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University of Massachusetts at Boston

Volume 9, No. 69

February 17, 1976

Willa Cather Perceptions

Prof. Mary Anne Ferguson (English I) and Prof. Martha Collins (English II) presented a paper entitled "Willa Cather and the Myth of the Pioneer Woman: Some Contextual Considerations" at the recent convention of the Modern Language Association of America held in San Francisco. Prof. Ferguson was also a member of the Delegate Assembly, the governing body of the Association, as representative of the Northeast Region. Prof. Collins, who is on sabbatical this year, has been awarded a residential fellowship to the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, N.H.; she will spend February and March there working on putting together a volume of her poetry. Two recent poems have been accepted for publication by the Southern Review in a forthcoming issue.

Conference on Television and Ethnicity

Prof. James E. Blackwell (Sociology, College I) was one of eight social and behavioral scientists from across the United States to be invited to a conference on television and ethnicity, sponsored by the Social Science Research Council and held on February 6-7. The purpose of the conference was to explore the role of television in the formation and changes toward and self-concepts of blacks and whites in the United States. Types of cues influencing self-concepts were reviewed and attitudes and methods through which viewers recognize and process these cues were identified. A tentative research agenda was established.

A joint meeting was held with key production and research personnel from the major networks to discuss schemata for portrayals and the subtle cues associated with them in television production. Attending the meeting from the networks were: Dennis Doty (Vice President for Program and Development at ABC-TV); Gerald Egan and Jane Crowley (Program Standards at NBC); Tony Batten (Production Chief at ABC); Annalee Hobson (Researcher on the Fat Albert Program for CBS) and Joseph Clapper (Director of Social Research for CBS).

Follow-up conferences will continue throughout the year.

Library Hours

To serve a larger group of students, Library hours have been expanded when the library facilities will be open on Sundays between 1 and 6 p.m. Faculty are asked to bring this change in hours to their students. The library, as you know, has not been open on weekends due to the energy conservation program and fiscal crisis. In addition to the new Sunday hours, library operations are open to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 5 p.m. on Friday.

Library Poetry Series

Jean Pedrick, of the Alice James Poetry Cooperative, author of Wolf Moon and the forthcoming Pride and Splendor, will read from her poetry on Wednesday, February 18th, 3:00 p.m., Room 1030, Tenth floor, Library.

The series is open to all and is sponsored by the Public Service staff of the UMass-Boston Library.

Columbia Station Shelter

For the benefit of the shuttle bus users from Columbia Station something new was added last week--a shelter to thwart the winter winds. Through the courtesy of Edward McAdam of the MBTA the shelter was put in place at no cost to the Shuttle Bus Trust Fund. Mr. McAdam was formerly project director for the Bureau of Building Construction for our campus. Thanks, Ed.

Health Service

David Stockton, Director of Health Services, announced new staff additions: Lorraine Stanley, R.N., comes to UMass-Boston from the Ambulatory Care Unit of Boston City Hospital where she was Head Nurse for the Employee Health Service and Meredith Censullo, R.N., who is filling the Director of Nursing position, comes to us from the Department of Health and Hospitals, City of Boston, where she worked as a nurse clinical specialist.

Hans Hofmann, Ph.D., was converted to full time status and appointed Director of the Mental Health Section of the Health Service. In the capacity of consultant, Hans has been with the Service since 1972 and has become well known for his counseling skills and his ability to interact effectively and affably with students and other campus personnel. He will be responsible professionally for the other Mental Health staff in the Health Service as well as the Directors of the Center for Alternatives and Human Sexuality Center.

James Hoopes of Stow, Ohio, has been named Director of the Center. He will receive a Doctorate Degree in Human Sexuality, Marriage and Family Life Education this May. He began here on a part-time basis February 5, and will convert to full time status on March 15.

Five College Summer Charter Flight to London

A Five College Charter flight will be offered this summer Boston-London June 15, London-Boston August 18, \$295 round trip. Pan American 707. Deadline for full payment March 10. Early sign up urged. Contact Bette Davis, Advising, Ext. 2275.

Dependents are eligible only when accompanying the eligible member---spouses or children cannot go alone.

Freshman Legislator--
Senior Student

Karen Swanson, a senior at UMass-Boston majoring in Politics, is a freshman legislator on Beacon Hill, the youngest member ever elected to that body in nearly 200 years.

The Fall River Herald-News had an essay on her first year impressions, accomplishments, and frustrations, and in a word she describes her first year as "hectic." In fact it was two words, she adds another "hectic."

Her voting record has not coincided with the philosophy or
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Freshman Legislator--
Senior Student
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the pragmatism of the Democratic leadership. "I'm not happy with her votes," said Rep. Vincent Piro, Chairman of the House Taxation Committee. "But she looks at things differently than leadership does. She looks at how things will affect her constituents, while we have to look at how they will affect the whole state."

