

News

Writer-in-residence on Governor General's list

by Jonathan Stone

UNB's writer in residence, Karen Connelly, is a finalist in the 1993 Governor-General's Literary Awards.

Her second book, *Touch the Dragon*, about a young woman's voyage into a new culture, earned her a place in the non-fiction category.

"I'm very pleased. It's our country's highest literary honour," said the 24-year-old Calgary native.

The list is compiled from books written and published by Canadians between October 1, 1992 and September 30, 1993.

Connelly said that almost 2000 books were sent to the Canada Council, the federally sponsored Arts and Culture institution.

Of those books, in both French and English, five are selected to the shortlist in each category.

The medallion and \$10 000 will be awarded by Governor General Ray Hnatyshyn on November 16.

If she wins, she plans to put the money towards a stone hut on the island of Lesbos, Greece.

"*Touch the Dragon* is about the time I spent in Thailand when I was 17- and 18-years old."

Connelly said she lived in a very

small northern town with a couple of Thai families for a year.

"I learned to speak Thai and eat Thai and dance Thai and sing Thai and do everything as Thai as I possibly could," she explained. "It's about coming to know and love those people, and just how frustrating but wonderful the Thai culture is and how rich their history is."

She described her book as a "sort of an exploration in words" of the entire year she spent there.

Written like a journal, it was compiled from the journals and letters that she kept when she was living there.

She has also travelled in Spain, Greece, and France.

When asked why she came to UNB, Connelly laughed, "It was mutual. They had asked another writer to come as writer in residence but that writer couldn't come."

Her one-term residency ends in December, and although she enjoys UNB, she has other engagements in Montreal.

"It's very unfortunate, I'd really like to stay here the whole year. I've enjoyed my time here,"

Connelly said she is available to students and people in the community who are interested in writing.

"Some people just want me to

read their stuff and hear some feedback, or are just interested in the whole art of writing and would like to talk to me about it," she said.

Connelly added with a laugh: "As well, I am just in an around the university to show that real writers exist and breathe, and they're not all dead men. They exist in human form."

Her short time in New Brunswick has resulted in a short story which may be included in a future work.

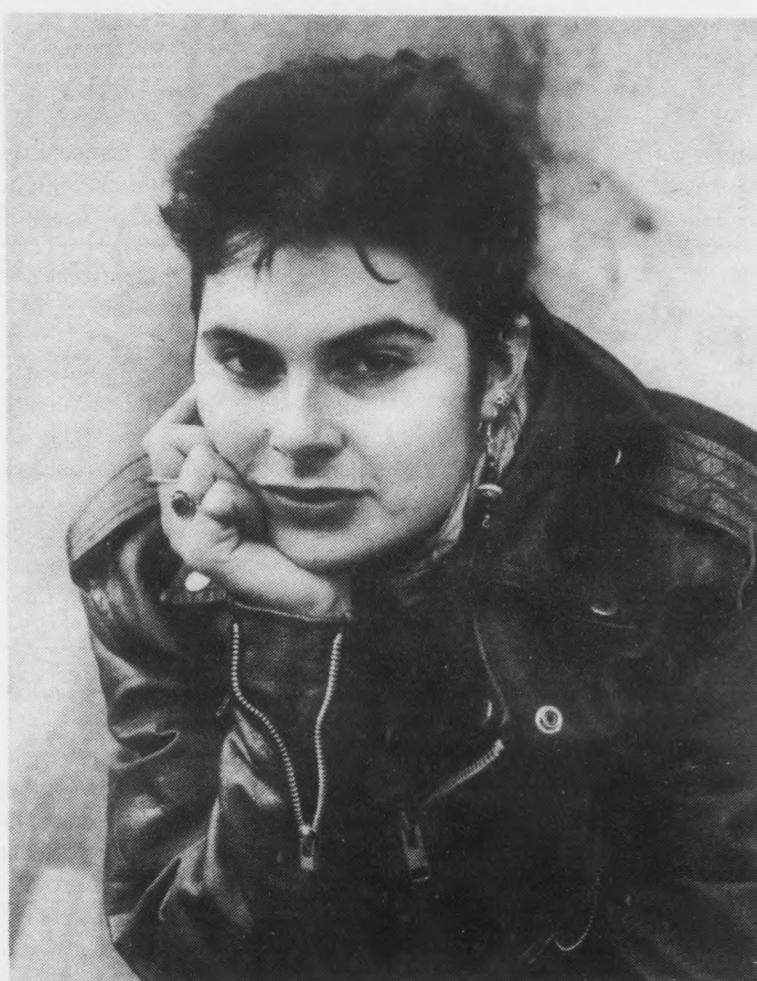
"I've just written a story which will be published in the New Brunswick Reader out of the Telegraph Journal," she said.

