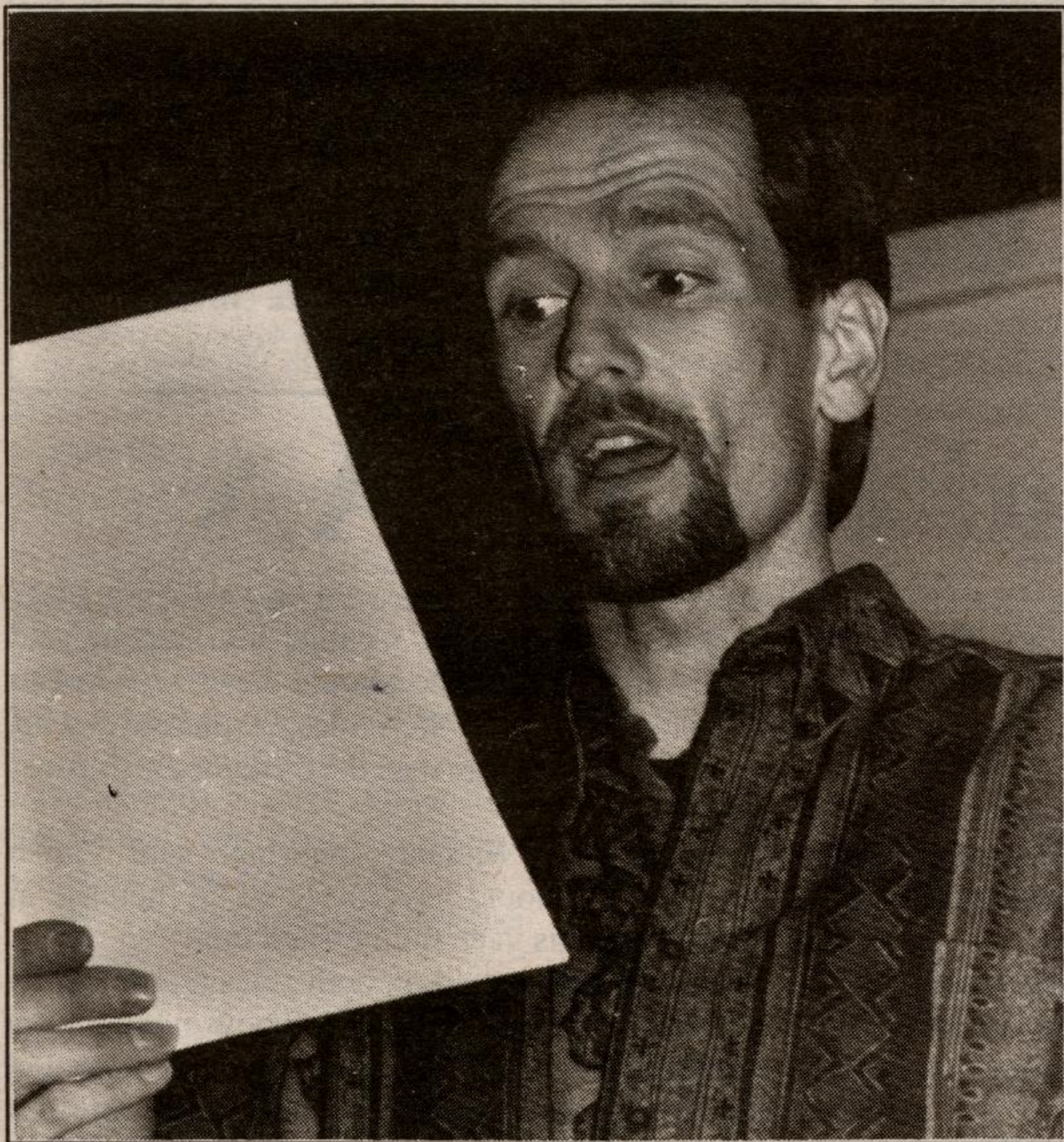


VOICES:
An evening of song, poetry, music and story



Area writers and artists gathered at the Eden Mills Community Centre last Friday to raise funds for Eramosa Anthologies. Above, Mike Nagy reads a humorous story.

Foul smell at Centennial School

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

A yellow organic substance carrying a foul odour that reached the surface at the south-west grounds of Rockwood Centennial school last week appears to be rotting vegetation, animal droppings or a combination of both.

That was the message received by Public Health Inspector Scott Hutcheson on Monday when he contacted Lex Scientific Inc., a private laboratory in Guelph, which analyzed samples taken from Centennial.

School principal Marg Graham said students would be sent home with a letter telling them of the situation and that the area in question has been fenced off for the foreseeable future.

"It's something that you want to investigate. Anything unusual is going to concern you," said Graham, who has increased teacher supervision on school grounds to five teachers from three since the substance was detected. "I think parents want to know their children are looked after when

they're here."

Kim Lapierre, health and safety officer for the Wellington Board of Education, said the substance isn't chemically related.

