

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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South: Partly to mostly cloudy with scattered thunder in Georgia. Partly sunny elsewhere. High 90's, except upper 80's in eastern Tennessee and Georgia. Weather map, Page C24.

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ONE DOLLAR

BUSH PANEL BACKS LEGALIZING STATUS OF SOME MIGRANTS

MEXICANS TO BE ELIGIBLE

Proposal May Aid One Million
People but the Exact Terms
Have Not Yet Been Set

By ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON, July 23 — A cabinet-level panel has recommended that President Bush endorse a limited plan allowing some, but not all, of the estimated three million Mexicans living in the United States illegally to apply for permanent legal status, a White House spokesman said today.

Some administration officials and outside experts said that perhaps one million to two million of the illegal Mexican immigrants might ultimately meet eligibility requirements, based on their job history and how long they have been here. The exact terms have not been determined, administration officials said.

Even so, such a program, if adopted by Congress, would be one of the largest attempts to legalize the status of illegal residents in American history. A 1986 law granted legal status to about three million illegal immigrants from several countries.

In a confidential one-page memorandum sent to the White House late on Friday, a working group headed by Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Attorney General John Ashcroft addressed, at least for now, only unlawful Mexicans, who make up the bulk of the estimated seven million to eight million illegal immigrants in the United States.

Democrats and immigrant groups have urged the administration to expand any legalization plan to include illegal immigrants from other countries. A White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, said no decisions had been made on that issue or on many other details of the proposal.

The stakes are high for Mr. Bush. He is trying to remake relations with



Pool photo by Paolo Cocco via Associated Press

President Bush and Pope John Paul II meeting yesterday at the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

Indonesia Gets A New Leader; Ex-Chief Balks

By SETH MYDANS

JAKARTA, Indonesia, July 23 — In the most peaceful transfer of power in Indonesia's history, Megawati Sukarnoputri was sworn in as president today, moments after the nation's top legislative body voted to cut short the fractious and rudderless tenure of her predecessor.

But in a historical novelty, Indonesia, the world's fourth-most-populous nation, was left with two claimants to the presidency as Abdurrahman Wahid refused to recognize the action to remove him and remained isolated in his official residence.

Bush Hears Pope Condemn Research in Human Embryos

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, July 23 — President Bush, facing a decision whether to allow federal financing for research using human embryo cells, today heard an appeal from Pope John Paul II to "reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception until natural death."

The pope made his statement after meeting Mr. Bush at the papal summer residence here outside Rome, declaring that this path was the obligation of "a free and virtuous society, which America aspires to be." He specifically declared that the creation of human embryos for re-

issue.

Whether he should allow federal financing for some forms of embryonic stem cell research, is one of the most politically delicate decisions facing the president.

"I take this issue very seriously," Mr. Bush said, "because it is an issue that, on the one hand, deals with so much hope, hope that perhaps through research and development we'll be able to save lives. It's also an issue that has got serious moral implications, and our nation must think carefully before we proceed."

He added: "And, therefore, my process has been, frankly, unusually

178 NATIONS REACH A CLIMATE ACCORD; U.S. ONLY LOOKS ON

A Compromise to Curb Emissions
Linked to Global Warming

By ANDREW C. REVKIN

BONN, July 23 — With the Bush administration on the sidelines, the world's leading countries hammered out a compromise agreement today finishing a treaty that for the first time would formally require industrialized countries to cut emissions of gases linked to global warming.

The agreement, which was announced here today after three days of marathon bargaining, rescued the Kyoto Protocol, the preliminary accord framed in Japan in 1997, that was the first step toward requiring cuts in such gases. That agreement has been repudiated by President Bush, who has called it "fatally flawed," saying it places too much of the cleanup burden on industrial countries and would be too costly to the American economy.

Today, his national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said in Rome, where the president met with the pope, "I don't believe that it is a surprise to anyone that the United States believes that this particular protocol is not in its interests, nor do we believe that it really addresses the problem of global climate change." She reiterated that the president had created a task force to come up with alternatives.

