

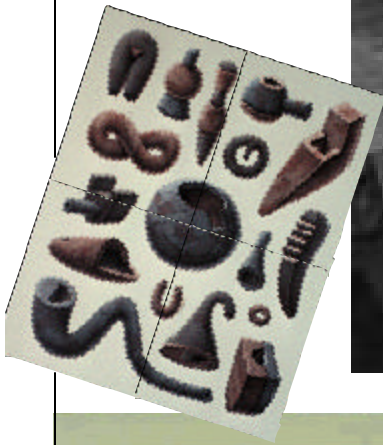
# East Tennessee **Writer**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Writers' Guild  
 Volume 11, Number 5, May 2003

Parodist Beauvais Lyons: What's reality? Find out (or not) at May 1 Meeting of the Writers' Guild



"Every day should be April Fools' Day," says Beauvais Lyons. The UT Knoxville School of Art professor will present the fascinating and utterly fictional George and Helen Spelvin Folk Art Collection at the monthly meeting of the Knoxville Writers' Guild at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 1 at the Laurel Theater, at 16th and Laurel Ave. Lyons, known in Knoxville for his "Centaur Excavations at Volvos" parody of super-serious archaeology at the UT Hodges Library and director of the Hokes Archive, takes on contemporary "outsider" art with a presentation of work by eleven imaginary artists, each illustrating a unique, bizarre corner of contemporary folk art and each complete with biography. Lyons' presentation of the George and Helen Spelvin Folk Art Collection features such marvels as enamel painted records, "limberjack puppets" by Lester Dowdey, velvet brides by Charlotte Black, contemporary folk art and each complete with biography.



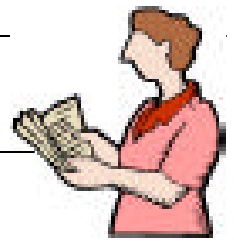
Lyons' presentation of the George and Helen Spelvin Folk Art Collection features such marvels as enamel painted records, limberjack puppets" by Lester Dowdey, velvet brides by Charlotte Black, eco-friendly "alien

communication devices" made of recycled cans, Max Pritchard's religious tracts on cereal boxes and "inter-racial rag doll friendship chains." As entertainment, parody and ironic commentary on the contemporary world of art and criticism, as well as pure exuberance of narrative skill and invented biography, Beauvais Lyons' presentation promises an enjoyable and enlightening evening. The program is free and open to the public. See page 2 for additional program information.



GORILLAGALLUS  
 EQUICLAVATUS  
 by Beauvais Lyons  
 Lithograph

# The Writing News



For those who want to publish through the web, Amazon offers the following list:

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[The Web Content Style Guide](#) by Gerry McGovern, et al; [Web Writing that Works](#) by Jonathan Price, Lisa Price (Paperback)

[Net Words: Creating High-Impact Online Copy](#) by Nick Osborne (Paperback)

[Writing for the Web \(Writers' Edition\)](#) by Crawford Kilian (Paperback)

[Content Critical: Gaining Competitive Advantage through High-Quality Web Content](#) by Gerry McGovern, Rob Norton (Paperback)

[Don't Make Me Think: A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability](#) by Steve Krug, Roger Black (Paperback)

Another excellent book is available to writers who are interested in the online writing world. It's called [Developing Online Content: The Principles of Writing and Editing for the Web](#) by Irene Hammerich and Claire Harrison. <http://makeashorterlink.com/?R384215F3>

Future Knoxville readers and writers will read ~~not except from~~ [Fables](#) by B. Jones Is Not a Crook at the beginning of the May program. The readers are youth from the Western Heights Boys and Girls Club, members of Communication Through Arts (CTA) youth writers workshop, which introduces youth to the art of adapting literature to a Readers Theater format, designed to give Knoxville youth hands-on experience with the arts. The program is sponsored by the Tennessee Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, the Arts and Culture Alliance of Greater Knoxville and the Knox County Public Defender's Office. The workshop is a joint effort of Stephanie Nicholson, a U.T.K. senior and CTA program coordinator, and Robert Boyd, Instructor of English at ESTCC. Linda McLaughlin is the Social Service director of the Community Law Office and the creator of the CTA program. KWG board members and Mark Stephens, Knox County Public Defender, support and encourage the growth of this program.



**Robert A. Caro**, [biography](#), for "Master of the Senate," the third volume of his biography of Lyndon Johnson.

**Nilo Cruz**, a teacher at Yale University, [drama](#), "Anna in the Tropics," a play set in Florida in the 1920s.

**Jeffrey Eugenides**, a Detroit native now living in Berlin with his wife and daughter, whose first book was "The Virgin Suicides." [Fiction](#). "Middlesex."