Piro added that Ms. Swanson is "meticulous and likes to know exactly what she's voting on."

She was elected to represent part of the city of Brockton and on a door-to-door, person-to-person campaign she upset a political veteran in the Shoe City. She plans to run for re-election.

Sean, Shaun, and John

Sean O'Faolain, the Irish virtuoso in the use of the King's English, has a new and long-awaited book on the shelves of your neighborhood book merchant, and Shaun O'Connell (English II) has reviewed Foreign Affairs and Other Stories in a recent edition of the Boston Globe.

"O'Faolain," says O'Connell, "knows both the dark, wide, windy world and Ireland like the back of hand he occasionally gives it. His glorious stories are suffused in Harvard facts (where he earned his Master's) and Italian miracles (where he lived a portion of his life)." O'Connell notes O'Faolain's ability to have woven "failure built into ambition, despair into desire, cold reason into hot dreams, delusion into the imagination, death into life....."

Perhaps all this may be wrapped up in a line out of an earlier O'Faolain short story when he said a Dublin singer could turn "Galway Bay into a street puddle."

Across the journalistic street, John Conlon (Teacher Certification Program) in the Sunday Herald-Advertiser reviewed The Chameleon Course, by Donald Seaman, a KGB mystery thriller which Conlon says is a "skillful probe into the intelligence community." The author creates a "measured but disturbingly real sense of manipulative dehumanization, professional brutality and casual slaughter."

More Reviewers:
Broderick and Beichman

Francis L. Broderick (History I) in the Sunday Herald-Advertiser looks at two new historical offerings: 1776: Year of Illusions by Thomas Fleming and Valley Forge by MacKinley Kantor. Broderick says, "Though Fleming is a skilled military historian--his previous account of the battle of Bunker Hill is memorable--he can take battles or leave them alone. His book goes deeply into the politics, ideology, and life of both the colonies and the estranged Mother Country. He picks his way through English politics as if they made sense, leaving Edmund Burke and Charles James Fox deserving little of the deferential esteem that Americans have granted them. At the center of the story is George Washington, cautious, uncertain, hesitant, but showing the flashes of daring and doggedness that would carry him both to victory and to a brilliantly successful presidency. New Englanders will especially enjoy Flemming's portrait of John Adams, who was delicately aware of the distaste he aroused in other Americans, especially Pennsylvanians, yet brusque-

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More Reviewers:
Broderick and Beichman
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ly unwilling not to earn every bit of it."

Broderick calls Kantor's offering one that "produces more dross per chapter than all the ironmongers at Valley Forge;" a disappointing book by an old pro turned into a "literary drudge."

Taking a two-century jump from the locale of the above is the Christian Science Monitor review by Arnold Beichman (Politics II) on The Spoiled Child of the Western World: The Mis-carriage of the American Idea in Our Time by Henry Fairlie, a British journalist who says a new despotism threatens America which is made up of "the professional leadership of the middle class who know how to act and how to use 'the system.'" And these despots, according to Fairlie include such professors as Daniel Bell, Christopher Jencks, David Rissman, Daniel Moynihan, Robert Nisbet, Irving Kristol and the late Hannah Arendt.

Beichman booms that Fairlie's book is "High Tory Chic."

1776

Prof. Pauline Maier (History I) is one of the nation's leading authorities on what really happened--and why it happened--during the days preceding and following the shot heard 'round the world by the rude bridge in Middlesex County. Last Sunday she was quizzed on WBZ-TV by a group of Concord students on her impressions of the events, the heroes, and the bad guys of the era.

Financial Aid

Lana Brennen, Director of Financial Aid, is informing the campus community that the deadline for financial aid for students for the 1976-1977 academic year is March 15th. Faculty are urged to bring this deadline notice to the attention of students. She notes that there are two categories of students applying for aid: students living at home and/or supported by their parents, and self-supporting students.

Exhibits

Do not miss two fine exhibits at the Library. One is the art of student Edward Trobec, who uses a dramatic, imaginative technique in presenting city scenes. The other exhibit is by Kathy LaRoche (Art Department), showing her photographic techniques via the SX-70 camera. She seeks to transform potentially rewarding elements of what is, to her, unrewarding contemporary urban street landscapes.

Summer School

Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Donald Babcock has notified the faculty that planning for a Summer session should begin immediately and that he will recommend naming an acting director in the near future. Dr. Babcock is asking faculty members to send nominations of candidates for this position to Chancellor Golino before February 18th.

Dr. Salvatore Schiavo-Campo has resigned as Director of the Summer Session to devote more time to scholarly work.