

WOMBLE AWARDS:

~~ORDINARY~~ WISDOM OF  
ORDINARY PEOPLE  
NEWER face up  
more medals

Ray Huerta  
Mel Gregory

PAUL RODRIGUEZ -----

(Ray)  
SEAN NYHAN..... During the past year SEAN NYHAN organized and led a bone-marrow drive for a CLOSE FRIEND OF HIS.... INA KRISTIANSEN.....who had just been diagnosed as having leukemia..... SEAN is a cross-country runner...a fine athlete..... As it turned out, INA KRISTIANSEN died last Friday in Los Angeles, and the funeral is being held at this very hour.... SEAN NYHAN is there.... In fact, SEAN NYHAN was present with Ina's family when INA died..... THIS SATURDAY....Thee will be a BENEFIT RUN for INA, and free blood testing for potential blood marrow donors in ROB GYM, from 11-3. SEAN organized all of this.... is director of the run.... and is in a state of deep personal grief today..... (FRIEND/ROOMMATE Timothy Corbin will receive the WOMBLE AWARD.....)

ANN LEVIN -- Ann Levin was born 22 years ago with what was called a BIRTH DEFECT....A DISFORMITY TO HER LEFT HAND..... She was born with two fingers instead of five....a situation which caused her to be labeled, ostracized, even tormented by her classmates.... SHE HAS HAD NUMEROUS SURGERIES OVER THE YEARS..... HAS BEEN OUTFITTED WITH AN ARM BRACE.... And has been immersed in her own struggle concerning the meaning of the word "NORMAL." as she has been under rather constant doctor's care.... She writes in her paper: "I pretended to be tough, and show the world I was not affected by this, but deep inside I was crying, I was wishing for help, for someone to sit me down and ask me how I was doing, but no one did.".... RECENTLY SHE HAS COME TO SOME CLARITY ABOUT WHO SHE IS, AND ABOUT LOVING HERSELF FOR WHO SHE IS... "I have heard her say that she is proud of who she is, and would want to change this. "I love myself and the stranger in me."

ANN LEVIN (continued).....

But this isn't <sup>with people come to</sup> how I came to know her.... Rather we were most impressed with her cheerful disposition, and her sensitivity to others in special conditions and circumstances. THE WOMBLE AWARD recognizes individuals who meet extraordinary challenges with consummate courage. We'd like to call ANN LEVIN to the stage to receive her award.

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SAM ADAMS..... retiring after 33 years of coaching....

tell story of meeting with PHIL ....

drinking ice tea...the twinkle in the eye.....

WHY? because he teaches athletes life values.....

he doesn't push his athletes, but draws the best out of them.....

and he doesn't care what other people think.....

TO SAM ADAM: for remembering that ATHLETICS is about LIFE, and not LIFE ABOUT ATHLETICS..... TO SAM ADAMS, for Getting your PRIORITIES RIGHT and for instilling the SAME SENSE OF PROPRIETY IN THE MANY ATHLETES you have coached over the years, we wish to present you This WOMBLE AWARD for exemplifying extraordinary courage in the presence of extraordinary challenge.....

AT THE END:  
Jesse Jackson - with my voice  
- Computer GRADUATES  
- Thank Elaine

There is also strong linkage between IMAGINATION & PLACE...

Fuentes writes out of the experience of living in  
Mexico, the United States, and Paris....  
and of having visited many other regions within  
the world.....

He calls himself "a wanderer in search of a perspective..."

But wherever he went, he knew that SPANISH WOULD BE THE  
LANGUAGE OF HIS WRITING.....and LATIN AMERICA THE  
CULTURE OF MY LANGUAGE.....

And it is from within this orientation that he  
includes all of the others -- the other cities,  
the other writers he has known, the experiences  
he has had....

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FOUR WRITERS: Baldwin, Berry, Cliff, and Fuentes

Baldwin talks about LIVING WITHIN ILLUSIONS  
CREATED BY THE DOMINANT CULTURE....  
and having to fight for REALITY

BERRY talks about a time when the culture was  
whole, and when there was HARMONY between the  
LAND, the PEOPLE, and the COMMUNITY...

CLIFF years for WHOLENESS within FRAGMENTATION,  
and has a gift for describing the FRAGMENTATION...

and FUENTES explores the sense of PLACE upon one's  
understanding of personal identity

Together, they provide powerful TESTIMONY on the  
the MEANING OF MULTI-CULTURE.....?)

