book signing and reading with contributors, Jeffe Kennedy (Laramie) and Karen Sbrockey (Denver) to DRIVE: WOMEN'S TRUE STORIES FROM THE OPEN ROAD, edited by Jennie Goode. One reviewer said: "The breadth of the collection gives a complete, yet beautifully nuanced view of what happens when women take to the road, and offers delightful glimpses of the quirky people they encounter along the way." FMI: 307-742-8609.

Clinton McKinzie comes to Laramie on Friday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. with a reading at Second Story Books from his first novel "Edge of Justice." The thriller is set in Wyoming and was just published by Delacorte Press. FMI: Second Story at 1-800-286-4886.

Wyoming Writers, Inc. (WWI) has a great schedule of presenters and workshops lined up for its 28th annual conference at the Riverton Holiday Inn June 7-9. Featured presenters include Diane Glancy, Bruce Holland Rogers, Carol Caverly, and Mike Logan. The venue is the Holiday Inn at 900 E. Sunset (at the corner of Federal and Sunset) in Riverton. Conference rate for rooms is \$70/night. Call 1-877-857-4834. Conference registration is \$125. FMI: WWI web site at <http://www.wyowriters.org/>.

Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Cheyenne presents the third annual Walk in My Shoes fundraiser to benefit the Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless. The walk will take place on Saturday, June 8. Check-in time starts at 8 a.m., at the WCH at 907 Logan Avenue and the Walk to Holliday Park will begin at 9 a.m. There will be door prizes, food, music by Michael Riversong and Earl Janack, and poetry by editor and activist Brett Axel. Registration is \$12 prior to the walk and \$15 on the day of the walk. Registration brochures may be picked up at the WCH Welcome Mat, WAFB Family Support Center, Foot of the Rockies, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Unitarian Universalist Church, Trader's, KRAE, KJL and other locations around town. FMI: Virginia at 634-8499 or Betty Ann at 632-6248

The Wyoming Philanthropy Days conference, "Communities, Donors, Nonprofits: Working Smarter Together," will be held June 13-14 at the Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne. Sponsor Wyoming Community Foundation urges attendance by donors, foundations, corporations, governmental grantmakers, local governments, and nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers. Registration is \$35 by June 3, \$50 after that. FMI: WCF, 307-721-8300 or <http://us.f209.mail.yahoo.com/ym/Compose?To=wcf@wycf.org&YY=15150&order=down&sort=date&pos=0>.

#### HAPPENINGS: WEST

Melody Beattie will discuss her new book "Choices" at the Tattered Cover Bookstore in LoDo Denver on Thursday, June 6, 7:30 p.m. Book signing to follow. FMI: 303-322-1965, ext. 2745.

The Aspen Summer Words Writing Retreat and Literary Festival takes place June 22-26 in Aspen, Colo. Workshops will be conducted by Ted Conover (some of you saw him in Cheyenne last fall), Mary Jo Salter, Pam Houston, and Larry Watson. FMI: 970-925-3122 or <http://www.aspenwriters.org/>.

The 2002 Writers at Work conference will be held at Westminster College in SLC June 23-28. Presenters include Robert Boswell, Teresa Jordan, David Lee, Rikki Ducornet, Ray Gonzalez, and Carol Houck Smith. FMI: 801-292-9285 or <http://www.writersatwork.org/>.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

##### DEADLINE: June 28

This is the deadline for proposals for the Wyoming Council for the Humanities' 2003 Speaker's Bureau. This year, WCH is making a special request for proposals that deal either specifically or tangentially with the events of 9/11. The council pays an honorarium of \$150 per presentation, plus travel and expenses. FMI: WCH at 307-721-9247.

##### DEADLINE: July 6

The Walt Disney Studios/ABC Writing Fellowship Program offers up to 12 paid positions for writers "who exhibit talent and passion to work in the television and feature film professions." Fellows will be provided a weekly salary of \$961.54 for up to a one-year period beginning in January 2003. Download an application from <http://www.abcnewtalent.disney.com/>. FMI: 818-560-6894.

##### DEADLINE: Ongoing

The Fallbrook Writer's Colony in California is \$200-\$300 weekly. References and a phone interview required before acceptance at this vegetarian non-smoking community. FMI: 760-451-1669.

