

Mosaic magazine

The campus literary/arts magazine, MOSAIC, is entering its 26th year and is one of the oldest continually published student literary journals in the country—as well as one of the best in California. Not limited to students, MOSAIC can also boast of a relatively large number of professional or previously published writers among its contributors.

Started in 1959 by Miller as a small, club-like magazine with a modest budget of \$200, MOSAIC is now a widely respected, high-quality journal of creative poetry, fiction, drama, art and photography with not only the backing of the Associated Student Body of UCR, but with a more hefty budget between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

Writer's workshop

The Writer's Workshop is another long-time tradition which has grown out of UCR's Writing Program. Meeting every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the "Writer's Warren" (named for former Dean David Warren), an informal lounge in the classroom wing of the Humanities building, both campus and community writers convene to read and critique each other's work. Under direction of UCR Creative Writing instructors Ada Schmidt and Judy Kronenfeld, student or novice writers have an opportunity to "try their creative wings" while gaining valuable insight from the more experienced members of the group.

Says Nigerian-born poet/story-writer Chema Ude, a long-time Warrener: "Listening to others read helps to shape your thinking about your own work, and it is inspiring as well as constructive toward ironing out the rough spots. One gets feedback similar to the type one might get from an editor—without the risk of a rejection slip. Here, one meets the whole gamut of writers—some from as far away as Portugal, England, Germany...or like myself, Africa. The Writer's Warren is one forum where academicians and bohemians rub shoulders every Tuesday. Often you can't tell who's who."

Another long-time Writer's Workshop participant is retired Riverside physician Marine Robert Warden, a published poet who was recently featured in an interview with Wanda Coleman on KPFF's "Poetry Connexion." Reminiscing about the Warren's early days,

he says, "The Writer's Workshop has been an important focus in the lives of many Riverside and local area writers since its inception.

"The first meetings were held in a classroom on the second floor of the Humanities wing before the new Writer's Warren was dedicated by then Chancellor Tomas Rivera in a moving ceremony several months after the founding of the Workshop. Some of the original members of the Warren, besides Vicki, Professor Eigner and myself were Judy Kronenfeld, Bethany Schrader, Joaquim Mendes, Professor Milton Miller, Janice Kelly, Richard Autio and Suzan Bokanovich."

But beyond its history and the Warren experience itself, both Ude and Warden agree that many community writers find other cultural enrichments in the university environment which accompanies participation in the Workshop. They learn about and often attend campus films, plays, concerts and other events they might not have encountered otherwise. Open to students, faculty and townspeople, the Writer's Workshop meets throughout the year. New members are always welcome to join.

Pub readings

For budding writers who wish to present their works before an audience in a more theatrical environment, and without formal critique, there is an experience of another sort. At "The Barn" students and aspiring community writers work up the courage to get up on stage and read their own poetry or other works aloud to the group. In the past, a few readers by adding music, audio-visual or theatrical touches, have expanded their poetry or short fiction into the realm of performance art.

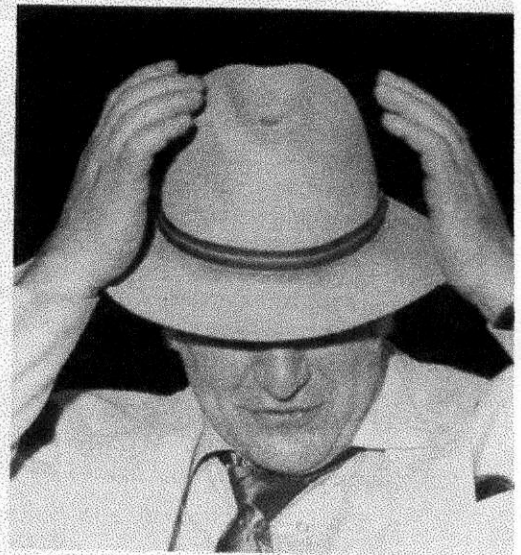
Generally held every other month, the Barn Readings not only invoke an aura reminiscent of the '60s coffeehouses, but can, in one evening, range from the sublime to off-the-wall bawdiness. Besides poetry and fiction, Barn readings may include essays, drama or musical presentations. Relaxed and informal, The Barn offers grog and grub. For the new year, under the directorship of writer Jim Brown (and in collaboration with MOSAIC, a number of Barn Readings and short dramatic presentations are now in the works.

Another outgrowth of such campus writing activities as the Writer's Workshop and the Barn Readings is the

community poetry reading held at the Bear Flag Cafe on the third Saturday of each school month. Proprietor Jonathan Kinsman, himself a poet, is a graduate of UCR and has long been supportive of campus creative writing functions. It has been his wish to provide a place where poets can meet in a relaxed setting to read, communicate and to inspire one another over a glass of fine wine or espresso.

Splinter groups

Further proof that the Riverside writing community is not only alive and kicking, but is still growing is evidenced by the "offshoots from the offshoots" of UCR's writing program. Inspired by the success of campus workshops, vari-



ous splinter groups have sprung up among the outlying community areas. Among these groups which meet in members' homes are a poetry forum founded by poet Warden and a new "Writers Rap" group formed by freelance editor/writer Claudette Wassil-Grimm, which allows professionally minded writers to share information on marketing and job availability, and to discuss a variety of topics related to writing.

For the younger writer, the "POETS-in-the-Schools" is a special project sponsored by the Creative Writing Program which offers to area high schools a hands-on type of exposure to the writing of poetry. In this program, young professionals experienced in writing as well as teaching, visit area high schools to read from their works