

'Humane Half of Education Is Missing'

PE Educator, Dr. Jackson Speaks Here



DOCTOR'S DEGREE—Last November Karl Shapiro received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Wayne State University for his contributions to the field of literature.



Dr. C. O. Jackson, well-known educator and head of the department of physical education for men at the University of Illinois, will give two public addresses on Thursday and Friday at the University.

He will appear at noon Thursday at the Superintendent's Round Table Luncheon at the Student Union and on Friday at 1 p.m. in room 106, Burnett.

Dr. Jackson, a fellow of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, is the author of more than 10 articles in scholarly and popular journals.

His wide range of experience includes 34 years of teaching in junior-senior high schools and universities, administering army and navy programs, teaching graduate courses and directing masters and doctors theses.

He is on the Illinois governor's Conference on Youth Fitness.

Schatz Conducts Summer Concert

A Summer Symphony Concert conducted by Arnold Schatz will be presented at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union ballroom. The program is part of the Union's Artist Series.

Schatz is an instructor of Music at the University and concert master of the Lincoln Symphony. The Summer Chorus, under the direction of Earl Jenkins, will also participate in the concert. They will sing Nanie, Op. 82.

Guest soloist for the evening will be Wesley Reist, clarinetist, who will play Concertino, Op. 26. Other selections on the program will be Von Suppe's "Light Cavalry Overture," Ives' "Unanswered Question," and Prokofiev's "Fifth Symphony, Op. 100."

Union Will Hold Bridge Contest

A bridge tournament next Tuesday at 4 p.m. will climax the summer lessons and duplicate bridge sponsored by the Student Union.

There will be no entry fee or charge for the tournament, which is open to all University students, staff and faculty. Trophies will be awarded to the high scorers. No master points will be awarded.

The tournament will last about two hours and refreshments will be served.

in the review that critics tend to "go overboard" on Miss Moore's poetry and were afraid to say anything that was not nice "which is rather hypocritical, because not very many can read that type of poetry and understand it. It's not that good. It's thorny and obscure and doesn't say much when you do get to the bottom of it."

The review and the response to the article prompted a later piece in the Times, the one in which he declared poetry is "sick."

In June of 1958, writing in the New Republic, the poet took a poke at "the scientific mind" which he said "at one blow (or one long series of blows which are still being rained down on us) drove religion and arts into the wilderness. The chaos that resulted is best seen in America where moral authority is all but non-existent."

End of Humanism

He said the scientific competition between the U.S. and Russia "... is liable to spell the end of all humanistic culture throughout the world."

"In developing a nation of mechanics and super-mechanics we have been saved from historic perdition only by a thin thread of religion and a thinner thread of humane studies."

"In America we have not yet reached the point of scientific government, but we have gone pretty far already in adopting scientific education." The humane half of education, he said, is missing.

That article, too, received immediate response.

A reply by Ingram Bloch, professor of physics at Vanderbilt University, said: "I had never before seen assembled in so small a place so many of the arrogant, ill-informed and inconsistent gripes against 'science' that have been fashionable in recent decades among literary people."

But while the literary and scientific worlds have had their differences over Shapiro, students at Nebraska are pretty much agreed that their instructor is tops.

Outstanding Nebraskan

In January of 1960, they awarded him the title of "Outstanding Nebraskan." But in early 1957, only months after joining the NU faculty, Shapiro was somewhat less than popular on campus with the student body. In an interview with a newspaper reporter in Washington, D.C., he had accused students of "intellectual apathy" and of being "so quiet there isn't even enough excitement in them to write."

During the Hungarian revolution in 1956, he said, students raised only a few banners on campus. Twenty years ago, Shapiro claimed, they would have volunteered to go and fight.

A few days after he made the statement, he found a sign plastered to his office window blurring "Shapiro, go back to Hungary."

But today, the poet—married and the father of three pre-college age children—"is kind of sympathetic" with the situation of younger people and has been pleased in seeing "a tremendous interest by students in taking sides on things like integration and disarmament." The poet believes "in the past few years there has been a noticeable change, a kind of reawakening, a new contact with national affairs" among younger people.

Some other changes in the country also are giving Shapiro hope. And surprisingly or not, he has a certain amount of backing for the "beat" style of writing which, as a reaction to the Classical school, is bringing back much of his interest in poetry.

Pivoting on his swivel chair, the short-sleeved Shapiro turned toward a window of his corner room in English department center Andrews Hall and peered through dark glasses at a bright winter sun.

Communication

"Those people (beat poets) really do communicate—or try to anyway. It may not be the right kind of stuff but people are reading it."

He struck another match to relight a pipe that kept going out.

Of the Contemporary poets, Dylan Thomas and William Carlos Williams were listed, as well as e. e. cummings, "who really speaks for the people of today."

"For a long time no poet wrote to be read out loud," he said, but "Dylan Thomas has written poetry to be recited. He wrote it for the ear."

Walt Whitman and Robert Frost and "a lot of the Romantic poets" rate high on the Shapiro list but "(Alexander) Pope and (John) Dryden have always bored me to death."

How did he get his start as a poet?

"A HAIKU IS..."—Poet, essayist and University English instructor Karl Shapiro discusses the haiku form of Japanese poetry in one of his Contemporary Poetry classes. His casual manner and vast experience writing and reading modern poetry make this course, as well as his creative writing course, favorites among students.

Shapiro, like other poets, has always had "a kind of abnormal interest in words." Besides, he said, anyone interested in writing can see that "poetry has a very intense way of using language." He pointed out that even small children are attracted to poetry through such forms as nursery rhymes.