#### WYOLITMAIL

April 26, 2002

#### NEWS

**CLARK CITY PRESS RETURNS WITH LEVENDOSKY BOOK:** Clark City Press in Montana will publish Charles Levendosky's book "The Peeping Tom Poems." The press, run by Russell Chatham, has scheduled the book to be out in July in hardcover. Excerpts from the "Peeping Tom" manuscript earned Levendosky a 2001 WAC literary fellowship. Four of the poems from the book won the 2000 Prairie Schooner's Edward Stanley Award for Poetry and three of the poems published in RiverKing were nominated for a Pushcart prize. If you've been around the region for awhile, you will recognize the names of the press, which has been moribund the past few years, and its publisher, noted artist Chatham, who has not. Says Levendosky: "I feel lucky that Clark City Press is starting its rebirth with my book." The writer is past poet laureate of Wyoming, tireless defender of First Amendment rights, and editor of the lively op-ed pages at the Casper Star-Tribune. For a taste of Levendosky's outspoken nature, see his April 21 CST column in which he writes about how "a secret court can order you to turn over documents, records, and other tangible items to the FBI and force you to remain silent about the seizure and the court order." See <http://w3.trib.com>.

**'WIND' EDITORS AND WRITERS IN MONTANA:** Many contributors to the collections "Woven on the Wind" and "Leaning Into the Wind" will be joining editors Nancy Curtis, Gaydell Collier, and Linda Hasselstom, for a presentation at PAYS livestock auction in Billings, Mont., on Sunday, May 5. It is sponsored by the Writers' Voice and contributors from several states, including Wyoming, will be reading right in the sale ring. "It just sounded fun and comfortable to have western women read from the book in a uniquely western atmosphere," co-editor Nancy Curtis said. "As long as they remember to turn off the tote board that flashes the average weight of those standing in the ring, I'm pretty excited about it." Editors and contributors will also be reading at the Huntley Project Museum, near Huntley, Mont., at 7:30 on Saturday, May 4 and at Miles City, Mont., on May 6, and Broadus, Mont., on May 7. FMI: Nancy Curtis at

**MAKING A SPLASH:** The spring/summer issue of the Jackson Art Association's SPLASH magazine is out. Editor Mary Grossman has come up with a visually exciting publication (motto: "it's cool, it's free") that, while centering around the association's summer class schedule, also features articles on painter Joni Falk, the evolution of cultural tourism in Jackson Hole, Dancer's Workshop, and summer writing events in Wyoming (compiled by yours truly). Thanks to Art Association Director Karen Stewart for supporting this very important publication, perhaps the only print arts mag left in the state. You can pick up SPLASH at various organizations, galleries, and other businesses around Jackson. FMI: 307-733-6379.

**SHIMODA AT DOUBLEDAY:** Todd Shimoda, a member of the Slow Sanders Writers Society in Fort Collins, Colo., has a novel "The Fourth Treasure" which was just published by Nan A. Talese/Doubleday. He describes, it as "a suspenseful love story taking place in San Francisco and Kyoto that looks at the essence of being human as studied by modern science of mind and by the ancient Japanese art of calligraphy." FMI: . Look for Shimoda at the following area events: April 27, 7:30 p.m., Jade Creek Books, downtown Ft. Collins; April 30, 7:30 p.m., The Tattered Cover (Cherry Creek location), Denver; June 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Greyrock Institute Reading and Writing the Rockies, CSU, Ft. Collins.

**AHC NAMES NEW DIRECTOR:** The University of Wyoming has named Mark Greene, head of Research Center programs for

the Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, Dearborn, Mich., as director of the university's American Heritage Center, effective Aug. 1. His appointment follows a nationwide search to replace Michael Devine, who resigned from the AHC to become director of the Truman Presidential Museum and Library, Independence, Mo. Rick Ewig, AHC associate director, has served as interim director since Devine's resignation last summer. Located in the Centennial Complex, the AHC houses the archives for UW; manuscripts and special collections, concentrating on a variety of topics including Wyoming and the American West; and 7,000 collections of personal documents, professional papers, corporate records, historical photos, art, rare books, films, and memorabilia supporting research and teaching.

DEVINE NEWS: From former Laramie resident and WAC fellowship winner Maija Rhee Devine: "Greetings from the 'Paris of the Plains,' Kansas City, Mo. My husband Michael and I moved to Missouri last September, for him to take the directorship of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence. We're very happy and well settled. I've met some awesome writers. I am in a small, very good critique group. Last week, I got the news that I won Boulevard magazine's short story contest! \$1500 plus publication in the magazine's Sept. issue. The story is 'What Was Said in the Bamboo Grove' written a year ago during my residency at the Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, Ill. It was shaped with the help of the Silver Sage Writers in Laramie. As a former Wyomingite, I thought I'd share the news."