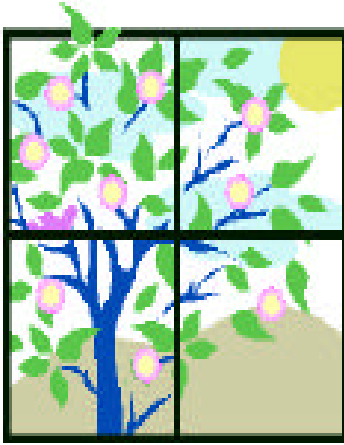
**Rick Atkinson**, the former assistant managing editor for investigations at The Washington Post, for [history](#), with "An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943."

**Samantha Power**, a former war correspondent and executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. [General, nonfiction](#), "'A Problem From Hell': America and the Age of Genocide."

**Paul Muldoon**, a former BBC radio and television producer who moved to the United States from Northern Ireland in 1987 and director of the Creative Writing Program at Princeton University, [poetry](#), "Sand and Gravel."

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY JULIE AUER



## Looking Out My Office Window on a Beautiful Spring Afternoon

Come on! Let's steal an afternoon and go for a ride. It's your call: the mountains or a marina? Sitting on the deck of a lakeside tavern holding an icy beverage with the sun on our backs, or draining a canteen of cool water after a hike? You can bring your dog, and I'll bring a book, Edward J. Larsen's *Summer*

*for the Gods*, the true story of the 1925 Scopes "Monkey" Trial in Dayton, Th. Tennessee. Some people like to run around outside with a dog and a kite; I like to lie on a blanket and read.

Or why not just pack it all up and go see the Scopes exhibit for ourselves? Dayton's only an hour and a half drive along a pleasant, forested state highway, and sleepy little towns are particularly alluring on lazy spring days. The Scopes Museum resides in the basement of the Rhea County Courthouse; a friendly, slightly officious little man with a raspy drawl will tell you exactly where to find it once he spots you wandering around outside the courtroom where it all happened. The wide, tall windows are all open, and the courthouse is airy and fragrant, and almost completely abandoned on a Friday afternoon.

You can imagine how it must have seemed under the weight of hundreds of feet scampering for a spot in the courtroom in July of 1925, necks craning for a look at Clarence Darrow or William Jennings Bryan, sitting across from each other, glaring or winking.

The wood is old and creaky, and the courthouse seems to be sighing as we speculate softly on where H.L. Mencken might have stood, contemptuous of all that "buffoonery." It's hard to know in which part of the courthouse lawn the proceedings were moved outside to better withstand the oppressive July heat, and we can only guess under the shade of which tree Darrow grilled Bryan on his literal interpretation of the Bible. I like to think it was the elm tree, a very old elm that survived Dutch Elm Disease and everybody who was there that day, and stands as the only witness to the most famous trial in American history.

After we check out the exhibit, we'll amble over to the drugstore and nosh on french fries served in red-and-white checked baskets, and sweet iced tea served by a pleasant red-haired hostess who didn't know that the Scopes trial was the first trial ever broadcast live from the courtroom. And why should she know that? I didn't know that until I read the exhibit brochure. She does know that her grandmother sold homemade peach ice cream across the street from the courthouse lawn, and my God, I think to myself, homemade peach ice cream would really hit the spot.

But my lunch hour is over, and so is my noontime read. I have more obscure trials to prepare, and peach yogurt in the fridge.

## Readers Needed for Taylor Prize Judging

Brian Griffin and Heather Joyner remind us that the deadline for the 2003 Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel is fast approaching. Reading for this year's competition will begin in the second week of May. To help us plan, we need a list of everyone who intends to read for us this year. Please respond to this request by e-mailing [joynerette@cs.com](mailto:joynerette@cs.com) and let us know your plans.

The first round begins May 15, with a June 12 deadline. Manuscripts will be distributed at two meetings, tentatively set for Wednesday May 14 and Thursday May 15, both at 7:00 P.M. Details about these meetings will be sent via e-mail after we hear back from everyone.

The number of manuscripts we assign depends on how many people sign up to read, and on how many manuscripts we receive in the mail. Our best guess is that each screener will receive about a dozen. That may sound like a lot, but please remember that many authors send tentative or unpolished works that will not have to be read in their entirety. At the meetings we will discuss shortcuts – ways to cut through the paper so that we can focus on works that may be worthy of a literary prize.

Thanks for volunteering. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Winners since the beginning of the competition include:

2000 -The Marriage of Anna Mae Potts by DeWitt Henry

2001 -A House All Stilled by A.G. Harmon

2002 -Blue by Sarah Van Arsdale



# Wanted: Writers for Uniquely Knoxville Initiative



The following message is a "Call for Writers" from the **Knoxville Tourism & Sports Corp.** and their **Uniquely Knoxville** initiative. The Uniquely Knoxville initiative is designed to help position the city of Knoxville as a desirable tourist and convention destination through an array of products, people and attractions unique to the city. The product mix will include corporate consumer items of companies based in Knoxville; native artisans' upscale crafts, apparel and gift items all with ties to the city as well as an assortment of our local artists' works. Equally so, is the compelling story of the people, places and things that make Knoxville unique.