"It's about a young woman who goes back to the place that she was born, which is a small place out of Gagetown, New Brunswick. It's called Elm Hill. It's a community of the descendants of black slaves who came here with the Loyalists about 150 years ago."

Her next big project will be a collection of short stories, two years in the making.

"I will almost finish that while I'm here. I'm just about done," she promised.

Touch the Dragon: A Thai Journal is now available in the UNB Bookstore.



UNB's star prospect Karen Connelly. Photo by Keving G. Porter

Neill House emerges as Residence Challenge winner

by Jonathan Stone

After the polls closed and two months of election campaigning ground to a halt, it was Neill House that emerged the winner.

The prize: a new computer for the

House.

The first-ever Residence Challenge, geared around the federal election, was successful in bringing out 705 UNB and STU residence students to the SUB polls on October 25.

The final results were: Neill with 463 points, Lady Dunn with 405, and the Lady Beaverbrook Residence with 395.

STU's Holy Cross House had the largest percentage of voter turnout at 80%, winning those residents a pizza party.

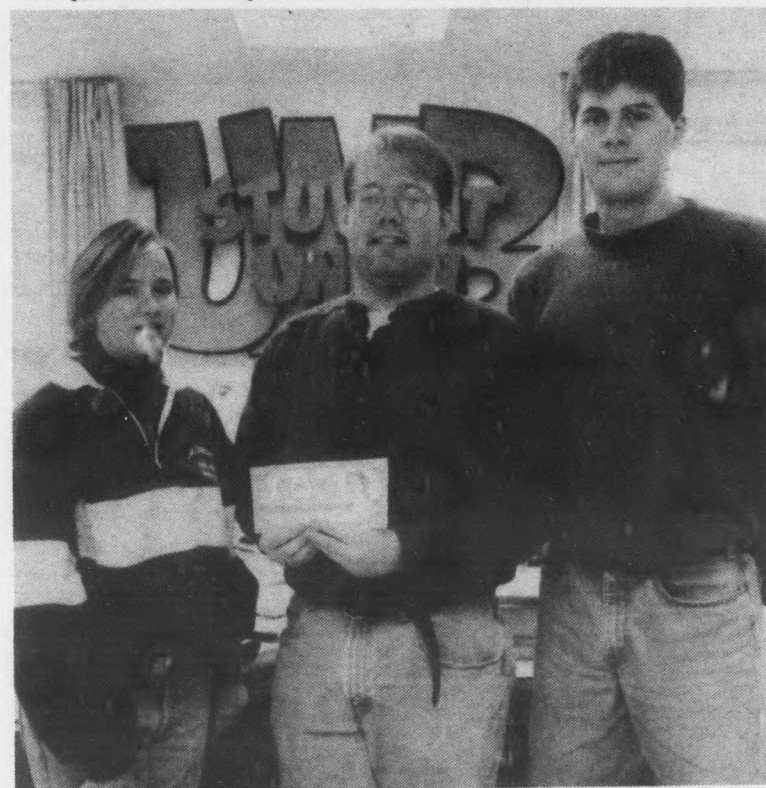
The official results from all four SUB polls clearly put Liberal candidate Andy Scott in the seat with 51% of the popular vote, while Conservative Bud Bird had 30%. Reform's Jack Lamey got 10%, the NDP's Pauline MacKenzie had 6%, and Natural Law's Neil Dickie received 2%.

Both CoR's Doreen Fraser and Canada Party candidate Steve Gillrie had one vote a piece.

The challenge pitted house against house for points in six different election-related events.

Points were awarded for enumeration turnout, attendance at the local candidates forum, attendance at the televised national leaders debate, a political trivia contest, a questionnaire, and overall voter turnout.

UNB Student Union President Jamie van Raalte thinks he may try the residence challenge idea again to increase voter turnout for the SUB expansion referendum this spring.



Accepting cash awards from Student Union President Jamie van Raalte (centre) are: Lady Dunn's Jenny Armour and the LBR's Marc Aubé. Absent is Jason Crickler of Neill House, the overall winners of a computer. Photo by Mark Bray

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Correction

In an article last week, Kelley McGowan was incorrectly identified as CHSR's News Director. In fact Kelley is not the News Director, Andre Theriault is. Kelley was the coordinator of the pre-election poll.

It's not a bad idea to get in the habit of writing down one's thoughts. It saves one having to bother anyone else with them. - Isabel Colegate