

## **Pen/Faulker award winning author John Wideman to speak at UCSD on February 12**

**January 24, 1992**

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### **PEN/FAULKER WINNING AUTHOR JOHN WIDEMAN TO SPEAK AT UCSD**

John Edgar Wideman, a 1984 winner of the PEN/Faulker Award for his novel, "Sent for You Yesterday," will speak about his writing and a work in progress, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Price Center Theatre at the University of California, San Diego. Admission is free and open to the public.

Wideman's novel, "Philadelphia Fire," published in 1990, won him critical accolades and a second PEN/Faulkner Award. The book centers on the events surrounding the 1985 bombing of a city row house that was headquarters to the cult known as MOVE.

After a violent stand off, the Philadelphia police received permission from Philadelphia's first black mayor, W. Wilson Goode, to drop a bomb on the house on Osage Avenue. Eleven people were killed in the incident, including women and children. The resulting fire wiped out nearly two square blocks of a black working-class neighborhood.

Wideman said about the book, "That (incident) was one of the most traumatic public events of my lifetime. It scared me. Is this how our society chooses to deal with difference, that is, to stamp it out?"

Wideman's other works include "A Glance Away," published when he was 26 years old; "The Lynchers," "Hurry Home," "Rueben," and a book of short stories titled "Fever." His non-fiction book "Brothers and Keepers" was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award; he recently received the Lannan Foundation grant. Wideman was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in Homewood, a section of Pittsburgh.

A professor of literature at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Wideman is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He also won a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University, England.

For more information about this lecture contact the UCSD Department of Literature, 534-3210.

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