WHAT'S IN A NAME?: What's the difference between a book festival and a literary festival? I ask because Wyoming is trying to decide the shape of its future book festivals. You may remember that the first Wyoming Bookfest was held last October at Cheyenne's Hitching Post Inn. It attempted to combine literary festival aspects such as readings and panel presentations with book festival aspects such as a book fair and how-to sessions. It also threw in a children's stage that featured storytellers, poets, and musicians whose work is geared to youngsters. Attendance was good at a Friday night reading by poets laureate from four states and at many of the panel presentations on Saturday. People stayed away in droves from the children's stage, teen poets' stage, and the book fair, where sales were described variously as "dismal" and "horrible." The quandary is that writers, to survive, need to sell books. The problem is how to get people out to the presentations and have them stay around to buy books. Bookstores and publishers are the commercial entities that support writers' habit, which is writing. Many writers publish their own books these days and need to sell them to keep going. Perhaps those of you who have attended book and/or literary festivals around the U.S. might have some suggestions on how to approach future Wyoming events? A committee featuring writers, editors, and reps from the Arts Council, Wyoming Council on the Humanities, and Wyoming Center for the Book met in March and basically decided not to repeat the first event but did not come up with any solid alternatives. One idea: incorporate the name "Wyoming BookFest" and use it for a variety of events across the state. Any other ideas? Here are some examples of some intriguing upcoming book-oriented events....

BIG KAHUNA OF BOOK FESTIVALS: The L.A. Times Book Festival is one of the country's largest. The event is free to the public and held on the UCLA campus April 27-28. The events will include special lectures by celebrated authors, book reviews, writing workshops, and storytelling at two stages in the children's area. The festival "promises something for everyone, from seemingly endless rows of booths to exciting events and demonstrations on six different stages. It also features book signings by today's leading authors, poetry readings, an extensive children's area and books for sale." It has a huge roster of sponsors, including the Times, Barnes & Noble, Borders, Crown Books, Odwalla, National Geographic, Ticketmaster, and radio/TV stations to spread the word. L.A., of course, may not provide a Wyoming model since the city has about 18 times as many residents as the entire state of WYO. Still, I'm going to check it out while in L.A. this weekend for meetings with WESTAF about our Tumblewords program. Buy books, too, in order to prove Wyoming's continuing commitment to the written word and economic development. Some other notes of interest about this event: Cheyenne's C.J. Box is a finalist for an L.A. Times Book Award in the mystery category. Colorado's Pattiann Rogers, whom some of you saw at last June's Western Women Poets Revival in Laramie, is a finalist in the poetry category. FMI: .

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WYOLITMAIL  
April 19, 2002  
NEWS

SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES: On a spring day in Wyoming, your intrepid editor drove 400 miles through several climate changes, sampling a variety of writers along the way. The day started with a rereading of Longfellow's "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere," which came to me via an e-mail from writer/historian Chip Carlson and celebrates the 227th anniversary of Revere's ride. The sun shone on a prairie trying to be spring green as I drove I-25 listening to the audiobook "The Last Suppers" by Colorado writer Diane Mott Davidson, which features the caterer/detective Goldy Bear. The book takes place in Aspen Meadow, which is supposed to be Estes Park, Colo. After a four-hour meeting in Casper, I drove the back way to Laramie via Sybille Canyon. Black clouds gathered in the east and a brisk wind tossed me around the two-lane road while I finished up "Last Suppers" on my way to a Thom Gunn reading at the UW Art Museum. While Gunn's and Longfellow's styles and subjects are radically different, they both rely heavily on classical references from the Bible, Shakespeare, and the Greeks and Romans. My favorite Gunn poem was the last one he read: "A Woods Near Athens," a reference to a stage direction that appears often in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." I drove out of Laramie into a raging spring blizzard. Looking for something to take my mind off the semis blasting by me on icy pavement, I turned to a Janet Evanovich audiobook, "Seven Up." Something very comforting in bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's search through Trenton, N.J., for bail jumpers and thugs and stoners. So different from a snowy spring night on the Laramie Range.

