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Dorn, Duberman Address SA

The Black Mountain Festival continued last week with historian Martin Duberman presenting a series of talks and question-and-answer periods to the school on Thursday and Friday. Duberman authored the best and most complete account of Black Mountain College in his book "Black Mountain: An Exploration in Community". However, his visit provided insight into a good deal more than a summary of factual data about Black Mountain. He spoke on subjects ranging from sexuality to his theory of writing history. A new book upon which he is working will be called "Sex and Society" and will be the history of sexuality and sex roles in America.

Duberman is an individual very much concerned with the established hierarchies and established power which he sees as dominating our society. This hierarchy and power is the creation of the intolerant heterosexual white male, as he sees it, which explains why women, blacks,

and members of the gay liberation movement are questioning their positions in society, which are subordinate. A professed homosexual, he sees the social structures and taboos of our society as inhibiting natural, normal bisexuality which he believes is present in everyone. "Beware of the experts," Duberman warned during his lecture Friday evening, referring to psychoanalysts in particular, with their models of what everyone should be like. "Stop trying to be something you're not and putting people in categories. The varieties in people will be exciting to see." In order for people to be what they really are, Duberman sighted the importance of a closeness between people; a community thought, in which individuals can openly talk to others about who and what they are.

"Black Mountain: An Exploration in Community" has been described as being in "bad taste" and being inappropriate "exhibitionism". Duberman was accused of misusing history and factual

data in order to exhibit himself. It was in the book that he publicly recognized his homosexuality, after a great deal of questioning the wisdom of such a move.

Two of the first three critical reviews he read about his book were positive, the other strongly negative. The negative one mentioned his homosexuality; the positive two did not. Psychologically rough days were ahead, for he worried about his career as a result of some of the harsh criticism he had received. He felt as though he was being labelled a "talentless queer", the combination of which he found totally unacceptable. Duberman is now beginning to write once again and his theory of historical writing, making the writer noticeably present in his work, will be used as it was in the Black Mountain book.

As Duberman sees it, there are two main factors in historical writing: the factual data and the author himself. Rather than attempting to make history third person descriptive, as it traditionally



is, he sees the need for the historian to give more of himself to his readers. In their "conversations with those of the past", historians should record not only the facts of the conversation but their own reactions. They should include in their works the human experience of the actual investigation and writing. The result of this in Duberman's eyes would be a much more meaningful experience for the reader; one which he can feel, not merely read.

Duberman spoke of education in America and the absence of a community feeling in our educational institutions. "Most of the innovation that was going on in education happened in the late 60's. . . I think most of the innovations, if they're going to work, must be made on a much lower level. By the time we get to a university, our attitudes are so well formed that they can't really be changed."

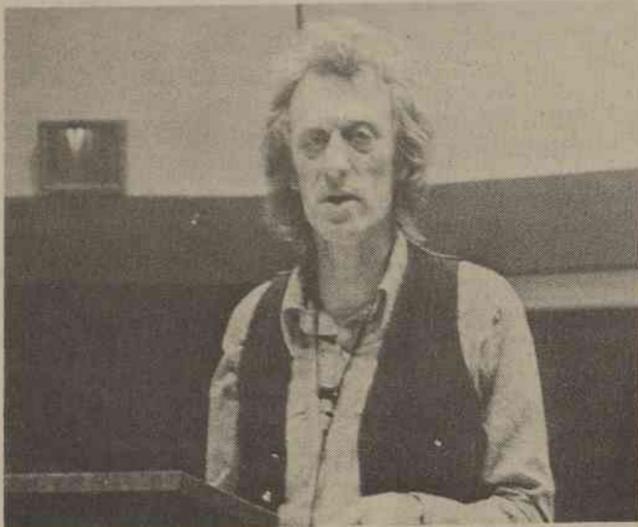
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Ed Dorn: Verbal Wit

Edward Dorn, Black Mountain poet, stood before the St. Andrews Community last Wednesday in dungarees and hand-sewn boots. The brightness of his eyes and rhinestone button vest was harmonious with his rustic, weather-worn face and humor. Although his poetry centered a great deal on the West he is not native to that part of the country. He was born in 1929 in Villa Grove, Illinois, educated at the University of Illinois and "somewhat corrected at Black Mountain College."

