

Southern novelist speaks about writing

By JAYE SIMMONS
Staff Writer

Novelist and short story writer Elizabeth Spencer writes about her personal experiences and the way she grew up in the South.

Born in Mississippi, Spencer spoke Wednesday at USC in a Southern dialect, despite living outside the South for most of her professional life.

"Prelude to a Parking Lot" is one of the short stories she read and is based on her experiences at Vanderbilt University when she lived at a boarding house.

"When I wrote, I looked out of my window at the house next door. This house was not a rich house, and I didn't know the people who lived there. But I liked to imagine what the family inside the house was like," Spencer said.

However, when Spencer returned to the house several years later she found the entire block had been torn down and converted into a parking lot.

"I was sad because the place had great sentimental value to me," she said.

"Prelude to a Parking Lot" is a story about the family who might have lived in the home next door to her old boarding house.

"This is the story of many towns and cities of the South and elsewhere. It is about how the past seems to be speaking out below this great paving that something used to be there. Human feeling and human rights used to be there," Spencer said.

She also read a story called "A Christian Education," which was influenced by her childhood experiences in Mississippi.

"A Christian Education" tells the story of a young girl who lives with her parents and grandfather. Every Sunday she is expected to go to church and Sunday school. But on one particular Sunday her parents go to a funeral, and she and her grandfather skip the services and take a trip to town.

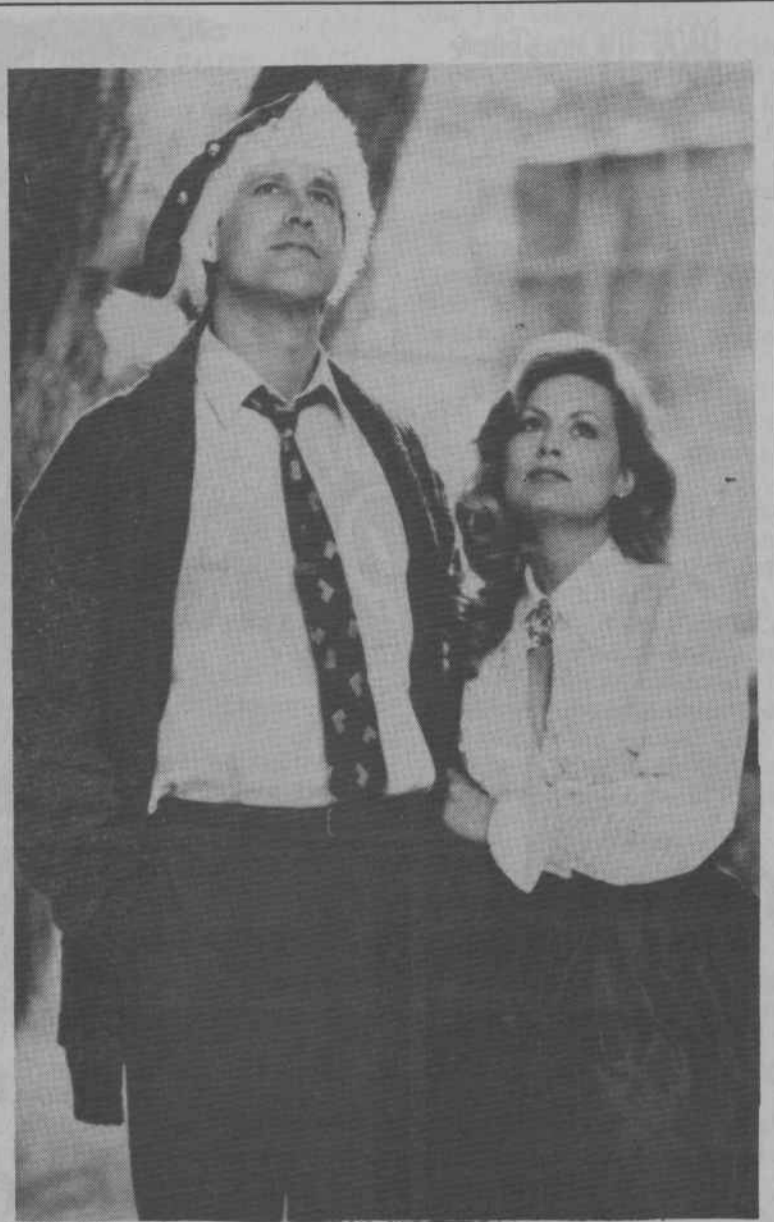
The story goes on to tell about how she and her grandfather got into trouble with her parents for not going to church, and how her grandfather taught her to be apathetic about the church.