MORE ON LEWIS & CLARK: Still stuff coming in from my March 22 query about favorite Lewis & Clark books. From Lander's Geoff O'Gara: "I spent about six months with Lewis & Clark last year working on a lengthy piece about the impacts of bicentennial tourism that's out now in the latest issue of National Geographic Traveler, and the book I liked best, after DeVoto and Ambrose, is James Ronda's 'Lewis & Clark Among the Indians.'" O'Gara notes that he will be the visiting writer at UW

next spring semester (2003). Stay tuned for more info.

**MORE FROM THERMOPOLIS:** I only had a smattering of info last week on the upcoming jaunt to Japan by Thermopolis writers Lisa Vice and Martha Clark Cummings. Here's more from Martha: "Lisa Vice won the U.S./Japan Creative Artists' Program Grant for 2002. The literature describes the program as follows: 'Each year leading contemporary and traditional artists from the United States spend six months in Japan as part of the United States/Japan Creative Artists' Program. Cultural understanding is at the heart of this program. It provides funds for up to five artists to complete the residency in Japan. Artists are free to live anywhere in the country to pursue activities of greatest relevance to their creative process. Each artist will receive a monthly stipend and round-trip transportation. Please see the website: <http://www.jusfc.gov> for more information.' Isn't that great? Not wanting to be left behind, I got a job as associate professor at The University of Aizu, Center for Language Research, in Aizuwakamatsu, Japan, starting June 1. So, we need to rent our log home which you can describe however you want but here's one possibility: 'Writer's/Artist's Paradise: Two bedroom log home with loft (1600 square feet) 3 miles south of Thermopolis. Sparsely furnished, fully equipped, wood-burning stove. Beautiful views of the Big Horns and the Wind River Canyon, plenty of silence, mineral hot springs in town. Four-wheel drive helpful. Available June 1. Minimum one month, maximum one year. \$500 a month plus utilities. FMI: Martha at ."

**SOUTH AFRICAN WRITER AT UW IN MAY:** Anne Landsman, the South African writer whose lyric first novel "The Devil's Chimney" combines cinematographic clarity with magical realism, will be the Visiting Writer at UW in May. Landsman's one-credit workshop, "Home and Away," will ask participants to explore the elusive definition of home through short reading, assignments, and discussion. "We will begin to assemble a set of ideas and a framework for a larger investigation in fiction with the primacy of place as our starting point," Landsman says. Both beginning and experienced writers are invited to sign up for the course which will run from 6-9 p.m., Monday, May 20 to Friday, May 24. Call the English Department at 766-6453 for more information. Landsman will read from her work on Friday, Second Story Books, at 7 p.m. The reading is free and open to the public. FMI: UW English Dept. at 307-766-2384.

**EXPERIMENTS IN ON-LINE LITERARY TOURISM:** Like some other wyolitmailers, I am playing around with my own web site. The reasons are not quite clear; nevertheless, I persevere. During the first week of April, I took my family on a spring jaunt to Nebraska. One of our stops was Red Cloud, the town where Willa Cather spent her formative years and is now an historic site. I shot some photos, wrote an article, and put the whole mess on my web site. Since the web is a different medium than paper, or so say the Internet gurus, I played around with format, adding a bunch of links and some other stuff. Check it out at <http://www.hummingbirdminds.com>.

**NO COWS ALLOWED:** Wyolitmailer Liz Roadifer of Pine Bluffs alerted me to a new lit mag on the web. Bovine Free Wyoming accepts poetry and prose submissions. Not clear if entries are restricted to articles about a cow-free Wyoming or free cows. It might be a play on Radio Free Europe (Web Free Wyoming? Cow Free Wyoming?) or some such. No sign on the web site whether it originates within our state, some other state, or a nearby planet. Check it out at <http://www.bovinefreewyoming.com>.

**WHAT IF\*:** Last Sunday's "Weekend Edition" on NPR featured an interview with Kim Stanley Robinson about the sci-fi genre of "alternative histories" (see <http://www.npr.org/programs/wesun/features/2002/robinson/index.html>). Robinson's latest book is "The Years of Rice and Salt" that asks this big question: "What if the black plague of the 13th and 14th centuries had killed 99 percent of Europe's population?" His fictional answer: Islamic and Buddhist cultures take over the world. The book is one of three new books that posit different histories for Islamic nations. The timing couldn't be better....