The agreement by 178 countries was largely the product of give and take involving Japan, Australia, Canada and the European Union. But Japan's role was crucial because it is the largest economy after the United States and its opposition would have killed any agreement.

Largely as a result of concessions to Japan, the product is a significantly softened version of the Kyoto accord, allowing industrial nations with the greatest emissions of greenhouse

tougher emissions goals. Those countries now account for close to half of the emissions. The agreement now moves to a complex ratification process that calls for approval from the biggest polluting countries, which can be achieved even with United States opposition.

Officials from the European Union exulted over the compromise. Olivier Deleuze, the energy and sustainability secretary of Belgium, said there were easily 10 things in the final texts that he could criticize. "But," he said, "I prefer an imperfect agreement that is living than a perfect agreement that doesn't exist."

The Kyoto accord calls for the 38 industrialized countries by 2012 to reduce their combined annual gas emissions to 5.2 percent below levels measured in 1990. It set a different, negotiated target for each, with Ja-

Continued on Page A7

Agency Eases Research Ban At University

By JAMES GLANZ

BALTIMORE, July 23 — A federal agency investigating the death of a volunteer in a research study at Johns Hopkins University announced today that it was easing its four-day-old suspension of research experiments involving human subjects at

Mexico and at the same time court Latino voters who would be crucial to any re-election bid in 2004.

The legalization plan is the most sensitive result of broader discussions on border and migration issues that Mr. Bush and President Vicente Fox of Mexico began in February. General Powell and Mr. Ashcroft, and their Mexican counterparts, were delegated to develop recommendations before the two presidents meet in Washington in early September.

Allowing illegal immigrants to change their status would be a central component of a new, ambitious temporary-worker program that American and Mexican officials are discussing. It would let some unlawful Mexicans living in the United States legalize their status and also permit future migrants to earn legal residency.

"The panel recommends consider-

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literally overnight, his ministers resigning one after another and the crowds of supporters he had counted on failing to materialize, Mr. Wahid, 61, made no public statement today. He appeared for a moment as evening fell, waving forlornly from the palace veranda, dressed in a pair of striped shorts and a white polo shirt.

His aides said he had no intention of making way for Mrs. Megawati, and government officials said there were no immediate plans to force him to leave.

Mrs. Megawati, the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, Sukarno, appears to have felt that it was her destiny eventually to inherit his mantle. But as a politician, she has remained detached from the fray. [Woman in the news, Page A9.]

Mr. Wahid is the first Indonesian president to cling to office once it became clear that his power was

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can scientists have begun doing, was an evil akin to euthanasia and infanticide. [Excerpts, Page A8.]

Though the pope did not specifically address the decision that Mr. Bush is facing, the president said at a news conference that he would take the pope's words into "consideration," but stressed that he had no intention of being rushed into a decision on the

I'm taking my time." While research on embryonic stem cells usually involves the use of frozen embryos, some American scientists created a stir this month when they disclosed that they had mixed eggs and sperm for the express purpose of extracting stem cells from

Continued on Page A8

gases, primarily carbon dioxide, achieve their cuts with greater flexibility. For example, Japan won a provision to receive credits for reducing the gases by protecting forests that absorb carbon dioxide.

Still, the agreement is a binding contract among nations — excluding the United States — under which 38 industrialized countries must reduce those emissions by 2012 or face

But because of strict conditions imposed by the agency, the Office for Human Research Protections, most of the thousands of studies that were suspended are unlikely to resume for weeks or months as they undergo comprehensive new reviews by panels at the university and officials at the agency.

Still, some studies involving either minimal risks to subjects or treatments of gravely ill patients — for example, those taking experimental cancer drugs — may go forward almost immediately, the agency said.

Although some of those exemptions already existed, Hopkins officials generally praised the decision.

"We're extremely glad this has been lifted," said Dr. Chi Van Dang, vice dean for research at Hopkins.

University officials had excoriated the agency for imposing the suspension last Thursday, calling that decision outrageous and excessive. Today, Dr. Dang said he hoped that negotiations would succeed in further loosening the restrictions.

"There should be additional dialogue," Dr. Dang said.

