

[**The David Bruce Centre**](http://www.keele.ac.uk/bruce.htm) ***William S. Burroughs Symposium*** marked the 80th birthday of the most extraordinary American writer of the 20th century. This Symposium took place on Saturday, February 5th, 1994 in the Department of American Studies, Keele University.

During the day, papers were given by a range of leading British academics and writers on the works of William Burroughs.

**David Ayers:** *William Burroughs and the Law of Poetic Meaning*   
**Jim Burns:** *William Burroughs:Hip, Not Beat*   
**Oliver Harris:** *As Ever: William Burroughs. Man of Letters*   
**Ian MacFayden:** *Korzybskian Semantics, Polemics, and Science in the works of William Burroughs*   
**Eric Mottram:** *"The Self-Sustaining Oasis":William Burroughs Since 1975*   
**Will Self:** *The Great Junk Man*

**Symposium Speakers**

**David Ayers** is a Lecturer in English and American Literature at the University of Kent at Canterbury. In addition to publishing articles on William Burroughs, he is also the author of *Wyndham Lewis and Western Man* (Macmillan, 1992).

**Jim Burns** has lectured extensively in the extra-mural Department of Manchester University, and is a well-known poet. He has also been the Jazz editor of Beat Scene Magazine for five years.

**Oliver Harris** is a Lecturer in American Literature at Keele University, and editor of *The Letters of William Burroughs 1945-1959* (Viking/Picador, 1993).

**Ian MacFayden** taught History of Art at Leeds University, and researched Islamic religion, art and mathematics in the Department of Ethnographic Resources, Birmingham Polytechnic. Participated in the William Burroughs/Brion Gysin Here To Go Show, Dublin 1992. A full-time writer, he lives in London.

**Eric Mottram** has been Professor of American Literature at Kings College, London for twenty years. He is the author of numerous critical works, including *William Burroughs: Algebra of Need: The Gods of Death* (Boyars, 1994). He is also a poet of international repute.

**Will Self** is one of the leading writers of contemporary fiction in the vein of William Burroughs. His second novel, *My Idea of Fun*, was recently published by Bloomsbury.