**TEACHER A MENTOR TO YOUNG WRITERS:** Karen Morgan Delbridge of Cheyenne, a UW doctoral degree candidate, published an article "Publishing Student Writing: A Millennium Writing Project Through Community Collaboration" in the May/June edition of the Inland Journal. Delbridge is an English teacher at Johnson Junior High. Her article discusses the process of meeting Wyoming's state language arts standards while teaching students about life through research and writing. It also describes the project that allowed her students to become published authors of the book, "Wyoming: Through Voices of a New Generation." It encompasses the history of Wyoming, Cheyenne Frontier Days, and includes interviews with Wyoming residents. "Wyoming: Through Voices of a New Generation" can be found in the Laramie County Library, the Old West Museum, the Wyoming State Archives, and State Library.

**DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR WWI:** May 15 is the early application deadline for the Wyoming Writers, Inc., annual conference in Riverton June 7-9. FMI: <http://www.wyowriters.org>.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:** "Changing Your World," the 2002 Service and Volunteerism Conference, will be held April 24-26 at the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne. Find out about Americorps, VISTA, Peace Corps, and other opportunities. I'm not sure if it still exists, but Americorps used to sponsor Writerscorps programs in NYC, D.C., and San Francisco in which writers worked on literacy projects with inner city residents and the homeless. FMI: 307-772-2385 (Cheyenne) or e-mail [WY@cns.gov](mailto:WY@cns.gov). See web site of Corporation for National Service at <http://www.cns.gov>.

**HAPPENINGS: WYOMING**

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**WYOLITMAIL**  
April 12, 2002  
**NEWS**

**FELLOWSHIP UPDATES:** In the past week, two writers have asked the same question: "Are screenplays eligible for the

Blanchan/Doubleday competition?" The answer: Yes. The application checklist includes poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and drama. Consider "drama" the category for play scripts AND screenplays. Follow the same guidelines, with the length limit at 25 pages. B/D applications are available on-line at <http://wyoarts.state.wy.us>. Adler Fiction Award applications are also available on-line. The Adler paper applications were mailed April 10.

**HAGY GETS GRANT:** Writer and UW prof Alyson Hagy was awarded a \$500 grant from the UW American Heritage Center for her project "The Writer's Attic: Writing and Researching Authentic Fiction." In this Advanced Writer's Workshop, students survey AHC manuscript collections to enhance their original fiction writing skills. These annual AHC Teaching and Research Grants support projects ranging from the Oregon Trail to fly-fishing and portraits of a silent film star.

**NEW BOOK BY ADLER:** Warren Adler's latest book "Cult," which he describes as "a novel of brainwashing and death," is now available on-line as an ebook, and will be in bookstores in June. His 2001 novel "Mourning Glory" soon will be available in paperback. FMI: Visit <http://www.WarrenAdler.com>.

**DENVER'S TATTERED COVER WINS PRIVACY CASE:** From the April 9 Denver Post: "The Colorado Supreme Court refused Monday to force the Tattered Cover Book Store to turn over sales records to aid in a drug investigation, saying that both the U.S. and Colorado constitutions protect an individual's fundamental right to purchase books anonymously. In a ruling with the national implications, Justice Michael Bender said law-enforcement officials impinge on individuals' rights when they seek customer records from innocent, third-party booksellers." Good news for booksellers and readers alike. See <http://www.denverpost.com>.

**SMOKE 'EM IF YOU GOT 'EM:** I caught the last hour of the open poetry reading at Zen's Bistro in Cheyenne last Tuesday evening. Sponsored by Zen's and a loose amalgamation of writers known as the Smokin' Poets Society, the reading featured Casper native Trevor Trujillo as emcee and a dozen or so writers reading some good stuff to a SOR crowd. While it helps to be a smoker, since the event is held in the coffee house's smoking room, it's not mandatory. Zen's plans to continue this Tuesday event as long as people keep coming out. Readings begin at 6:30 p.m. FMI: 307-635-1889.

**NEW INTERN:** Juliet (a.k.a. Julie) Henry is the WAC Literature Program's new intern. She is a student at Cheyenne's LCCC and, after graduation, is interested in working at an organization that provides arts programs to children and teens. Julie is assisting me with registration for the agency's individual writing awards, writing and editing for the WAC web site, and updating mailing lists. Here's a short bio in her own words: "I grew up in Denver and graduated from South High School in 2001. In the summer before junior year, I was selected for the Art Streets Program that helps 13-21-year-olds put their visual and performing arts talents to use and get paid for it. I watched a close friend play in a band that was conducted by an experienced professional. While he created music, I was inspired to create five soft murals. The National Jewish Hospital needed something for their underground hall that would absorb noise and brighten the walls. We decided to use large wooden frames with cotton cloth stretched over it for our canvases. We sewed with machines and by hand to create decorative, functional murals. The feeling of accomplishment that I felt as they were hung up in the hospital directs me to this day. It is a reminder of how good it feels to reach a goal and keeps me going forward. I have always pursued art in all forms as a hobby but the ethnic diversity of South High ignited a new interest in human behavior. As my devotion to psychology grew so did my love for art. I truly believe in the power of each individual life and feel it is vital for people to be productive and externalize their ideas. I hope to provide opportunities for underprivileged children through art in the future."