The revival in poetry that Shapiro is excited about may be part of a "new shift" all along the arts.

This country is now, Shapiro says, "probably doing as good work in the arts as any country." And since "We have a thousand different strings of background to our culture," it is changing all the time and doesn't have to depend upon fixed forms as do many countries in Europe. Some of the European countries he described as nearly "burned out" in some fields of art.

Our educational system, too, Shapiro sees as putting more emphasis on the humanities.

"Very recently the country has wakened up to the fact that the whole educational system has been top heavy. Now the shift seems to be going the other way—to a re-emphasis of the humanities."

What about Shapiro's poetry itself?

Express Emotions

He feels a need in poetry to express emotions with concrete details. Many of his subjects are of the commonplace—a drugstore, a fly, a leg.

"The best kind of poetry should be presented like drama, on the stage. The idea is to get people to read it and find out for themselves whether they like it and whether it's good."

He calls pure poetry "the spontaneous creation of a man's spirit as it views all things outside of himself."

He wrote in the introduction to "Poems of a Jew": "These poems are not for the poets. They are for people who derive some strength of meaning from the writing of poets and who seek in the poet's mind some clue to their own thoughts."

And for these people, the Shapiro pen is far from being empty. He now is working on a book of poems, and is considering writing "a novel of a kind."

Many artists, critics and poetry-lovers throughout the country will be happy to know that this "poet for people" has not approached the period or even the semicolon of a life built around something as commonplace as most of the subjects of his poems—words.

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and M. L. Rosenthal have bombarded both his poetry and his criticism.

For instance, a Rosenthal review of Shapiro's "Poems of a Jew" in the July, 1958, edition of The Nation, stated the work "has Karl Shapiro's usual unevenness... for it is a matter of great sorrow that Shapiro, though his best work is that of an emotionalist sickled o'er with the pale cast of thought, can't really think."

Rosenthal did relent somewhat later in his review stating: "Fortunately the Good Lord made Karl Shapiro a genuine poet even though He skimmed somewhat on the logical and critical development. Despite the traumatic basis of their movement into compassion, a number of these poems reach beautiful expression."

"Indeed," Rosenthal wrote, "When Shapiro succeeds it is through his vibrant language and rhythm, his unabashed candor, and his irresistible emotional force that will bring out his true meanings even when he is not sure of them himself."

A late 1960 review by Solotaroff in "Commentary" took the poet to task for his critical work "In Defense of Ignorance."

'Demolition Job'

Solotaroff said Shapiro "... attempts a demolition job up and down the modern literary front. The excessive combativeness of Shapiro's negative judgments... bespeaks the attempt to get back to the 'ignorant' and wayward young poet who wrote Essay on Rime—and set forth anew."

But the critic also found points in the book that met with his approval. He wrote, "As a veteran of the literary age... Shapiro is well worth listening to. His cardinal point that 'poetry has lost its significance, its relevance and even its meaning in our time' seems to me largely true."

A Shapiro review itself—of a book of poems by Marianne Moore—which appeared in the New York Times touched off so much support and criticism that the Times published two pages of letters in response. He had declared

University Press

Paperbound Texts May Aid High School Teaching

Paperbound books may soon become a prime teaching tool in high schools, according to Bruce H. Nicoll, Director of the University of Nebraska Press.

In one instance, a high school in Pennsylvania informed us that they intend to abandon the single-text system in social studies and ask students to purchase inexpensive paperbacks which will cover the same subject matter," Nicoll said. The others said they were contemplating minimizing the role of a single text by using paperbacks as collateral reading.

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The trend toward more extensive reading lists seems to be well on its way, and the renaissance of classic works in paper-

bounds in virtually all fields of knowledge is making it possible to circumvent the problem of asking students to stand in line for a limited number of hardbound books in libraries, he said.

Paperbacks for Nebraska

"The University of Nebraska Press is currently specializing in reprinting all of the great classics of frontier life in the trans-Missouri West," Mr. Nicoll explained, "and it is our hope that Nebraska high schools will find them increasingly useful to supplement texts in American history and literature."

"These books will greatly enrich the very general treatment a text book writer must of necessity give his subject matter. As a rule these paperbacks greatly expand the social aspects of history," he said. The Press, which is the book publishing agency of the University, currently has ten titles which have been found useful as supplemental reading for high school-level students.

Interested social studies or American literature teachers may secure examination copies simply by writing to the University Press.

The complete list of paperbacks, published under the imprint of Bison Books, now available to Nebraska high schools is as follows.

THE WORLD OF WILLA CATHER by Mildred Bennett. "... indispensable for everyone interested in Willa Cather and her work" (New York Herald Tribune). "A treasure house of Catherian lore" (New York Times). Bison Book 112. \$1.50

THEM WAS THE DAYS: An American Saga of the '70's by Martha Ferguson McKeown. Forward by Royce H. Knapp. "The panic of 1873 brought disaster, and the Hawthornes had to move on... The West was a new chance in a period of hard times. So the Hawthornes joined the great migration. They homesteaded in the Middle Loup River country, sixty miles

from Grand Island, Nebraska. The larger part of this absorbing book is a record of that homesteading. It is vivid, lusty, and very human narrative that reads with unflagging freshness and authenticity..." (Chicago Sunday Tribune). Bison Book 117. \$1.25

BOY LIFE ON THE PRARIE by Hamlin Garland. Introduction by B. R.

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