

# Polish poet receives Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — A 73-year-old Polish poet who disavowed her Stalinist past to become an inspiration for movie makers and rock bands won the Nobel Prize for literature Thursday.

Wisława Szymborska had gone for a walk in the southern Polish holiday town of Zakopane just before the Swedish Academy announced the prize.

"I am very happy, I am honored, and at the same time stunned and a bit frightened with what awaits me," she told Poland's Radio 1. "I'm afraid I will not have a quiet life for some time now, and this is what I prize the most."

Arguably Poland's most popular poet, Szymborska's work inspired the 1994 movie *Red* as well as probing lyrics for Polish rock stars. Critics say she is both deeply political and witty, using humor in unexpected ways.

The citation described her as a "poet of poetry," a woman who had elegance of language with the fury of Beethoven and who was not afraid to tackle serious subjects with levity.

Szymborska's later poetry is replete with sorts against her first two books, published in 1952 and 1954, which attempts to conform to social

realism at a time when Communist censorship held sway over Poland.

She later disclaimed both books and became a critic of Josef Stalin, likening him to the Abominable Snowman in the 1957 poem "Calling Out to Yeti."

Szymborska (pronounced vees-WAH-wah sheem-BOR-skah) "is very reserved. Some call her shy but she is a very intense person," said Sture Allen, the secretary for the Swedish Academy.

Praise quickly poured in from her native country for the first of this year's Nobel laureates.

"Again, Poland was noticed, and first of all this woman was noticed — so modest as a person and so great in spirit," former President Lech Walesa, the 1983 Nobel peace laureate, told Radio Zet.

In a burst of patriotic fever, Polish Finance Minister Grzegorz Kolodko said he will exempt Szymborska, a native of the medieval city of Krakow, from paying tax on the prize money.

Szymborska's influence and works have spread beyond literary circles into Poland's popular culture.

Polish rock singer Cora put her poem "Nothing Twice" into song last year, and another Szymborska poem, "Love At First Sight," inspired the lauded, enigmatic

movie *Red* by the late Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski.

Her most recent book, *The End and the Beginning* from 1993, is not yet translated into English. Works available in English include *View With a Grain of Sand*, *People on a Bridge and Sounds*, *Feelings*, *Thoughts: Seventy Poems*.

One publisher, Harcourt Brace, ordered 12,000 more copies of *View with a Grain of Sand* and said they should be in U.S. bookstores within 10 days.

Four other Polish-born writers have won Nobels in literature: Czeslaw Milosz in 1980, Isaac Bashevis Singer in 1978, Wladyslaw Reymont in 1924 and Henryk Sienkiewicz in 1905.

The Swedish Academy keeps its deliberations secret and the criteria it uses for choosing winners are not known, other than the prize's basic stipulation that it honor fine writing.

Szymborska is the third woman in the past six years to win the literature prize, after American Toni Morrison in 1993 and Nadine Gordimer of South Africa in 1991.

The Nobel Prizes in medicine, economics, physics and chemistry will be announced next week in Stockholm, followed by the peace prize on October 11 in Oslo.



NOBEL Literature • 1996

- Winners since 1986
- 1996 Wisława Szymborska, Poland
  - 1995 Seamus Heaney, Ireland
  - 1994 Kenzaburo Oe, Japan
  - 1993 Toni Morrison, U.S.
  - 1992 Derek Walcott, St. Lucia, West Indies
  - 1991 Nadine Gordimer, South Africa
  - 1990 Octavio Paz, Mexico
  - 1989 Camilo Jose Cela, Spain
  - 1988 Naguib Mahfouz, Egypt
  - 1987 Joseph Brodsky, Russian-born American
  - 1986 Wole Soyinka, Nigeria

## ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page 1

The University Access and Equity Plan has 80 programs designed to help minorities. The programs focus on recruiting goals for minorities, building a sense of community, and helping minorities learn about the services offered.

Douglas said the *Hopwood* decision has contributed to low minority enrollment at A&M and other Texas universities.

If the *Hopwood* ruling continues to stand in Texas, the other states will offer

scholarships and fellowships to minorities, so they (minorities) will go outside of Texas for their education," Douglas said.

The *Hopwood* ruling prohibits Texas colleges and universities from awarding scholarships and fellowships based on race.

Bowen said minority enrollment may decline in the future if minorities choose a scholarship over taking out a loan.

"The minority students A&M recruits qualify for scholarships that schools in other states can offer," Bowen said. "We can't offer the scholarships) because of the *Hopwood* case, so they may understandably attend school outside of Texas."

## PACEMAKER

Continued from Page 1

Michael Landauer, Fall 1996 editor in chief and a senior journalism major, said he is confident this year's paper will be recognized as well.

"With the quality of people we get in the newsroom, we can be the best," Landauer said. "We are constantly improving one of the 10 best papers in the country, but I know other papers out there are improving as well."

"Because we are already considered one of the best paper's in the country, excellence should be expected. There is no excuse not to be included in next year's top 10 or not to come away with a Pacemaker."

Dr. Charles Self, head of the journalism department and chairman of the Student Publications board, said being a finalist for a Pacemaker award proves to the University that The Battalion is a fine newspaper.

"This is an acknowledgement of many of us have known on campus," Self said.

"The Battalion is an excellent paper. ... This is the result of the work of highly skilled people."

The Battalion will be recognized as a finalist and the winners of Pacemaker awards will be announced Nov. 23 at the College Media Convention in Orlando, Fla.

## PROGRAM

Continued from Page 1

She said it is difficult to find a babysitter during football games, and her children had been at the museum's camp this summer.

Henderson has already registered her children for the rest of the Game Day sessions this fall because her children liked the past session.

"They really enjoyed it," she said. "They are saying 'I want to go back to camp.' It's a wonderful program."

Game Days are held during every home football game. The program starts an hour before the game and ends an hour after it is over.

The fee is \$20 for museum members and \$4 for non-members. Park and Ride costs \$4 each passenger.

Pursley said the response has been posi-

ive and the museum is planning to continue the program next fall. Similar programs may be enacted during the year.

The largest response has been in the 5- to 8-year-olds category, Pursley said.

The response in the 9- to 12-year-olds group has been minimal, Pursley said, because the children are beginning to want to attend football games. No one showed up this past Saturday for this age group.

Children can participate in Game Day whether their parents attend the football games or not. Children in the oldest age group may work as helpers for younger groups if they do not want to attend Game Day, Pursley said.

More information is available by visiting the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History at 3232 Briarcrest Drive in Bryan or calling 776-2195.

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