Dorn was a student and still is friends with Charles Olson and Robert Creeley. It was for Dorn that Olson compiled his pamphlet "Bibliography" for Ed Dorn about prehistoric times, myths, and terrain. They share an intense interest in geography. Dorn's book, "Geography" published in 1965 is dedicated to Olson. "Gunslinger", which is Dorn's large-scale work is similar to the technique of Olson's "Maximus Poems". Both poets are concerned with a whole or a total image but Dorn is much more clear; less recondite, than Olson. There are two apparent sides to Dorn; his dry humor and the historical relating of direct experience which is more serious and profound.

The reading Wednesday night was divided into these two parts although there was still interweaving of the two. Among the intricate lines of Dorn's face was the downward turn of his lips which



ironically gave the appearance of a smile suggesting symbolically the integration of a humorous and series tone in each word.

Among the earlier poems of Dorn are examples of his verbal wit. One of these is "The Hide of My Mother" in which he says "My mother, who has a hide/ on several occasions remarked what/a nice rug or robe/my young kids would make,/Would we send them to her?/When we had them butchered?/" In the reading Dorn evidenced his humor in various ways, one of which was his comment about America, "Isn't it marvelous. Corruption saves us again. In America nothing goes to waste."

Dorn prefaced a poem by saying it was a long, extended metaphor and in a sense "tested its tensile strength."

It is interesting to note that Fuller was intrigued by tensile strengths of metal and did various experiments with them. Later in this same poem Dorn referred to the character's head as a "pyramid, the

minimum solid." The triangle is important to Fuller as the smallest, yet strongest area.

After a brief intermission, Dorn read "Recollections of Grand Apacheria", His new book which will be coming out in a few months from Turtle Island Press. Dorn interwove history, legend, present and the particulars of experience in one extended poem. He expressed the nobility, the savagery and the strength of the Apaches. It was apparent that they were misunderstood in the past as well as now by the "white Tom Mixes". "One cannot have a part of what is indivisible. This is Apache policy, yet for us it is only a philosophical implication." There was a captivating rhythm in Dorn's voice as he read which at certain points almost seemed a reflection of Indian rhythms.

Edward Dorn has taught at Idaho State University at Pocatello and State University of New York at Buffalo. From 1965 to 1968 he was visiting

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Admissions Office Shaken Up

As follow up to President Hart's address to the students before Christmas, the "Lance" staff has investigated different areas of the college for continuing information on cutbacks, etc. From discussions with Everett Gourley, Jean Rayburn, Elaine Liles, and Allan Smyth the situation of the Admissions Office is as follows.

David Chestnut and Jim Perrin, the two junior counselors are gone now. The general rationalization in the office was that although St. Andrews has always kept year round junior counselors this is not what most colleges do. Neither of these 2 employees had received contracts this year which used to be the usual procedure. Apparently there are quite a few employees without contracts. The majority of recruitment done in January was by two professors, Sommerville and Valentine and several students: John Robinson, Steve Chasson, Paul Finger, Phil Bradley and John Gillingham.

There has been little significant change in approach or technique in the Admissions Policy, although this year there was a great deal

more correspondence, phone contact, and follow-up work done. Also the St. Andrews film was shown on several networks in North Carolina. It seems that in this time with so many colleges and universities desperate about attracting students that it is imperative to reaffirm students who have already made application. Even though our admissions counselors have always gone to private, public, community colleges (junior) and preparatory schools, there has been a slight shift of emphasis from private and prep to junior and public. Rayburn and Liles were on the

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SENIORS

We are pleased to announce that Stewart Brand will give the commencement address at the graduation exercise on May 26, 1974. He is the past editor of the now discontinued Whole Earth Catalogue, and is currently residing in California. His visit here will be his first return to North Carolina in 13 years and he is eagerly anticipating the event.

Stevie Daniels
Tom Patterson
Dennis Sharpe