Despite the quick turnaround, Dr. Arthur Caplan, an ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, said that the episode at Johns Hopkins, which followed recent suspensions of human research at Duke University, Penn

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Eudora Welty, a Lyrical Master Of the Short Story, Is Dead at 92

By ALBIN KREBS

Eudora Welty, whose evocative short stories, notable for their imagery, sharp dialogue and fierce wit, made her a revered figure in contemporary American letters, died yesterday at a hospital near her home in Jackson, Miss. She was 92.

She was plagued by health problems and had been confined for some time to her home, where she had lived since high school and where she wrote most of her stories, novels, essays, memoirs and book reviews.

As a short-story master, Miss Welty is often mentioned by critics in the same breath as Chekhov, but she was dismissed early in her career as a regionalist and did not earn widespread critical respect until she was no longer young. When recognition came, she accepted it with the ease, modesty and grace that had become her hallmarks.

She was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for her novel "The Optimist's Daughter." She also received the National Book Critics Circle Award, the American Book Award, several O. Henry Awards and the Gold Medal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. She was inducted into the French Legion of Honor and received the Medal of Freedom in 1980, presented, she said happily, by "one of my great Southern heroes, President Jimmy Carter."

Late in 1998 Miss Welty said she

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Thomas Victor

Eudora Welty in 1980.

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Pool photo by Bill O'Leary, via Agence France-Presse

Paying Tribute to Katharine Graham

The Clintons were among those at the funeral yesterday at Washington National Cathedral. Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne, bowed as her coffin

passed. New York's Gov. George E. Pataki, behind Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, right, also attended. Page C23.

The Fed Finds the Limits of Its Power

By RICHARD W. STEVENSON

WASHINGTON, July 23 — Despite six interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve this year and the possibility of more to come, analysts say that monetary policy is packing less of a punch so far than expected.

The Fed's rate reductions work to the degree that they ripple through the banking system and the financial markets into the economy. And in this business cycle the three main vehicles through which lower rates affect business, investor and consumer behavior — the stock, bond and currency markets — have remained persistently unresponsive to

the Fed's actions.

All year long, economists have predicted that the central bank's rate cuts would ultimately kick in with something like their usual force, stimulating a recovery from the economic slowdown. But one factor after another has conspired to dampen or delay the effects of the looser monetary policy on the markets and the economy.

"Monetary policy has a major problem in reviving the economy by itself in the year ahead," said David Hale, chief economist for the Zurich

Group. "The best the Fed can do for us is a modest growth rate. To do better, the technology recession has got to end."

Disappointing corporate earnings reports have kept stock prices in check all year, and only seem to have grown worse in recent weeks. Worries that inflation might make a comeback next year, and growing concern that the federal government might not be able to pay off as much of its debt as projected, have kept long-term interest rates in the bond market from falling below where they were when the Fed began cutting rates in January.

Increasing evidence over the last

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INSIDE

Germ Arms Pact Revisited

European nations urged the completion of a draft agreement to enforce the 1972 ban on biological weapons. The Bush administration has concluded the accord is flawed. PAGE A7

Patients' Rights Showdown

House Republican aides said they did not yet have the votes to defeat a bipartisan patients' bill of rights supported by Democrats and opposed by President Bush. PAGE A17

Split in Cuban Exile Group

A prominent member of a leading organization for Cuban exiles resigned, saying that the Miami-based group was run like the Castro dictatorship it opposes. PAGE A10

Working on New Life Forms

Scientists are taking the first steps toward creating alternative life forms that have genetic codes different from all other creatures on earth. SCIENCE TIMES, PAGE D1

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Eudora Welty, the South's Lyrical Master of the Short Story, Is Dead at 92

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was "excited and delighted" to learn that she had become the first living writer to be included in the prestigious Library of America series of collected works by United States literary giants. The library's break with its long tradition of choosing only dead authors for its series of definitive collections ushered Miss Welty into a pantheon that includes Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Henry James, Edith Wharton, Willa Cather, Edgar Allan Poe and William Faulkner.

