

Says Forrest Read Poetry Forum: Outlet For Creativity

By RICK NICHOLS
From The Chapel Hill Weekly

Forrest Read was just sitting in Lenoir Hall idly polishing an apple on his lapel. A bald man came all the way across the dining room to his table and said, "Forrest Read?" Read nodded.

"Mr. Read," said the man, "I teach an oral interpretation class, a sort of speech class, down in Arkansas." The man paused. Read was looking straight ahead.

"Ah, in this class we read things like poems and analyze them. I was wondering . . . you must know a group of young writers or poets in this area . . . who would maybe want to come down and read for the class? . . . You ARE the poetry man, aren't you?"

"All the way to Arkansas?" said Read. The man said he would talk to him in his office about it.

for classes, then at least for something.

So, on Sept. 29 Read launched his first forum.

He called it "The House that Jack Built (and other tales)" and more than one hundred persons showed up.

With six forums under his belt now, Read feels that the whole thing has been a "fantastic success".

"People are champing at the bit to read," he said.

People are standing in the aisles to listen, too. At the fifth forum, "Poetry is the Politics of Freedom," 103 Bingham Hall was so packed that poetry fans had to perch on window sills and huddle on stairs. Not just college students either — but townspeople and high school students.

Read now has programs worked out for forums well into next semester.



FAR FROM DRY readings of intellectual literary scribbles, the UNC Poetry Forum is modern, amusing and stimulating. Founder Forrest Read is shown here as he opens one of the weekly readings before a crowd of over 100 crowded into a

Forrest Read IS the poetry forum man.

He started the forum when a course he was supposed to teach in modern poetry was canceled because only three students signed up. The University does not provide rooms for three-student classes.

Read couldn't believe that poetry was dead in Chapel Hill. He was sure there was an "undercurrent" — if not

begging to read, flocking to listen.

Read gets a puzzled look on his face when he tries to figure it out.

"A graduate student told me," he said, "that she has spent most of her college career engaged in the formal study of poetry and the 'great' poets. For her, poetry had lost its immediacy, its life."

"She told me that the forum was the only contact she had with 'living' poetry, poetry that expressed the hopes and desires of 'living' people trying to write about what ought to be — or should have been — or could be."

The girl wanted to do something to help the forum and to keep up her "contact." Now she types, stencils, or all the poems read at the forums.

After the stencils are typed, the poems are mimeographed for a looseleaf binder that Read calls the UNC CHAP-BOOK. These binders are in the Chapel Hill Public Library, the Bullshead Bookshop, the University Library and other places in Town.

Like Read's forum, CHAP-BOOK readers are growing every week. Undergraduates are reading it, graduate students are reading it . . . along with faculty and townspeople and the high school set.

"They're for everybody, they're for free."

Read thinks his forum will help fill part of the vacuum that students often complain about at large universities. He thinks the forum will provide a place where they can talk about their "other worlds" — the worlds that are more

perfect, more beautiful, more meaningful than the world they have to face every day.

The forums don't have an audience so much as they have a congregation. The latter are the readers. And the lectern is more than a lectern.

Here the people from Chapel Hill and from the University can listen to the awkward, along with the articulate and polished. They can listen to the sorrows and joys of "now" — written by their peers. The poems have meaning for their "now" lives.



FORREST READ, an instructor in the Department of English believed that people were "champing at the bit" to read their own poetry to an audience. Because of this, the UNC Poetry Forum came to pass. —DTH Photo by Jock Lauterer



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There was scattered clapping at the end of the forum. No one charged out. Slowly the room emptied. A coed waited at the door. She was a transfer student.

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Unique Grandmother Is Student And More

COLLEGE STATION, Tex. (UPI) — Trudy Adam is a most unusual grandmother. She's also a student, a tailor, a technician, and an interpreter.

The blonde with eight grandchildren is studying modern languages at Texas A & M University. She works fulltime as a technician in the biochemistry laboratory and goes to class parttime.

She will get her bachelor's degree sometime in 1967 — the end of a long road of study and work for her.

A native of Wiesbaden, Germany, Mrs. Adam and her husband had three children when he was killed in an American bombing raid in 1944. She survived the war, worked as a scrubwoman in a mess hall, then became a tailor.