**MOULTON, VAN PELT, IN NEW ANTHOLOGY:** Candy Moulton and Lori Van Pelt have short stories appearing in the recently released anthology, *WHITE HATS*, edited by Robert Randisi and published by Berkley Books. Moulton's story is entitled "Ribbons and Gee-Strings" and Van Pelt's story is entitled "The Diamond Ring Fling." The book's jacket copy describes it this way: "Buffalo Bill Cody, Bat Masterson, and other legendary heroic figures of America's Old West get the royal treatment in 16 stories from esteemed Western authors." Find it at your local bookstore.

**CALLING ALL ANGLERS:** The sixth annual Anglers' Symposium will be held Friday and Saturday, April 12-13, in the UW Union in Laramie. The symposium, scheduled from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, is free and offers a variety of programs, including fly tying, fly casting, book signing, angling presentations, and a panel discussion. The featured event of the symposium, held during the Saturday night banquet, is the inauguration of a Gary La Fontaine Angling Book Collection to commemorate La Fontaine and his contributions to the appreciation and enjoyment of fly fishing. A reception for the La Fontaine collection and display of the Frederick Toppan angling book collection, will be held Friday at 6 p.m. at the UW American Heritage Center. FMI: Travis Wolfe, 307-721-4047 or .

**USED BOOK BROUHAHA BREWING:** PublishersLunch e-mail newsletter distributed by Cader Books had perhaps the best article on the Authors Guild's latest campaign to stop Amazon.com from selling used books. In its April 9 edition, PL tells how the Guild sent a letter to its members advising them to stop linking to the Amazon site, alleging that it encourages used-book sales of authors' work. It's a problem in that writers receive no royalties from sales of used books and remainders. PL says that the Guild's efforts are ill-conceived and deny "the new paradigm of 21st century publishing," in which the Internet is a big help to readers looking for their favorite books. PL concludes: "We need to listen, meaningfully, and focus on innovative ways of growing market and readership, understanding that ever more titles staying in print, ever easier access to the marketplace through new technology and the net, and a growing consumer-driven on-line used-book market all inevitably mean more choices for readers at lower prices." Another PublishersLunch story on April 9 focused on the Wall Street Journal's recent article about the growing clout of warehouse clubs such as Costco and Sam's Club on book sales. And it's not just bestsellers. Costco book buyer Penny Clark Ianniciello has placed books by British writer Ian McEwan and Western favorite Wallace Stegner on her stores' book tables. Other warehouse clubs and discounters such as Target take their cues from Ianniciello and sometimes up to half of a new book's sales can come from these stores. This competition is driving Borders and Barnes & Noble crazy, says PL, and it can't be great news for most independents. To subscribe to PublishersLunch (it's free), go to <http://www.publishersmarketplace.com/lunch/subscribe.html>.

POSTER GETS KUDOS: Wyoming's Archaeology Month poster has won first place in the Society of American Archaeologists State Poster Contest. This is the fourth time in the past five years that Wyoming has won this contest. You can buy posters at the Wyoming State Museum Store in Cheyenne. FMI: Richard Currit at 307-777-5497.

FOR RENT: Interested in spending a year in Thermopolis? You can rent the home of Martha Clark Cummings and Lisa Vice while the two are away in Japan. Vice received an international fellowship and Cummings will be teaching. FMI: Cummings at

A POEM A DAY KEEPS THE (HEAD)DOCTOR AWAY: In acknowledgment of National Poetry Month, Knopf Publishing presents its annual poem-a-day series. You'll get poems & commentary from notables such as Wallace Stevens, Langston Hughes, Anne Carson, Philip Levine, and Sharon Olds. For free sign-up, go to <http://www.knopfpoetry.com>.