For decades she was pigeonholed by critics who placed her with Faulkner, Katherine Anne Porter, Flannery O'Connor and Carson McCullers as a writer of the so-called Southern School. Her reputation as a regional and apolitical writer was often cited as a reason for her failure to win a Nobel Prize. But her work, like that of those other Southern writers, transcended region and possessed a universal relevance and appeal.

"It is not the South we find in her stories, it is Eudora Welty's South, a region that feeds her imagination and a place we come to trust," Maureen Howard said when she reviewed Miss Welty's "Collected Stories" in 1980. "She is a Southerner as Chekhov was a Russian, because place provides them with a reality — a reality as difficult, mysterious and impermanent as life."

A Clan of Readers

Eudora Welty was born on April 13, 1909, in Jackson, the daughter of Christian Webb Welty, an Ohio native, and the former Chestina Andrews, who had been a West Virginia schoolteacher. The Welyts settled in Jackson shortly after their marriage, and Mr. Welty became an executive of the Lamar Life Insurance company. They also had two sons younger than Miss Welty.

The Welyts were devoted to books and learning. In "One Writer's Beginnings," Miss Welty's 1984 memoir based on a series of lectures she gave at Harvard, she recalled the exhilaration she felt when she fell under the spell of books.

"It had been startling and disappointing to me to find out that storybooks had been written by people, that books were not natural wonders, coming up of themselves like grass," she wrote. "Yet regardless of where they came from, I cannot remember a time when I was not in love with them — with the books themselves, cover and binding and the paper they

where she was allowed what she later called "a sweet devouring" — a ration of two books a day by the stern-faced librarian. Several decades later, in 1986, the building was replaced; the new one was named the Eudora Welty Library.

Miss Welty learned to read before starting public school and began turning out stories as a child.

"It took Latin to thrust me into a bona fide alliance with words in their true meaning," she wrote. "Learning Latin (once I was free of Caesar) fed my love for words upon words, words in continuation and modification, and the beautiful, sober accretion of a sentence. I could see the achieved sentence finally standing there, as real, intact and built to stay as the Mississippi State Capitol at the top of my street, where I could walk through it on my way to school and hear underfoot the echo of its marble floor and over me the bell of its rotunda."

'Listening for Stories'

Miss Welty said she discovered stories in daily life. "Long before I wrote stories, I listened for stories," she wrote in 1984. "Listening for them is something more acute than listening to them. I suppose it's an early form of participation in what goes on. Listening children know stories are *there*. When their elders sit and begin, children are just waiting and hoping for one to come out, like a mouse from its hole."

Miss Welty attended the Mississippi State College for Women, where she helped to start a literary magazine, and then the University of Wisconsin, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1929. After college Miss Welty told her parents that she wanted to be a writer, but she said that her father insisted that she "learn something to fall back on" to support herself, so she took advertising courses at the Columbia University School of Business.

Back in Jackson in the early 1930's, Miss Welty wrote for a radio station and contributed society items to The Commercial Appeal in Memphis. During the Depression she got a publicity job at the Works Progress Administration, which enabled her to travel throughout Mississippi. She was troubled and fascinated by the people she saw and took hundreds of snapshots with a cheap camera, developing her prints in her kitchen at night. In 1971 Random House published a collection of these pictures, "One Time, One Place: Mississippi in the Depression." The book's stark, often grim black-and-white photographs revealed that Miss Welty's



Charles O. Gorham/Doubleday

Eudora Welty in a photo released in 1941, when she won second prize in the O. Henry short-story awards.

when you see it. In my own case, a fuller awareness of what I needed to find out about people and their lives had to be sought for through another way, through writing stories. I knew this, anyway: that my wish, indeed my continuing passion, would be not to point the finger in judgment but to part a curtain, that invisible shadow that falls between people, the veil of indifference to each other's presence, each other's wonder, each other's human plight."

The Depression pictures were exhibited in New York in 1936, the same year that Miss Welty, who had sent dozens of unsolicited stories to magazines, finally made her first sale. A small literary magazine called Manuscript accepted "Death of a Traveling Salesman," the often anthologized recounting of the last day in the life of a lonely, ill and frightened shoe salesman who loses his way in rural Mississippi. Before he dies of a heart attack, he realizes fleetingly how little he has understood about himself and others.