With her English knowledge from high school days, Mrs. Adam worked as an interpreter and teacher of English to German secretaries. A second marriage, to an American ser-

geant, did not work out. By that time, she was in Texas and decided to stay.

Mrs. Adam got a job with a Texas A & M laboratory and, by giving up any spare time and vacations, she worked steadily at her education.

She hopes to go to Germany as a celebration when she gets her degree.

Her children are grown and have earned their American citizenship. One son is an Army lieutenant. Another is married to an Air Force captain.

Four Radios Per Every US Home

CHICAGO (UPI)—Think of radios. Think of 242 million radios. Think of one and one-quarter radios.

The last figure is how many radios there are in the United States for each of its 195 million persons.

In the average U. S. home, reports of the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM), there are four radios.

Seven out of 10 Americans listen to the radio every day, the NAMM says. Some of the younger ones seem to listen to more than their numerical allotment at one time.

The most listened-to thing on the radio is music, says the NAMM (whose initials sound like a radio station).

"Music has always been and continues to remain the most popular feature on radio," NAMM executive vice President William R. Gard says. "Music is the most common interest of the entire family in terms of home entertainment and radio is the electronic device that delivers this to the home at the lowest cost."

MONOGRAM DINING ROOM

Luncheon Special for Today

Bacon Wrapped Sirloin Steaks w/ Tomato Sauce

Choice of Two Vegetables
Salad w/ Dressing
Beverage — Bread & Butter
Homemade Layer Cake

97c

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Jacob's brother
- Pecks
- Forays
- Mountain crest
- Scandinavian capital
- Deer's horn
- Laurel
- Chinese length measure
- Compass point
- Roman emperor
- Rooter
- Attempt
- Gives
- In the past
- Apollo's son
- Hair ointments
- Slant
- WWII spy outfit: abbr.
- Naomi's daughter-in-law
- Prosecutor: abbr.
- Guidonian note
- Fitted with stays
- Title again
- Guide
- Reptile
- Maguire's
- Colors, as cloth

DOWN

- March 26, 1967
- River sediment
- Decorate
- Pronoun
- Followers of a French revolutionist
- Branches of learning
- Babyl. god
- Resembling a pillar
- Bake
- Belonging to Ireland
- Measure of land
- Airports: British spelling
- To ward (off)
- Sweet potatoes
- Perform
- Peach
- State: abbr.
- Decants
- Belgian resort
- French river
- Standards
- Nickname for an Irishman
- Spartan
- Scone
- Tissue
- Negative
- Pronoun

Yesterday's Answer

- Trade
- Maria
- Gene
- Patton
- Be
- Rich
- Shea
- Estimate
- Dear
- U.S.
- Done
- Open
- Tom
- Waters
- Green
- Blaine
- Devel
- Roller

ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

People in love have a crazy way of getting wrapped up in each other and forgetting about everything else. So, unless you want to make a mistake, forget about love when you're buying a diamond ring.

If you'd like some expert help, in fact, go see your ArtCarved jeweler. He has beautiful diamond rings from \$150 to over \$1000. Every one has a gemologist's evaluation inscribed on the inner band. Every one is guaranteed.

So don't get emotional at a time like this. Get careful. If you don't know anything about diamonds, see your ArtCarved jeweler. He does.

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PEANUTS

MOM PUT A NOTE IN MY LUNCH TODAY..

"DEAR SON, I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE LUNCH I MADE FOR YOU TODAY.. STUDY HARD...IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE A GOOD STUDENT..."

"HOWEVER, DO NOT NEGLECT YOUR PEER-GROUP RATING"

WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, MOM NEVER FELT SHE HAD A VERY GOOD PEER-GROUP RATING...

-AN'YER CAN STAY OUT F' ALL I CARE!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH 'ER?

I ASKED 'ER FOR A DOLLAR AN' SHE GOT AWKWARD ABOUT IT

I PUT A FULL NELSON ON 'ER

WHAT'S WRONG WITH A STEP-OVER TOE HOLD?

WAD'YER DO? TCH! TCH!