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1 September 2004

At the start of the new academic year, the HRI at the U of R welcomes many new subscribers on campus and in the community to its monthly e-mail newsletter.

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1. ABOUT NELOFER PAZIRA

Nelofer Pazira grew up in Kabul, the eldest child of an liberal Afghan professional family. In 1979 the Russians invaded Afghanistan, and her father was imprisoned by the communist puppet regime. By the late 1980s, increasingly threatened by the Mujahideen "Freedom Fighters" and desperate for soldiers, the communists started to conscript schoolboys. To spare Pazira's 13-year-old brother, her family fled Afghanistan in 1989, going as refugees first to Pakistan, then to Canada.

The Mujahideen drove the communists out of Kabul in 1992, and soon much of Afghanistan was in the grip of the fundamentalist Taliban. In 1996, Nelofer Pazira tried to return to Kabul to contact a close girlhood friend, Dyana, who like many educated Afghan women had been driven to despair by the restrictions of Taliban rule. Having got as far as Iran, Pazira contacted the Iranian film director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, but he was unable to help her enter Afghanistan, and her mission seemed to have ended in failure. However, two years later, Makhmalbaf called Pazira in Canada inviting her to help with his new film about the plight of Afghanistan. Arriving in Tehran and expecting to work as his translator, Pazira found that Makhmalbaf had based ***Kandahar*** on her mission and wanted her to star in the film...

Kandahar was an international success, winning the Ecumenical Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2001, while for her performance Pazira was awarded the Prix d'Interprétation at the Montreal Film Festival that same year. Since then, Nelofer Pazira has become an unofficial international spokeswoman for the plight of Afghan women and children. After the fall of the Taliban, Pazira could finally get into Afghanistan. So she took a CBC film crew to her homeland and went in search of Dyana, the result being the documentary *Return to Kandahar* (2003).



2. FREE SHOWING OF *KANDAHAR* starring NELOFER PAZIRA (13 September)

On the day before the Powell Lecture (see 3 below) there will be a free public showing of the film ***Kandahar*** (2001), directed by Mohsen Makhmalbaf and starring **Nelofer Pazira**.

Date: Monday 13 September

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: CL 110 (Room 110, Classroom Bldg, University of Regina.)

Admission is free and all are welcome.



***3. HRI 2004 POWELL LECTURE: NELOFER PAZIRA* (14 September)**

The Dr. Barbara Powell Visiting Lecture is the HRI's flagship annual event. This year we are delighted to welcome to Regina the award-winning journalist, film maker, and star of the acclaimed film *Kandahar*,

NELOFER PAZIRA**"CURTAILED RIGHTS, LOST DIGNITY: THE STRUGGLE OF AFGHAN WOMEN"**

In the recent past, the rights, integrity, and security of Afghan women have become topics of global concern. However, there's been little discussion about the historical conditions which shaped the prevailing views of women in Afghanistan, nor about the struggle of Afghan women for equality throughout the country's modern history. Has there ever been a women's movement in Afghanistan? What strategies have Afghan women used in their fight against oppression? To what extent have Afghan women been caught between the opposing forces of modernization and radical tribal conservatism? How does the current political climate in the country affect women's lives?

Date: Tuesday, 14 September 2004

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Education Auditorium, University of Regina

Admission is free and all are welcome

Free Parking in Lot 15 [M area] and Lot 17.

Paid Parking in Lot 8

**4. FREDERICK CREWS LECTURE (24 September)**

The HRI is pleased to be co-sponsoring, with the Canada Research Chair in Social Justice, the Department of Philosophy and Classics, and the Department of English, a lecture by

FREDERICK CREWS**"DEEP AND EASY KNOWLEDGE: THE FREUDIAN TEMPTATION"**

Frederick Crews taught English at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1958 until his retirement in 1994. He is the author of twelve books and has edited five others, including the anthology *Unauthorized Freud*. His works include the satire *The Pooh Perplex* and its recent sequel, *Postmodern Pooh*; critical studies of Henry James, E.M. Forster, and Nathaniel Hawthorne; two widely adopted composition handbooks; two collections of his own essays on psychoanalysis and other matters; and a book about American literary criticism, *The Critics Bear It Away*, that was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award and won a prize from PEN as the best book of previously uncollected essays in 1992. Crews holds a distinguished teaching award from his campus, which also named him Faculty Research Lecturer in 1991-92. He is a member of the

American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In his early years as a literary critic, Crews was an enthusiastic advocate of applied psychoanalysis. He gradually changed his mind, eventually becoming one of the best-known and most trenchant critics of the Freudian tradition. His article "The Unknown Freud," published in the *New York Review of Books* in 1993, generated more controversy than any other in the history of that magazine.