INSTABOOKS MAY BE COMING TO A STORE NEAR YOU: Toronto's Books Express has installed an InstaBook machine that can print and bind a book in five minutes. In an April 5 article in the Toronto Globe and Mail (see <http://www.globeandmail.com>), reporter Marina Strauss reported how a customer, when discovering that Books Express was out of George Eliot's "Adam Bede" and Anne Bronte's "Agnes Grey," ordered them at the store's InstaBook counter. Fifteen minutes and \$32.50 later, she had bound copies of the books for her daughter's birthday present. InstaBook Canada features 650 titles, mainly digital versions of public-domain classics and technical books. Teachers seeking out-of-print classics can get enough copies for an entire class at the local InstaBook outlet. Businesses can get hard-to-find technical manuals. Most contemporary titles are not yet available, mainly because publishers fear that readers will find ways to pirate books, much as music fans downloaded free tunes from Napster. The realities of the marketplace may soon replace that fear. Forrester Research forecasts that the print-on-demand market will be almost \$4 billion in the U.S. by 2005. In 2000, it was worth \$240 million.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

DEADLINE: April 20 Taos Poetry Bout Assn. at <http://www.poetrycircus.org/>.

The Taos Poetry Circus announces that students of contemporary performance poetry can sign up for "Mexican Bob's Poetics and Performance Camp," a set of master classes taught by Taos Poetry Circus poets presented the first weekend and every morning thereafter during the 21st annual festival, June 7-15. Poets scheduled to teach include former World Heavyweight Champion Poets Ntozake Shange, Andrei Codrescu and Terry Jacobus, as well as New York poet and editor Robert Masterson. Core faculty is Peter Rabbit, Anne MacNaughton, and Amalio Madueño, all members of the "Luminous Animal." Pre-registration is required, and enrollment is limited. Tuition for the entire 9 days is \$295 and includes a pass to all Taos Poetry Circus events. The application deadline is April 20. Drop-in students may participate in any single 3-day workshop and seminar for a fee of \$100. Camp sessions are held in various locations around Taos. FMI: WPBA at 505-758-1800 or 1-877-203-9520. See the website at .

DEADLINE: Ongoing

BLUE COLLAR REVIEW <http://www.angelfire.com/va/bcr> is published quarterly. Works tend to reflect the working class experience. See sample poetry at website. Subscription is \$15, Sample is \$5. Submit up to 4 poems at a time. Send with SASE to A. Markowitz, Editor, POB 11417, Norfolk VA 23517.

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#### WYOLITMAIL

March 22, 2002

#### NEWS

APRIL IS WYOMING POETRY MONTH: As always, I will put together a calendar of literary events happening across the state in April, which I will send out in the last wyolitmail of March. E-mail to me your book signings, readings, presentations, storytelling sessions, and anything similar.

THE PLAY'S THE THING: UW theatre student Todd McCullough's play, "Rainy Day People," was one of two in the nation selected for the Mark Twain Comedy Playwriting Award, the most prestigious playwriting award presented by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He will receive a \$2,000 award, a fellowship to the prestigious Sundance Theatre Laboratory, and an offer to publish with Dramatic Publishing Company. The play is a comedy about depression, a concept McCullough says he wanted to write about since he was a freshman. In the play, the writer of a newspaper column falls in love, and has a hard time writing about depressing subjects. McCullough, a senior from Green River, began working on the script with help from William Missouri Downs, UW's playwright-in-residence and associate professor of theatre and dance.

GIMME SHELTER: The March edition of Wyoming Winds can be found on line at: <http://www.vcn.com/~wch/wyw302.htm>. The Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless home page is found at <http://www.vcn.com/~wch>.

WYO EXPAT PENS BOOK: Torrington native Michael Punke has written an historical novel, "The Revenant," and it will be published by Carroll & Graf in July. The novel is about the ordeal of Hugh Glass during a fur-trapping expedition party on the Upper Missouri River in 1823. Glass was mauled by a grizzly, left for dead, then recovered and crawled to safety over the course of many months. When he recovered, he set about exacting revenge on those who had abandoned him. As a young man, Punke was an historical re-enactor at Fort Laramie. He lives in Washington, D.C., but will move back to Wyoming this summer. FMI: Philip Turner, executive editor, Carroll & Graf, 646-375-2570, ext. 7912.

## OPPORTUNITIES

DEADLINE: May 1-June 30

Glimmer Train Magazine welcomes submissions for its "Fiction Open." Open to all themes and lengths. First prize is \$2,000, publication in Glimmer Train, and 20 copies of the issue. Entry fee is \$15 per story. FMI: 503-221-0836; <http://www.glimmertrain.com>.