It was the first of several stories

human faces of 'Clytie' to the foreboding near-violence of the title piece, from the jazzy 'Powerhouse' to the satiric 'Petrified Man,' from the wildly comic 'Why I Live at the P.O.' to the dignified 'A Worn Path' (the 'grave, persistent, meditative' sound of old Phoenix Jackson's cane tapping the frozen earth establishes the tone at the outset)."

"Why I Live at the P.O." combined Miss Welty's antic sense of humor with her pleasure in language. As the narrator prepares to leave her family's home, she says: "So I hope to tell you I marched in and got the radio. And they could of all bit a nail in two, especially Stella-Rondo, that it used to belong to, and she well knew she couldn't get it back, I'd sue for it like a shot... The thermometer and the Hawaiian ukulele were certainly mine, and I stood on the step-ladder and got all my watermelon-rind preserves and every fruit and vegetable I put up, every jar."

An Internet Legacy

that lay on the ground."

During World War II, Miss Welty was briefly on the staff of The New York Times Book Review and sometimes contributed reviews under the pseudonym Michael Ravenna. But she returned to Jackson during the 1950's, when her mother and brothers fell seriously ill. For almost 15 years, from the mid-50's to the late 60's, she published just a few short stories, some book reviews and a children's book, "The Shoe Bird" (1964). During this period she cared for her family and worked on two novels. Some writers speculated that she also suffered some spiritual ordeal or artistic crisis. After the deaths of her mother and brothers, she returned in the 70's with the novels "Losing Battles" and "The Optimist's Daughter."

Miss Welty's stories often reflected the fruits of her wide reading and special interests. "The Robber Bridegroom," for example, incorporates elements of folklore, fairy tales, classical myths and legends of the Mississippi River and the Natch-

mate sense of place. We grew up in the fact that we live here with people about whom we know almost everything that can be known as a citizen of the same neighborhood or town. We learn significant things that way. We know what the place has made of these people, what they've made of the place through generations. We have a sense of continuity and that, I think, comes from place."

And because she was in her particular place in the racially discordant 60's, she said, "I was one of the writers who received dead-of-night telephone calls, when I was harangued by strangers saying, 'Why are you sitting down there writing your stories instead of out condemning your society?'"

"I didn't need their pointers to know that there was injustice among human beings or that there was trouble," she continued. "I had been writing about that steadily right along, by letting my characters show this. I see as my privilege writing about human beings as human beings with all the things that make them up, including bigotry, misunderstanding, injustice and also love and affection and whatever else. Whatever else makes them up interests me."

Miss Welty made one notable exception to her rule against direct crusading when Medgar Evers, the black civil rights leader, was shot to death by a sniper in Jackson in 1963. "I did write a story the night it happened," she said. "I was so upset about this, and I thought: I live down here where this happened and I believe I must know what a person like that felt like — the murderer. There had been so many stories about such a character in the stock manner, written by people who didn't know the South, so I wrote about the murderer intimately — in the first person, which was a very daring thing for me to do."

In the Mind of an Assassin

The story, "Where Is the Voice Coming From?," was rushed into print in The New Yorker only days after Evers's killer was arrested. Taking up only two pages, it was a chilling journey into the mind of a bigoted psychopath. Hailed as a disturbingly effective examination of the roots of racial hatred, it has since been included in many anthologies.

Miss Welty never married. (Marriage, she said, "never came up.") She leaves no immediate survivors.

Although she was a shy person, she had many friends who were writers, among them Porter, Robert Penn Warren, Elizabeth Bowen, V. S.

their weight and with their possession in my arms, captured and carried off to myself. Still illiterate, I was ready for them, committed to all the reading I could give them."

Miss Welty was a daily visitor to the local Andrew Carnegie Library,

was not limited to the ear.