When contacted on Monday, Bill Bardswick, district manager for the Ministry of Environment and Energy's (MOEE) Cambridge office, said a similar situation occurred in the Kingston-Hastings area a year or two ago, but it, too, was decaying vegetation.

Through the freezing and thawing stages, the decaying can go

anaerobic and that's when you get a strong smell, noted Bardswick.

Bardswick added he took a call last week from a school in Waterloo that was experiencing the same problem as Centennial.

"When it starts happening at this rate in different regions you start to think it's naturally occurring," Bardswick stated. "I think what threw people in Rockwood was the yellow colour. Some thought the problem was sewage, which is normally black."

The investigation continues.

March break fun

Guelph Museums offers two weeks of fun activities for students aged five to 10 on their March break, from March 11 to 22.

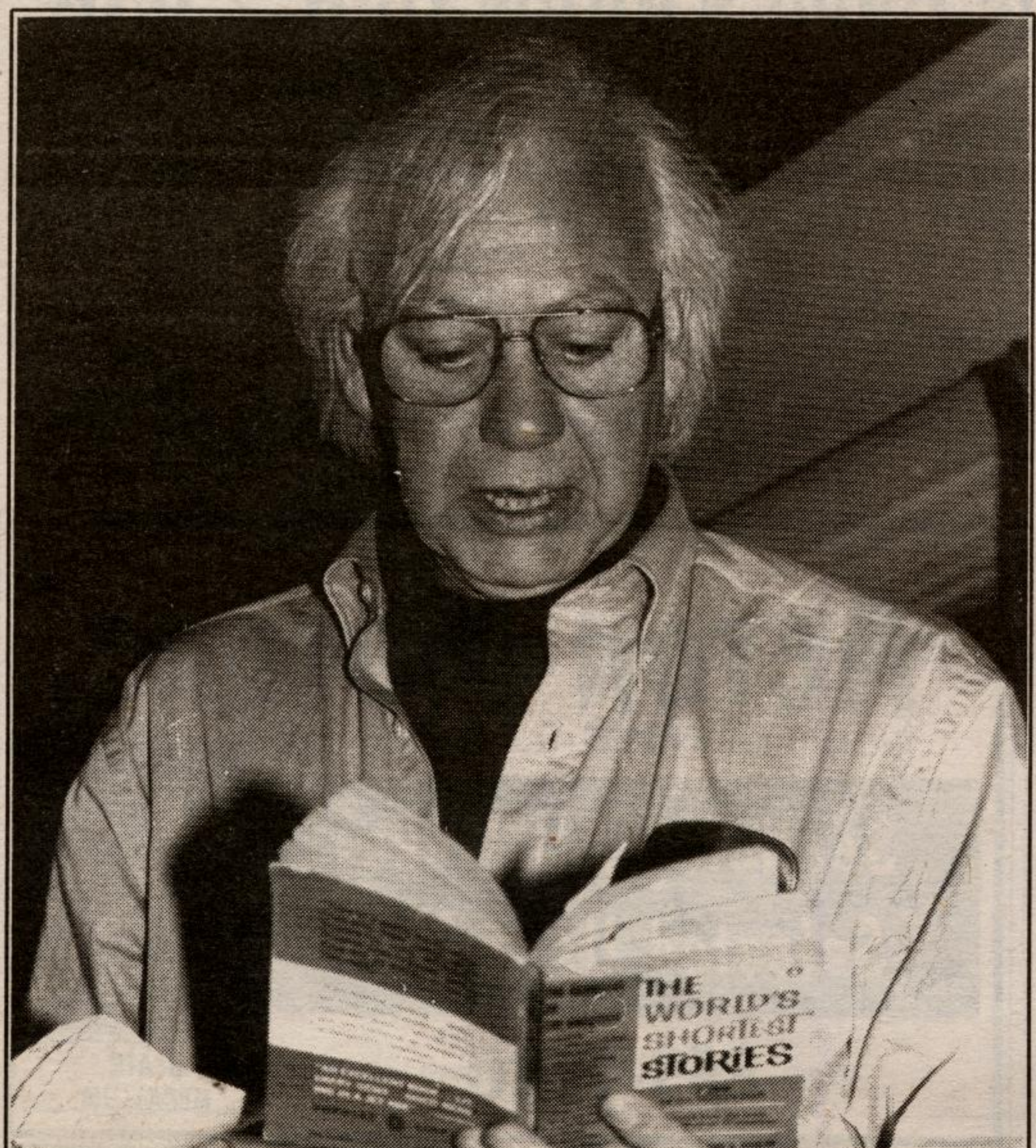
The Guelph Civic Museum's programs centre around the museum's Star Trek display, and run from 9:15-11:45 am daily.

McCrae House offers afternoon programs from 1-3 pm and include "The Storyteller" and "All the World's a Stage." Cost is \$8 per session. Call 836-1221.

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Ann McKenzie, left, and Shannon Purvis Smith, members of the Laurier Consort, entertained with their musical selections, while writer Leon Rooke, below, read a tale. (Eve Martin photos)



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