In fact, in at least three of these instances (BALDWIN,  
CLIFF, and FUENTES), we have probings  
of what is meant by MULTI-CULTURAL LITERACY  
that is, about how one becomes LITERATE in a  
Multi-Cultural Context...

And the point is that it isn't simply a matter of  
learning about other people...  
or about people who are different from oneself...

It's also a matter of learning how to speak, write,  
think, and consider oneself in relationship to  
the multi-versity in which one's life is cast....

At bottom, the VOICE OF THE STRANGER is one's own VOICE...  
but a VOICE that needs to be discovered within  
the diverse culture within which one lives...



WENDELL BERRY --

A Kentucky farmer, poet, writer.....

His point: the people are connected to the land.....and  
find their identity in this connection....

history of the land.....(retell it)  
but when the gas-powered Tractor enters the scene...  
everything changes..... (breaks the harmony)

things become MEANS OF PRODUCTION

WHEN THINGS ARE IN ORDER...

that is, when people are joined to the land, THERE IS WORK....  
LAND, WORK, PEOPLE, and COMMUNITY are all tied together....

Berry says: we judge intelligence not by the ability to recite facts,  
but by the GOOD ORDER or HARMONIOUSNESS of a person's  
surroundings....

BERRY'S PLEA: Take Care of the Land, for the LAND SUSTAINS US...

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Michelle Cliff -- a black woman writer...

talks about the challenge a writer faces:  
She lives in a community that has been COLONIALIZED....

She doesn't wish only to criticize the dominant society...  
And she doesn't wish simply to write about trivial matters...

BUT HOW DOES ONE FIND WHOLENESS FROM FRAGMENTATION...WHILE  
FRAGMENTATION IS THE PRIMARY REALITY.

That is, WHERE DOES ONE FIND WHOLENESS WITHIN FRAGMENTATION?

Cliff's subject: to describe what it is like to be the COLONIZED...  
that is, to live under subjection to the COLONIZERS...

A second CLIFF piece is called, "IF I COULD WRITE THIS IN FIRE,  
I WOULD WRITE THIS IN FIRE."  
this is an autobiographical piece  
-- very powerful piece...

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Carlos FUENTES...

tells us of the process by which he became a writer  
-- talks about bridging several world: MEXICO and UNITED STATES,  
to be sure, but FRANCE as well, and other places..  
and FUENTES searches to discover himself in all of this...

"ONE ALWAYS WRITES OUT OF A TRADITION," Fuentes declares...  
And there is a close linkage between the TRADITION and the  
IMAGINATION.....

Highlight some of the themes in the reading assignments:

MULTI-CULTURAL LITERACY: note the intention: to develop a book list that is multi-cultural, and not simply Euro-American....

(explain this in more detail)

James Baldwin's TALK TO TEACHERS:

Baldwin insists that the purpose of education is to open students' eyes to the realities that surround him.

He is particularly interested in enabling students to know the REAL STORY of the relationships between WHITES and BLACKS in this country...a subject that he believes is GLOSSED OVER in most schools, and in most classes.

Why is it glossed over -- because the people in charge don't want to upset things....

because in their society, the BLACKS are the working class.

THEY CAME AS SLAVES...

AND WHAT DO SLAVES REPRESENT? Answer: a source of cheap labor

Slavery was indispensable to the economy...

Baldwin says that this could only happen when blacks were dehumanized...treated and regarded as ANIMALS...

The DOMINANT SOCIETY made money off of BLACK FLESH.

And black children in school can't discover this truth...

because the DOMINANT SOCIETY doesn't want to tell it this way...

BUT, if the TRUTH WERE TOLD, Black Americans could be liberated...on the basis of their understanding of their true history...

And WHITES could be liberated too.....because they have been FORCED TO TELL LIES.....

The LIES are carried on the MYTHS about America....

Hearing the story, people are prepared to believe that the first Americans were like GARY COOPER....the good guys in the WHITE HATS...

But that's really not the way it was.....

But to tell it this way, and to believe it this way... is to fall into UNREALITY....

AMERICAN WHITES, Baldwin says, have LOST THEIR GRIP ON REALITY....

They have created myths about Black Americans, and myths about their own history...and myths about the world....

WHAT BALDWIN WANTS FOR THE SCHOOLS -- for children's vantage points to be expanded so that they will SEE THE REAL WORLD....