"I learned quickly enough when to click the shutter," she said later, "but what I was becoming aware of more slowly was a story-writer's truth. The thing to wait on, to reach there in time for, is the moment

published in small magazines. None of these publications paid, not really," Miss Welty recalled years later. "Oh, I think The Southern Review was giving \$25 a story, but it took two years before an agent could place one of my stories in a national magazine."

Life at the P.O.

Miss Welty began to attract attention after The Atlantic Monthly published two of her stories destined to become classics: "Why I Live at the P.O." and "A Worn Path." The first, one of the most popular of the dozens that were to be printed in the years to come, is a first-person explanation by a small-town postmistress of why she is moving out of her eccentric family's home to live at the post office. The second won Miss Welty her first of six O. Henry Awards.

Early admirers of her short stories pressed Miss Welty to try her hand at a novel, but she resisted for several years. Her first hardcover book was a 1941 short-story collection, "A Curtain of Green," with an introduction by Katherine Anne Porter, who had encouraged her early on. "A Curtain of Green" sold only 7,000 copies in 30 years, but the 17 stories in the collection became widely known and valued through their inclusion in many anthologies and college textbooks.

The editor and critic James Olney said of "A Curtain of Green": "The volume's tonal variety is astonishing: from the somber 'Death of a Traveling Salesman' to the hallucinatory 'Flowers for Marjorie,' from the wonderment at the variety of

widely used e-mail program, was named after Miss Welty because its designer, Steven Dorner, said he had been processing so much e-mail that he felt like the Welty character who lived at the post office.

In 1941 Miss Welty followed "A Curtain of Green" with "The Wide Net and Other Stories," and in 1942 she published "The Robber Bridegroom," a novella that later became a successful musical in an adaptation by Alfred Uhry and Robert Waldman. Her first full-length novel, "Delta Wedding," appeared in 1946.

Three years later, a group of stories set in Morgana, an imaginary small town on the Mississippi Delta, was published under the title "The Golden Apples." All of Miss Welty's gifts for compression, metaphorical language and poetic structure were on display. So was her genius for using the details of daily life to illuminate the mysteries of the heart. In the story "The Whole World Knows," she charted a doomed meeting between a young couple who were estranged:

"There in the flower beds walked the same robins. The sprinkler dripped now. Once again we went into the house by the back door. Our hands touched. We had stepped on Tellie's patch of mint. The yellow cat was waiting to go in with us, the door handle was as hot as the hand, and on the step, getting under the feet of two people who went in together, the Mason jars with the busy cuttings in water — 'Watch out for Mama's!' — a thousand times we had gone in like that. As a thousand bees had droned and burrowed in the pears

of place, the road of pinks days that stretched from Natchez, Miss., to Nashville.

In "Delta Wedding," Miss Welty concentrates on the frenzied activities of the extended Fairchild family in the week before the marriage of a daughter to the plantation's overseer, who is considered by several of the Fairchilds to be an intruder unworthy of admission into the family.

Fiction of Family Life

That book, as well as the short novel "The Ponder Heart" (1954) and her longest one, "Losing Battles" (1970), are examples of Miss Welty's preoccupation with family life. They focus on weddings, reunions and funerals, which all bring family members together to recall the past, criticize and lavish praise on one another and settle old scores.

Her novels and stories expose the foibles to which large clans are prone, their tendencies to resist change, squelch individuality and ostracize outsiders. Miss Welty often shifts points of view to accomplish this, but in "The Ponder Heart," she demonstrates her extraordinary ear for dialect and a sense of the ridiculous as she tells the entire story as a comic monologue by Edna Earle Ponder, a garrulous hotel manager. This novel was adapted for the stage by Joseph Fields and Jerome Chodorov and became a hit when it opened on Broadway in 1956.

Commenting on many critics' observations that "Losing Battles" and her other works carried a strong sense of place, Miss Welty said: "I think Southerners have such an inti-

Foote, Walker Percy, Elizabeth Spencer, Ross MacDonald and Reynolds Price. She also had an enduring friendship with Diarmuid Russell, the agent who fiercely and devotedly represented her.

