

Out & A&E WEEKEND OUTLOOK about

To him, anarchy is poetry

By Malcom Miles
Staff Reporter

Lincoln's literary community has barely had time to cool off from poet Allan Ginsberg's visit last spring. Now Philip Levine arrives. Political poet, urban poet, people's poet, anarchist — Philip Levine has been called all these and more.

However he is labeled, Levine is considered by many to be one of the major American poets alive.

Levine will be reading his poems on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Love Library's Gallery of the Great Plains Art Collection. The reading is free and open to the public.

Levine was born in Detroit in 1928 and worked much of his life in various blue-collar jobs. At 14, he began working to help fill the labor gap left by World War II. This working class background has heavily influenced his writing.

Levine said he realized early that the people he met in his daily life were missing from the movies and literature of popular culture. He made it his calling to fill that void.

Levine's poems focus on the struggles of everyday people, and in doing so, they sometimes show the more negative sides of American life.

Levine said these poems, his opposition to the Korean War and his self-proclaimed anarchism are not anti-American.

He calls himself a "former anarchist" and clarifies that "the element that attracted me to anarchism was the notion that all of life is sacred."

Levine said he believes that his writing, and all writing, is political. He said everything we do or don't do is a political statement.

"Refusing to be affected by the condition of the world around you, that's a political act. That's lackeyism."

Levine worked full-time in Detroit and received his undergraduate degree from a small city college. He later received his master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa, where he studied under Robert Lowell and John Berryman.

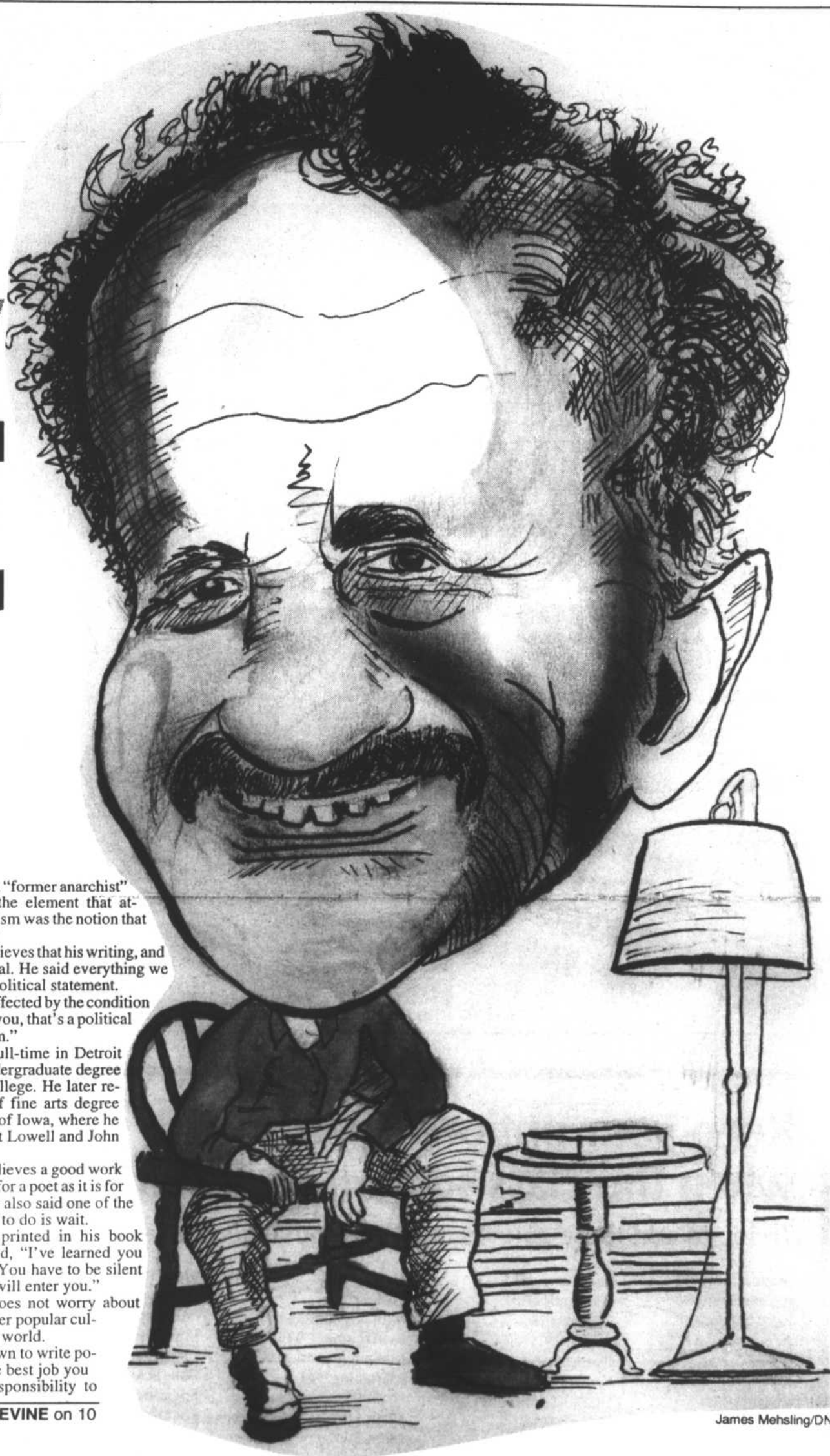
Levine said he believes a good work ethic is as important for a poet as it is for a factory worker. He also said one of the most difficult things to do is wait.

In an interview printed in his book "Don't Ask," he said, "I've learned you have to do nothing. You have to be silent and see if the voice will enter you."

Levine said he does not worry about acceptance from either popular culture or the academic world.

"When you sit down to write poetry you try to do the best job you can. You have a responsibility to

See LEVINE on 10



James Mehling/DN

SARAH DUEY

Forget Reading Chapter One—it's time to unwind

Back to school.
Back to the grind.
In the mood to celebrate?
Sure, why not. Facing reality is reason enough.

After a tough week of cramming syllabi, consider joining 104.1 The Planet and P.O. Pears, 322 S. 9th, in a party to bring in 1994, and yes, sorry to remind you, the new semester.

Drink specials and the band Caribe comprise Saturday night's bash at Pears.

Jack Kalush, an organizer of the party, said "Caribe is a great party band. They were here last year and

was just crazy."

Sounds like a good first-week anxiety reliever to me.

But if your energy level from the first week of school has rebounded into that close-to-end-of-the-semester low, consider doing something that doesn't require dancing the night



away.

Besides great movies such as "The

Piano" and "Shadowlands" showing this weekend, two small theaters are putting on plays that are worth checking out.

Off Broadway, On Lincoln, the theater in The Coffee House at 1324 P St., features "The Country Girl," its first full-length production, this weekend.

Ron Silver, director of the drama, said the play was about an actor's fall from and return to stardom.

"This play, written in the 40s, was way ahead of its time because it dealt with alcoholism," Silver said. "We've

modernized the play."

"The Country Girl" will show Friday through Sunday each weekend until January 30th. Student tickets are \$5.50.

In the next three months, the theater, which opened in November, will put on three shows.

If you're headed east this weekend, The Magic Theatre at 325 S. 16th St. in Omaha is putting on a comedy called "Belches on Couches."

Rose Marie Whiteley, theater manager, said the show dealt with the role of television in Americans' lives.

"Belches" examines intuitive thinking as an evolutionary possibility for the American couch potato."

"Belches" will show this weekend and next, Whiteley said. Student tickets are \$7.

How do you spell relief from that first-week mental drain?

Belches?
P.O. Pears?
I don't know about you, but I spell it R & R.

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