

# Wiebe's book draws from childhood memories, captures homestead life

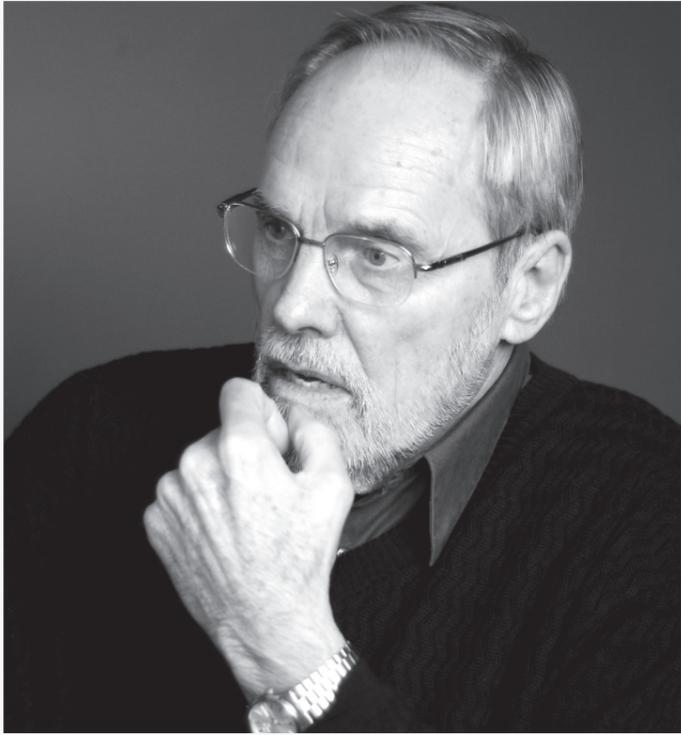
WIEBE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"My life was lovely. How can you tell a story like that?" Wiebe says. "Trying to recall what a child knows and making a book about it was one of the most challenging and interesting things.

"[My book is] about when a child first learns about death, about sex. It was all very interesting for me because I was born on a farm. You see it with animals, but you never transfer it to human beings! I was horrified!" Wiebe laughs. "The first time I heard about sex, one of my older friends told me about it when my older sister was getting married. He said, 'That's what your brother-in-law wants to do to your sister!' Then I was like, 'Don't be stupid! She'd never put up with it. She's too tough a woman; she'd never let anyone do that to her!' So there are stories like that in there."

According to Charles Taylor Prize administrator June Dickenson, who is also a U of A graduate, the non-fiction category applauds the quality of memoir or biographical writing. The subject matter needs to be true, and judges are on guard for fabricated or fictional elements in the works.

"The writing quality must be so engaging that you could feel as though you're reading a work of fiction, yet it's about a true topic or a true happening," Dickenson explains. "It's a true story told well, basically. So when they consider the books, [judges are] looking for the writing itself and that it's of a literary quality."



ANDREW RURAK

**THE THINKER** Award-winning Wiebe ponders his growing literary success.

While Wiebe is unsure what he'll do with the money should he win, Dickenson can only speculate from past experience (this is the fifth Taylor prize Dickenson has organized) as to what this year's winner—announced on 26 February—will do with the cash.

"If you look back on Charles Montgomery's *The Last Heathen*, that book was picked up and published in the US and UK as *The Shark God*,"

Dickenson says. "[Montgomery] actually toured the UK in November and had a number of readings and opportunities to read his book, and he always refers to the fact that [the money] gave him another year to write. If it's a new writer that perhaps isn't as well known or isn't as well established, then it could mean whether or not they're able to work on what they love to do, which is write."



CHLOÉ FEDIO

**HE SAYS, SHE SAYS** Abdeljader lectures on the UN's struggle to find a definition for terrorism that everyone agrees on.

# Skepticism surrounds dictionary project

Not everyone is convinced that finding a universally accepted definition of terrorism is possible or that it would make any difference once accomplished

TERRORISM • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I learned so much from studying protest movements because some of these resistance people or prophets—whatever they were—they were crazy and they also probably used some violence, but they were beautiful at the same time. And as long as you oppress people you will get resistance," Lorberg said, pointing to examples like Nelson Mandela who used violence on his road to power in South Africa, but was later recognized as a hero for freeing an oppressed group.

Zahrah Adam, a U of A student with a Muslim background, said the lecture was a positive step towards bringing the

challenge of defining terrorism to the mainstream. But having grown up with an awareness of the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, she wasn't convinced the UN would soon find a definition to which all member states agree.

"I don't think they're ever going to get a good definition," said the skeptical human ecology student. "It's always going to be one side saying, 'You're doing this,' and the other side saying, 'Yeah, well you're doing this and so we're reacting to that.' I think it's incredibly complicated and I think it's going to be very hard."

But even as the audience doubted the possibility of a consensus on the

definition of terrorism, Abdeljaber remained adamant that working together on the UN's international stage presented the most hopeful solution, and that attempting to combat terrorism with military solutions was ineffective.

"Terrorism is a global challenge and it's becoming fiercer—and it's scary also. And it's true that it's a threat—a global threat. And no one country alone can win this threat. A global challenge means a global response," Abdeljaber said. "It's like HIV/AIDS and poverty; you need collected effort, and collected effort needs to be coordinated."

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