

## YOUR WEEKLY READER

### Rescuing Reading Project

Thomas Nelson Community College  
March 15, 2007

### Book Circles/The Big Read

Participating with book groups throughout the Virginia Peninsula in a National Endowment for the Arts grant-funded activity called The Big Read, TNCC Spring 2007 Book Circles will feature **Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* on Friday, April 13, 2007, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** in the Wythe Hall Library Gallery.

Participating organizations have formed the Virginia Peninsula Literary Consortium, with TNCC as a charter member.

### Author Uriel Quesada to Visit Book Circles

For the Spring 2007 Book Circles, faculty in the Foreign Language Department have chosen, for their students in Spanish,

stories by **Costa Rican author Uriel**

**Quesada**, who will be visiting the campus to discuss his work. Quesada is the author of collections of short stories and novels. He currently resides and teaches in Baltimore.

Students in French will have the opportunity to read North African author Mariama Bâ's novel in French, *Une si longue lettre* (translated into English as *So Long a Letter*).



### Teen Multitasking Draws Scrutiny

One of the popularly pandering assertions that some educators make about young students is that they are effective at multitasking, and we just have to get used to their doing so in class. However, an article recently published in the *Washington Post* suggests otherwise: "The current generation of teens 'is trying to do lots of multitasking because they think it's cool and less boring and because they have lots of gadgets that help them be more successful at this,' said David Meyer, director of the Brain, Cognition and Action Laboratory at the University of Michigan. 'The belief is they're getting good at this and that they're much better than the older generation at it and that there's no cost to their efficiency.' Meyer, a psychologist and cognitive scientist who studies multitasking, has doubts. 'Kids who grow up under conditions where they have to multitask a lot may be developing styles of coping that would allow them to perform better in future environments where required to do a lot, but that doesn't mean their performance in the workplace would be better than if they were doing one thing at a time.'"

In fact, [studies conducted by Ford Motor reveal](#):

--"Teen drivers don't know how to 'share' attention between dialing a phone and driving. They stare at the phone until they're done, where adults constantly shift attention back and forth between the phone and the road. This makes the teens faster with gadgets but inherently less safe."

--"Teens have more trouble staying in their lane and driving 'precisely' than adults. They are more prone to stray out of their lane when trying to do two things at once, such as drive and use a phone."

### Lit Alive & On Stage at The American Theatre

[Hampton Arts/The American Theatre](#) brings back (by popular demand) The Aquila Theatre Company with two productions of literary classics: Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* ("a fast moving, deliciously saucy, slightly naughty and romantic romp") on Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.; and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* on Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

### On Point: Jim Harrison

Featured recently on NPR/WBUR's *On Point* with Tom Ashbrook, "Poet, screenwriter and novelist **Jim Harrison** writes in the old style--of big appetites, big passions, earthy love, men's men, and the woods. In his latest novel, *Returning to Earth*, . . . Harrison's broad-shouldered, part-Chippewa hero is dying. He is a good man with a good wife who's yearning to leave what matters to the ones he loves and to die his way." [Available on line in streaming audio.](#)

### Teen Reading Boom

An article in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* reports "[Teens buying books at fastest rate in decades.](#)" A demographic bulge (the love-children of the Baby Boomers) is partly responsible. Increasingly sophisticated writing for adolescents and young adults may also share in this result.

	<b>Maybe another reason to promote the unitasking of reading?</b>	
--	---	--