Her friends often spoke of her innate courtesy, which led her to seldom turn down requests for interviews. Those conversations usually took place at her home, and she often offered her interviewer bourbon and a home-cooked meal. She was warm and humorously self-deprecating.

One unlikely caller was Henry Miller. Miss Welty's mother, who had heard that Miller was a writer of obscene books, banned him from their house. When Miss Welty did see him, she reported that he was "the dullest man I ever saw in my life."

"He wasn't interested in anything outside himself," she said, "that was the truth."

In 1943, Faulkner wrote an unsolicited letter to Miss Welty after he had by chance read "The Robber Bridegroom."

"You're doing all right," he said. That letter was hung near her wooden desk in an upstairs room in the Tudor-style house that her father built on Pinehurst Street in 1925, when she was 16.

"The writing of a novel is taking life as it already exists," Miss Welty said. "What distinguishes it above all from the raw material, and what distinguishes it from journalism, is that inherent is the possibility of a shared act of the imagination between its writer and its reader. There is absolutely everything in great fiction but a clear answer."

'And We're Going to Live Forever'

From the story "Where Is the Voice Coming From?" (1963):

Never seen him before, never seen him since, never seen anything of his black face but his picture, never seen his face alive, any time at all, or anywheres, and didn't want to, need to, never hope to see that face and never will. As long as there was no question in my mind.

He had to be the one. He stood right still and waited against the light, his back was fixed, fixed on me like a preacher's eyeballs when he's yelling, "Are you saved?" He's the one.

I'd already brought up my rifle, I'd already taken my sights. And I'd already got him, because it was too late then for him or me to turn by one hair.

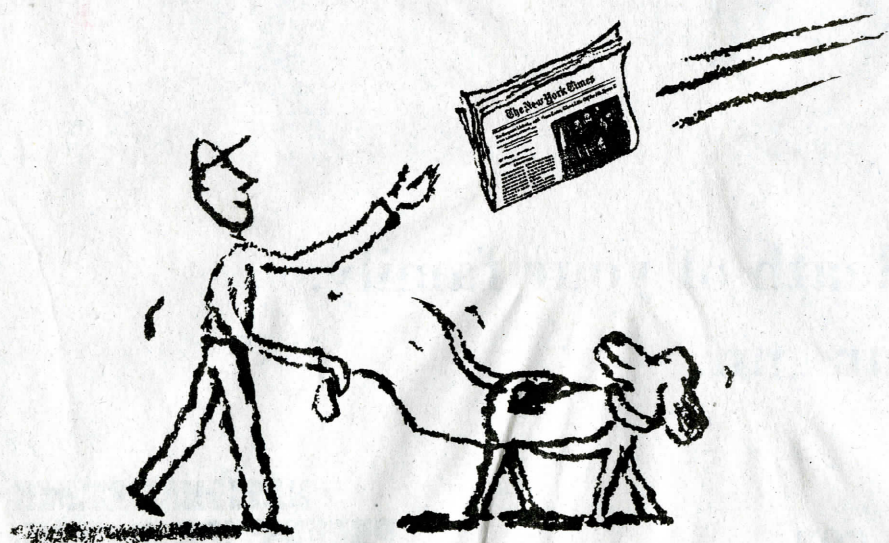
Something darker than him, like the wings of a bird, spread on his back and pulled him down. He climbed up once, like a man under bad claws, and like just blood could weigh a ton he walked with it on his back to better light. Did-

n't get no further than his door. And fell down to stay.

From the novel "The Optimist's Daughter" (1972):

When they were climbing the long approach to a bridge after leaving Cairo, rising slowly higher until they rode above the tops of bare trees, she looked down and saw the pale light widening and the river bottoms opening out, and then the water appearing, reflecting the low, early sun. There were two rivers. Here was where they came together. This was the confluence of the waters, the Ohio and the Mississippi. . . .

And they themselves were a part of the confluence. Their own joint act of faith had brought them here at the very moment and matched its occurrence, and proceeded as it proceeded. Direction itself was made beautiful, momentous. They were riding as one with it, right up front. It's our turn! she'd thought exultantly. And we're going to live forever.



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