

Dear Reader:

## TWO WEEK ISSUE

The July 2 issue of *What's Happening* is a two-week issue covering July 2-15. We are taking a break and will resume our regular weekly issues July 16.

Calendar and Classified deadlines for the July 16 issue are Thursday, July 9, 4 pm. Advertising deadline is Monday, July 13, noon.

The *What's Happening* office will be closed July 3-8 and re-open Thursday, July 9.

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## LITERARY ARTS

# Local freelance writers recognized

by Max E. Beninga

Five Eugene area free-lance writers have been selected as finalists by the Pacific Northwest Writers conference. "This conference," said Gaines Smith, local writing teacher, freelance writer and seminar conductor, "is one of the largest in the nation. This year editors from Harper and Row, *The Ladies Home Journal*, Avon Books and *Seventeen*, among others, will be at the conference.

"This gathering of writers from all over the northwest and Canada for workshops, seminars, and to listen to speakers from prestigious magazines provides an opportunity to meet editors, authors and other writers," he further explained.

A unique aspect of the conference is the writers competition. This year over 850 writers submitted material for adjudication. "A number of finalists are selected in the categories of adult short story, nonfiction book, juvenile short story, juvenile book and poetry," Smith explained.

Of the 14 writers from Oregon, the only local writers slated for recognition are all members of Smith's writing seminar. Lisa Cohn, Milt Cunningham, Maureen Jeske, Beverly Thomas and Smith could win individual prizes of \$100, \$150 or \$250, should the judges choose their work as the best in a category.

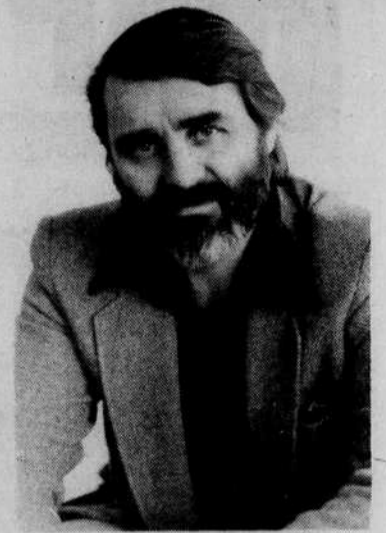
"The fact that five people from the same seminar group were selected for the finals has caught the attention of the conference organizers," Smith said. "They have invited us to bring up our book, *Popular Fiction by Oregon Authors*. This is a book I edited and in which Cunningham and

Jeske and I have stories. They normally don't allow writers to display their material, except for the paid writers or editors who come to the conference as presenters," Smith explained.

"The conference is great and really motivating for people just starting out," said Maureen Jeske. "You can ask editors and other writers questions and have the chance to mix and mingle with them. These are the people you aspire to be peers with someday and they are right there. I went last year and it was really helpful to me and I had planned on going back this year. Now that I am a finalist in the humor category, I can hardly wait until I get there and see the postings and see if I am a prize winner," Jeske stated.

"I normally encourage aspiring writers to take my beginning and then intermediate writing classes given through Lane Community College," Smith said. "Then about 10 years ago some of the students encouraged me to start having seminars in my home. These seminars have become support groups for those of us who love writing and want mutual help and support. Currently about 45 of us meet each Monday or Wednesday evening at the Atrium Building in downtown Eugene," Smith stated.

"I am not interested in whether the writing is good or not," said Smith, "for eventually it gets better. I am interested in breaking through the inertia that so many writers face and to help them get started and to mail off their pieces. Most of the seminar members write as an avocation and



Gaines Smith.

for five of us to get recognition by the Northwest Writers Conference is really inspiring," he stated.

Smith has published about 100 short stories and articles in mostly local or regional magazines as well as a few pieces in national magazines like *Small World* and *Advertising Age*. Currently he is working on a novel and only has time for an occasional magazine item.

Information about the conference or writing classes can be obtained by calling Smith at 683-2125. Enrollment in the LCC classes is done through the usual college enrollment procedures.

### Announcing the 1987 Lane Literary Awards

The First Annual Lane Literary Awards, sponsored by Lane Literary Guild, Lane Regional Arts Council and *What's Happening*, is now accepting previously unpublished short fiction and poetry from writers residing in Lane County.

Works by selected writers will be included in *Pacifica*, a special literary supplement, to be published in the September 17 issue of *What's Happening*.

The two award winners in each category will be invited to read as part of Lane Literary Guild's Eugene Celebration Reading, at the Hult Center on September 27.

Each award winner will also receive \$50.

Jurors for the Awards will be the featured guest readers at the Eugene Celebration Reading. They are poet Judy Grahn and science fiction writer John Varley.

- Writers must reside in Lane County, Oregon.
- Writers may submit either poetry or fiction, but not both.
- All submissions must be typed: fiction (double-spaced) not to exceed 1500 words; poetry not to exceed 5 poems or 300 lines.
- Two copies of each work are required, without the author's name on them.
- One separate cover sheet should list the writer's name, address, and title of each work submitted.
- Work samples will not be returned.
- A \$3 reader's fee for each writer must accompany the submission. Make checks payable to Lane Literary Guild.
- Entries should be mailed to: Lane Literary Awards, Lane Regional Arts Council, 411 High St., Eugene, OR 97401.
- Deadline for receipt of entries: 4 pm, July 9, 1987.
- Entrants will be notified by mail of the jurors' decision by August 15.

## What's HAPPENING

Guide to Local Arts,  
Entertainment and Events

Published Every Thursday

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