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March 15, 2002

## NEWS

NEW BOOK ON WIND RIVER ROCK ART: Julie Francis and Lawrence Loendorf have co-written "Ancient Visions: Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Wind River and Bighorn Country, Wyoming and Montana," published by the University of Utah Press. Francis is an archaeologist with the Wyoming Department of Transportation in Cheyenne and Loendorf is professor of anthropology at New Mexico State U. in Las Cruces, N.M. Both have been adjunct profs at UW. According to the authors, the Bighorn and Wind River basins of north central Wyoming and southern Montana have been home to Native American tribes for at least 11,000 years. The regions contain some of the most diverse hunter gatherer rock art found anywhere in the world. The authors will sign copies of their book on Saturday, March 23 at 2 p.m., at Chickering Books in downtown Laramie. FMI: Marcelyn Ritchie, UU Press, 801- 585 9786 or e mail <[mritchie@upress.utah.edu](mailto:mritchie@upress.utah.edu)>.

TAYLOR ON THE WEB: Paul "Walking Stick" Taylor from Laramie, a WAC roster artist, has debuted his web site at <http://www.paultaylor.ws/>. It's an attractive site and easy to use. It features info about Paul's workshops and residencies, which highlight his skills as a storyteller and musician. It also features a media kit for those interested in booking him and his didjeridoo. Check it out.

BAUEN CAMP ON TAP THIS SUMMER: The Bauen Camp, located near Parkman, Wyo., is accepting applications from 12-to-18-year-olds interested in coming to an "exciting, playful, thoughtfully crafted, multi-disciplinary environment where young artists are provided a place to work together to benefit the self and community." Two sessions of the camp are offered: "Catch the Fire: Building a Community Arts-Based Project," July 12-29; and "Fanning the Flames: Making the School a Creative Community," Aug. 2-8. Course instructors are Susan Hill and Bill Cleveland. Camp director is Wyoming artist Jessica Holt. FMI: 307-655-9760 or <<http://www.thebauencamp.com>>.

HINCHMAN NAMED TO BOARD: Writer/illustrator Hannah Hinchman, a one-time WYO resident and winner of Blanchan/Doubleday awards and a literary fellowship, has been named to the board of the Performing Arts League in Choteau, Mont. She wrote and illustrated an article in the March/April issue of the Montana Arts Council newsletter. Hinchman returns to WYO this summer to lead a Yellowstone Institute workshop "A Trail Through Leaves: The Art of the Field Journal" July 29-Aug. 1 at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch in the park. FMI: <http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org/>.

## HAPPENINGS: REGIONAL

The mystery reading group "Mystery Loves Company" meets the third Saturday of each month at Borders Books, 50 S. Main, Salt Lake City. Next meeting is March 16, 11 a.m. Contact: 801-355-6899.

## OPPORTUNITIES

## DEADLINE: Ongoing

Ludlow Press in NYC wants your poems! Submit up to 6 originals in any form, previously published O.K. with acknowledgment. E mail submissions only. Please send only ONE e mail with all your poems cut and pasted into the body of the message (no attachments at all, due to virus concerns!) and mail to <editor@Ludlowpress.com>. Use "Poetry Submission" as the subject. The press also welcomes short fiction and novel submissions.

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## Or Interest From Previous WyoLitmails...

WRITING DOWN THE RIVER: From Sherrie Griffith Expeditions: "Author Page Lambert shares her talent and expertise on two exclusive river journeys, teaching us how to express ourselves in creative and connected ways. Page is widely acclaimed and has received honors for her writing. "In Search of Kinship" (non-fiction), "Shifting Stars" (fiction), contributing author to "Chicken Soup for the Women's Soul" and "Writing Down the River" emphasize her versatility as an author. River rafting, hiking, exploring, writing seminars and journal time. Page will present fiction, creative non-fiction and memoir instruction. Each morning we hold coffee conversations. During the day we write while on the raft, and have evening presentations of self discovery. Page will help you focus your thoughts so recording them becomes a rewarding experience. Limit of 15 women per workshop. Call (800) 332-2439 or (435) 259-8229."

NEW BOOK BY CASE: Wyoming Writers, Inc., stalwart Betty Starks Case of Riverton has a new book, "This is Wyoming: Live," in which Case explores the state in short vignettes and black-and-white photos. Order it from Windsong Books, PO Box 1355, Riverton 82501, or pick it up at bear River Books in Evanston or Main Street Books in Lander.