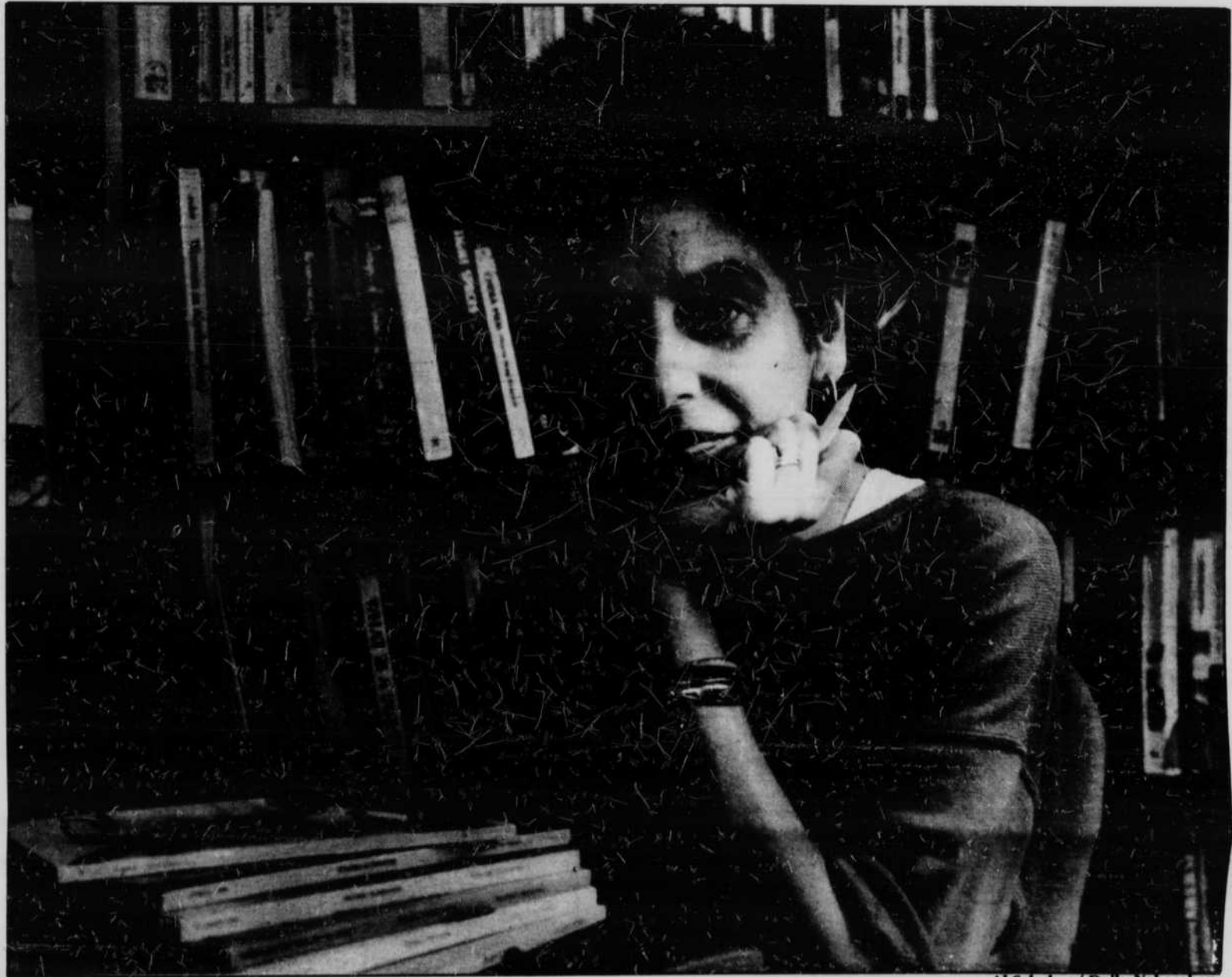


diversions

AUTHOR, AUTHOR!



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Hilda Raz, editor of the "Prairie Schooner"

By Henry Battistoni
Staff Reporter

Sitting in her office overlooking Morrill Hall, Hilda Raz, editor of the "Prairie Schooner," said she has been a writer all her life, but just recently a published writer.

Raz said she mainly had been concerned with publishing others' work.

"We write to be read," she said. "You can't write to publish."

Raz didn't consider publishing her work until students at a writer's conference asked to see her work.

They gave her assurance that the quality of her work was publishable, she said.

Raz was influenced by a record that was given to her when she was 12 years old. It had selections of poetry read by the authors. The poems of Elizabeth Brown and Dylan Thomas especially captivated her, she said. She said she was moved by the writers' voices.

Raz said that the best way to improve one's writing is to read.

"Reading, reading, reading is the single most important thing a writer can do," she said.

Raz has two poetry collections in print. "What is Good" was released last year and "The Bone Dish" was just printed. Raz said that "The Bone Dish" is about questions teachers ask. The collection shows sensitivity to the people and land of Nebraska.

Raz's writing is in the critical realm as well as the poetic. She has published critical essays in "Hollin's Critic," "Denver Quarterly" and soon the "Literary Review" and "American Book Review."

Raz said she is interested in

Third World writers and translations. She said she is especially interested in Chinese writers.

On June 2, she was scheduled to visit China with a group of editors and publishers. The Chinese government's massacre of its citizens ended the trip. A special "Prairie Schooner" edition on Chinese writers is tentatively planned for 1990.

Besides pursuing her writing, Raz is in her second year of editing the University of Nebraska-Lin-

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