

St. Andrews Writer's Forum

Fall Season a Success

by Stephen Skinner

The autumn 1986 season of the Writer's Forum under the direction of student Rob McLean and Writer-in-Residence, Ron Bayes, proved a success and certainly a delight for those able to attend on Thursday evenings. The season's seven guest forums featured nine readings by such distinguished writers as poet Ethyl Fortner, Japanese poet Hiroaki Sato, dramatic poet Anna Wooten and her husband Tom Hankins, former SA student Bobby Price, poet Gene Grace and his Friday Afternoon Club from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The season's guest forums ended with a visit from famous publisher and poet, James Laughlin. (See this issue's feature story by Belle Crenner Gironda about Laughlin's visit to St. Andrews).

The season began with a double reading. Present at the forum were Ethyl Fortner (whom the Fortner room in the LA building was named after) and her good friend, poet Glenna DeVolt. Mrs. Fortner, the

more seasoned of the two, read poems from her four books written throughout her lifetime. Her poems, with a broad range of subjects and ideas were truly astounding. Especially interesting was the fact she was brought up by her grandmother, and her poems in dedication to her grandmother were ever-so heartwarming.

Hiroaki Sato brought the works of Japanese poets to the campus at the second forum. His translations illustrate the lifestyles of special groups of Japanese people and added a sense of Japanese fine arts and culture to the Japanese-American Business and Fine Arts Festival here on campus that week.

The third forum of the season brought Anna Wooten and her husband Tom Hankins to St. Andrews. Anna's dramatic monologue was especially effective as well as amusing. The monologue dealt with the devil in seven different human situations such as: SATAN the scholar, SATAN the psychiatrist, SATAN the poet, SATAN the attorney, SATAN the politician, and SATAN the southern lifeguard! Beyond a doubt, Ms. Wooten's was the most unique reading presented during the season.

As a student, I found Bobby G.

Price as perhaps the most entertaining poet to visit with the forum this fall. Bobby presented poems that were more on a student's level. I could easily relate to his ideas and the feelings I pulled from his reading expressed many of the thoughts I've had since I began college here in September. He brought out a string of "progressive" poems that seemed to move poetry into new directions, full of imagery and a lot of action. It was fortunate that a former student could visit the forum and share poems from his published books.

Sally Buckner visited the forum a few weeks ago and presented poems which will be included in a new book to be published by the St. Andrews Press. The book, to be entitled "Strawberry Harvest," is scheduled for release this month. The poems revolve around a variety of ideas. Many originate from the places she has lived, such as: Raleigh, Nags Head, and "Holcombe County," a geographically fictional town in the rural Piedmont of North Carolina. Her poems deal with the search for integrity, the mysteries of God, explanations into life and death, and the ironies found in everyday human life.

Gene Grace and the Friday Afternoon Club entertained the forum on October 23rd at Pate Hall. This club

is based on the campus of UNC-Chapel Hill and consists of roughly 65 members. Present were Grace and several other members of the club. Grace's poetry revolved around a military company from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, which is fighting a battle in a foreign country. His poetry was vividly interesting, but centered on too few topics and feelings.

Last, but certainly not least, James Laughlin, a well-known publisher and poet (perhaps best known for being the first to publish Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams) delighted a full house crowd in Pate Hall with a lecture on the life and times of Pound. He followed this the next day with a reading of his own poetry.

All of these poets provided different readings with different ideas and all were truly respectable on their own. From the years of poetry shared by Ethyl Fortner to the cultural arts in poetry illustrated by Hiroaki Sato, and from the "new age" of poetry shared by Bobby Price to the informative, yet highly entertaining evening with Mr. Laughlin, the 1986 Autumn schedule at the Writer's Forum was a tremendous success!

(Note: The final Writer's Forum for the fall season will be an Open Mike held Dec. 4th.

SCRC's Request To See Contract Denied

by Dave Snyder

Not all money paid by students for "board" is spent on food service, according to the Student Consumer Rights Committee. This newly-formed, 25-member campus group is asking for the right to view the food service contract between SAGA (Marriot-owned) and St. Andrews, but its request was denied by Dean Bill Loftus.

During the interview in which Loftus denied this request, he informed members of the group "that not all board money goes toward food service," says Brian Green, a group member. Green said that Loftus denied them the right to see the contract because it would not be helpful, is long and boring, is a private contract between St. Andrews and SAGA, and because it would set an unfavorable precedent. (Note: Dean Loftus told the editor of THE LANCE, on Nov. 19th, that he did not say that not all of board money goes toward food service but rather that not all board money goes to food. Other "board" expenses

include cafeteria maintenance, utilities, etc.).

According to Green, there is a contradiction when the school refunds the full amount of board for students not on food service if not all board money is spent on food service.

"But we don't want to make a charge based on what one person tells us. Admittedly, we can only speculate until we see the contract," says Al Ripley, another group member. "Only by seeing the contract can we truly know the limitations and obligations of the person who provides us our food service," he adds.

The group bypassed the food service committee set up by SAGA president Henry Ogden. "Everything the food committee is doing is positive and constructive, but we feel it needs to address the central issue --- how our money is being spent --- by seeking the financial documents involved," says Ripley. "We just want to make sure this avenue is pursued. We don't want to usurp any of the food committee's prerogatives."

Heidi Jernigan, chair of the

food service committee, disagrees. "First of all, not once did any member of NCSL or SCRC approach the food service committee with their concerns. They did not take advantage of the proper and already established channels. However," she says, "their focus is too narrow. There's much more to quality food service than money. Making money the central issue will be detrimental to what we are trying to accomplish as a committee."

A request to see the contract raises constitutional questions. Ripley asserts that "the only thing we're asking for is our right to see how our money is being spent."

Recently, a student at the University of South Carolina won the right through the Freedom of Information Act to see contracts between the school and its visiting professors. These contracts revealed the extravagant amounts being paid by USC to attract big-name personalities. The judge in the case ruled that no public institution has the right to withhold information as to how public funds are being spent.

Because St. Andrews is a

private school, the law is applied differently. At question are not constitutional rights directly, but consumer rights.

The Consumer Rights Committee plans next to request the contract from President A.P. Perkinson, Jr. and Dean Tom Benson. If their request is denied by these two, their tentative plans include taking their case to network television consumer advocates and involving students' parents as the true consumers.

(Editor's Note: On Nov. 18th, Dean Loftus told me that he was preparing a memorandum addressing the requests of SCRC which would include figures on how monies for board are spent. On Nov. 20th, Greg Minns, a member of SCRC, received a copy of the completed memo. As of November 20th, SCRC had expanded its interests to include all college financial matters which directly affect students and the way in which "their" money is spent.)