Although her appearance at USC emphasized her Southern writing, she has written stories with settings in other parts of the world.

After college, she lived and married in Italy. She and her husband soon moved to Canada, where she wrote for many years. USC English professor Ashley Brown said he spoke to a Canadian who mistook Spencer for a Canadian writer.

She currently teaches at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, but said she loves USC. Spencer has spent the week conducting a writer's workshop for the English department's creative writing program at the request of Keen Butterworth of the department.

She is currently working on another novel and a play.



Wishing upon a star

Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo return as Clark and Ellen Griswold in the new comedy *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. The movie is the second sequel to Chase's original *Vacation* movie. *Christmas Vacation* opens today at Bush River Mall and the Movies at Polo Road in Columbia.

Eurythmics album shows R & B roots

By TRICIA TITUS
Staff Writer

Eurythmics
We Too Are One
Arista Records

Eurythmics singles have always overshadowed the albums on which they were released. Everyone remembers the talented duo's phenomenal hit "Sweet Dreams," but who can say they remember the title of the album from which it came? And how many of those few can say that they actually bought it?

In more recent years, the Eurythmics albums *Savage* and *Revenge* showed disappointing (and in some markets, nonexistent) record sales, while songs like "Would I Lie to You?" and "Missionary Man" blazed up the record charts and were constants on the radio.

This is perhaps due to the fact that Eurythmics singles have ridden the crests of the constantly changing waves of musical fads. When techno-pop was cutting-edge, "Sweet Dreams" was one of the hottest singles of the year.

Similarly, when Rhythm & Blues had a resurgence during the past few years, strong R & B-influenced songs like "Would I Lie to You" were successful. Consequently, the beautiful acoustic ballads which always appear on their albums, but are rarely released as singles, were heard by few people.

But Eurythmics may be about to jump out of that rut. Their latest album, *We Too Are One*, probably won't break any sales records, but is definitely well worth buying as a package, rather than as a collection of singles.

There is no one standout among the songs on the album. All of them are good, and quite a few are excellent. Eurythmics have once again used their musical eclecticism to produce an album as varied in style as any one band could possibly create.

Songs like "We Too Are One," "Revival" and "You Hurt Me (And I Hate You)." ★★★★★ 1/2

Music Review

- ★★★★★ Classic
- ★★★★ Don't Miss
- ★★★ Good Listening
- ★★ Mediocre
- ★ You Have to be Kidding.

I Hate You)" are upbeat, and reflect the same R & B influences that made "Missionary Man" a hit.

Throughout the album, the only constants are Annie Lennox's beautiful, versatile voice and Dave Stewart's expertise on the guitar. Lennox's voice ranges from strong and deep to piercing and angelic.

Lennox writes about horrible relationships and revenge with amazing strength, attacking the lyrics like a woman possessed. On the ballads "Sylvia" and "Angel" she sings with a sweet and soaring voice over a very basic musical track.

Stewart's guitar provides the basic framework on which Lennox works her wonderful melodies, and then enhances the result with some dazzling riffs and bridges. He also serves quite skillfully as co-producer with the well-established Jimmy Iovine.

Already renowned as a live act, Eurythmics may do some of their best work on the road. They have scheduled a highly extensive world tour through December, and have apparently tailored their live show more toward the basics: Lennox's voice and Stewart's guitar. Lennox seems to have recovered well from her voice problems during their last tour.

Overall, Eurythmics have produced an excellent album, with consistently solid performances. *We Too Are One* may give them a new lease on life. The future looks bright for the duo.

Best Cuts: "We Too Are One," "(My My) Baby's Gonna Cry," "Revival," "You Hurt Me (And I Hate You)." ★★★★★ 1/2

'Vampire Lesbians' invade Trustus Theater

By DAVID BOWDEN
Staff Writer

Vampire lesbians, schizophrenic surfers and gay Vegas dancers can all be seen at the Trustus Theater in two highly entertaining plays.

"Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" and "Psycho Beach Party," despite popular belief, were not written by William Shakespeare. They are both written by highly successful off-Broadway playwright Charles Busch and have come to Columbia for a limited engagement.

"Vampire Lesbians" is the tender story of two rival vampires as they try to make a name for themselves in show business. The setting shifts from Biblical Sodom to 1920s Hollywood and to modern-day Las Vegas.

Madeleine, one of the female vampires (excellently played in a cross-dressing role by Jimmy Flannery), does a hilariously cheesy dance number that would be worthy of Wayne Newton.

La Condessa, the older vampire responsible for creating Madeleine, is played by Ilene Fins with menace and humor. The feud between the

Theater Review

two blood-suckers is well written with many funny put-downs.

Mark Newsome does a very good job playing obnoxious silent movie star King Carlisle. Eric Bultman and Bobby Craft are quite good in their roles as both harem guards and Vegas dancers.

The second play of the evening, "Psycho Beach Party," is a take-off of the 1950s beach movies with a twist. Many actors from the first play also appear in this one.

The main character, Chicklet (played by Marilyn Matheus), is a teenage girl who wants to be a surfer. She also has a split personality, which leads to many weird plot complications.

This play is more serious than "Vampire Lesbians," but not much. However, the ending is a little too dramatic. A sillier, funnier way to end the plot would have been more true to the spirit

of the play, but "Psycho Beach Party" is still very amusing.

On Dec. 1 and Dec. 8, a third play will be shown. "The Adventures of Butthole the Clown" is going to be a running serial at the Trustus, and, on those two nights, theater-goers can see the first installment: "Butthole vs. The Evil Elvis Impersonators."

For the uninitiated, the Trustus Theater is one of the nicest theaters in Columbia. It specializes in plays that otherwise would not reach the Columbia audience. It is hardly a basement theater, however.

Trustus does not have rows of uncomfortable chairs. It has individual chairs surrounding separate tables for the audience, with popcorn at each table. Trustus is more like a ritzy night club than a theater.

"Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" and "Psycho Beach Party" will be shown at Trustus Theater from tonight through Dec. 2 and from Dec. 6 to 9. Tickets are \$5 to \$10 on Wednesdays and Thursdays and \$6.25 to \$12.50 on Fridays and Saturdays.

○ How We Need You!

○ type blood is rare and special. GIVE BLOOD, PLEASE!



American Red Cross
SC Regional Blood Services

FREEDOM OF CHOICE



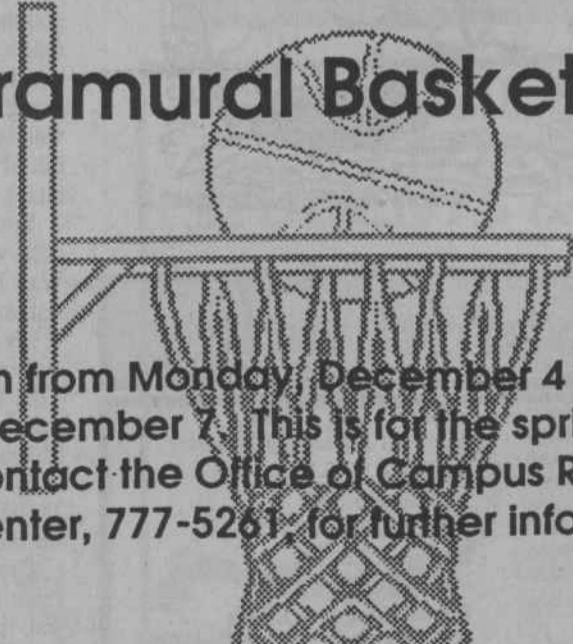
Last Day To Save

Order your college ring NOW.

JOSTENS
AMERICA'S COLLEGE RING™

Date: Dec. 1, 1989 Time: 9 to 4 Deposit: \$15.00 Place: University Bookstore - Russell House

Intramural Basketball



Sign-ups run from Monday, December 4 through Thursday, December 7. This is for the spring intramural league. Contact the Office of Campus Recreation, 102 Blatt P.E. Center, 777-5261 for further information.

Carolina Cares Day



USC's Annual Student Charity Drive

Saturday, December 2

10 AM - 4 PM

Volunteers will be collecting canned goods, toys, clothing and monetary donations at the Russell House.