Date: Friday 24 September

Time: 3:30 pm

Place: Campion College Auditorium, University of Regina

Admission is free and all are welcome

For further information, call 585-4332.



5. GWYNNE DYER LECTURE (29 September)

The HRI is pleased to be co-sponsoring with the Faculty of Arts a lecture by **Gwynne Dyer** on the connections between the War on Terror, the War in Iraq, and the upcoming US election. This event will coincide with the publication of Mr. Dyer's new book, *Future: Tense: The Coming World Order* and of a new edition of his best-selling *War*.

Gwynne Dyer was born in Newfoundland and entered the Canadian navy at 17. He has served in the Canadian, British and American navies. He holds a Ph.D. in war studies from the University of London, has taught at Sandhurst and serves on the Board of Governors of Canada's Royal Military College. In addition to teaching and lecturing, Dyer writes a syndicated column that appears in more than 250 newspapers around the world. He lives in England with his wife and children.

Date: Wednesday 29 September

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Education Auditorium, University of Regina.

Admission is free and all are welcome

Please watch for further details about this event.



6. HRI MINI-CONFERENCE: EVALUATING RESEARCH PERFORMANCE IN THE HUMANITIES: Call for Participants

To foster research in the humanities is an important part of the HRI's mandate. Toward this end, the HRI plans to hold in late Fall 2004 a mini-conference on the topic, "How should we best evaluate research performance in the humanities?" This event will of interest to those who undertake research (or scholarship) on humanities subjects and those who have reviewed the performance of humanities researchers.

Questions to be considered may include:

- Is it possible to quantify humanities research in a meaningful way, e.g., by numbers of publications, presentations, and performances? by the amount of grant money obtained by the researcher? by the citation of work by peers? or by some other, more complex formula? Or, if humanities scholarship is not quantifiable, how might performance objectively be evaluated?
- Is it possible or necessary to rank the multitudinous ways that humanities research is undertaken and disseminated: single, co- and multiple authorships and editorships; translations, transcriptions, and adaptations; participation in conferences as organizer, session chair, panelist, paper presenter, plenary or keynote speaker; internal or external examinations of Masters or Doctoral theses; interviews with local, provincial, national, and international media; appointments to editorial boards and elections to boards of scholarly organizations...to name but a few?
- Should creative work be viewed as equivalent to more traditional forms of humanities scholarship, and if so according to what formulae?
- Is on-line publication equivalent to paper publication?
- Is success in obtaining grants to support one's research evidence of good scholarship in the humanities, or merely a prelude to scholarly activity?
- What constitutes meritorious research in the humanities? Is having a book published by a major international university press self-evidently more meritorious than having one published by a local small press? Is A's award-winning avant-garde short film more meritorious than B's well-attended and lucrative exhibition of prairie landscapes? Is good interdisciplinary work always more meritorious than good work that stays within traditional boundaries?

The Workshop will consist of a series of short individual presentations and longer panel discussions. Registration will be free of charge and open to all members of the university and its community. If you would like to participate or require further details, please contact HRI Director Nicholas Ruddick (address below).



7. HRI CONTACT INFORMATION

The HRI Newsletter appears approximately once a month from September to April, and more occasionally during the rest of the year. Recent issues are archived on the HRI website.

The HRI Newsletter reaches more than 500 addresses in the University of Regina and its surrounding community. Please forward a copy to friends and colleagues with an interest in the humanities.

For further details about upcoming HRI events, to subscribe (free of charge) or unsubscribe to this newsletter by e-mail, or to submit material to future newsletters, please contact:

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