Their efforts will be conveyed through a marketing effort that will highlight their stories and ties to our city. Knoxville has a long history of companies starting in or choosing it as home. Our message will be conveyed through news print, radio, TV, web and E-commerce outlets. Overall, the branding effort will be both historically correct and generationally relevant, retro in feel, yet simultaneously modern. Our hope is to instill the pride back into the local community by showcasing our city's heritage and cultural diversity.

To begin telling the stories of Knoxville area writers, KTSC is collecting information from local writers to be include in a KTSC database. The information will be kept private and confidential and is to be used only by KTSC organizers when trying to match an artist to an event.

If you would like to be included in the database and potentially called for readings/events, please fill out the attached form on page 5 as soon as possible, print and mail to the address provided. KTSC hopes to have the database completed by end of May.

**Any questions? Please email KWG Board Member Catherine Crawley at [ccrawley@utk.edu](mailto:ccrawley@utk.edu).**

**See participation form on page 5.**

# Call for Creative Experiences

Writer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the primary subject matter of your works: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in scheduling book signings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the process for having you do this?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a charge for having you do this? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the amount? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in scheduling readings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the process for having you do this?  
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Is there a charge for having you do this? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the amount? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in speaking to special interest groups? \_\_\_\_\_ Describe the primary subject matter of your works:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Are you interested in scheduling book signings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the process for having you do this?  
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Is there a charge for having you do this? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the amount? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in scheduling readings? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the process for having you do this?  
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Is there a charge for having you do this? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the amount? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there a charge for having you do this? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If so, what is the amount? \_\_\_\_\_

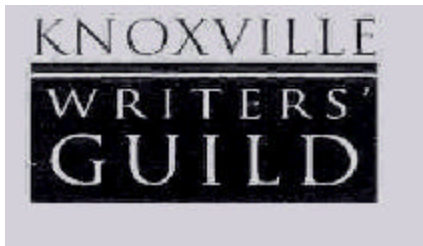
Are you interested in having KISC provide a retail distribution outlet in support of your work? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, what is the process for doing so?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell Us Your Story. We are very interested in promoting the cultural community of Knoxville and would like to understand the compelling stories of each contributor in order to better support your efforts. (Either attach or use the reverse side of this document.)

Please Attach Additional Sheets, If Needed. Return Completed Form with Any Attachments to: Mary Miltenberger, 601 W. Summit Hill Drive, Suite 200-B, Knoxville, TN 37902

## Knoxville Writers' Guild:

Organized in December 1992 in Knoxville, TN, to facilitate a broad, inclusive and egalitarian community among area writers; to provide a forum for information, support and sharing among writers; to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote writing and creativity in the wider community through education, publication, and sponsorship of writing-related public events. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Laurel Theater. **Officers:** President: Julie Auer; Vice President: Don Williams; Secretary: Kim Trevathan; Treasurer: Laura Still; Hospitality: Kay Newton; Publicity: Catherine Crawley and Pamela Schoenewaldt; Membership database: Rip Lydick; Program Chairman: Ed Sullivan; President Emeritus: Jack Reese; VP Emeritus: Michael Gillespie; **Newsletter Editor:** Jeanne McDonald; **Webmistress:** Jo Ann Pantanizopoulos. **Board Members:** Marybeth Boyanton, Catherine Crawley, Robert Boyd, Tony Day, David Joyner, Jacqueline Kittrell, Robert Lydick, Kay Newton, Caroline Norris, Pamela Schoenewaldt, Laura Still, Marlene Taylor, Inga Treitler, Kim Trevathan, and Don Williams. Dues are \$25, \$20 for students. The KWG does not discriminate against any person because of race, age, gender, handicap or country of national origin. Send e-mail messages to editor, [jrd531k@men.com](mailto:jrd531k@men.com), or to president Julie Auer at [hildegaard@earthlink.com](mailto:hildegaard@earthlink.com) ~~web: [www.knoxvillewritersguild.org](http://www.knoxvillewritersguild.org)~~  
**Please remember that dues are now \$25; \$20 for students.**



**P.O. Box 10326  
Knoxville, TN 37939**

## HOW TO JOIN

To join the Writers' Guild, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 10326, Knoxville, TN 37939, along with annual dues of \$25, or give the form and your check to any board member of the Guild. Dues are \$20 for students. Membership allows you to participate in study groups, receive discounts on books and Guild merchandise, and monthly issues of the newsletter.

"Love, whose month is ever May." *Shakespeare*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site \_\_\_\_\_