

BOOK REVIEW

'The Subterraneans'
'chaotic; but powerful'By BEN TROWBRIDGE
Emerald Staff Writer

Jack Kerouac, "The Subterraneans," Grove Press, \$1.45, New York, 1958; Evergreen Review, "San Francisco Scene," Evergreen Press, \$1.00, New York, 1957.

In William Carlos Williams's introduction to Allen Ginsberg's violent poetic spasm "Howl," he warns the reader, "Hold back the edges of your gowns, ladies, we are going through hell."

An appropriate enough warning for "Howl" to be sure, but just as apropos for Jack Kerouac's "The Subterraneans."

By now those strange inhabitants of San Francisco, known as the "Beat Generation," or "The Subterraneans," are familiar to many. What and why they exist the way they do is not so well known. Most people refer to them as "terrible Bohemian" and leave it at that.

'Chaotic Prose'

Kerouac's book is referred to as a testament of this group. It is a messy affair, the book and the subject, but powerful, at times, in its chaotic prose. What you see here is a group of misfits, discontent with society and themselves. They are not a sympathetic group.

The "stream of consciousness" writing style will give the reader no end of trouble. Words are hopelessly scrambled. Every rule of the English language goes down for the third time.

Kerouac says of the "beat generation":

"They are hip without being slick, they are intelligent without being corny, they are intellectual as hell and know all about Pound without being pretentiousness or talking too

much about it, they are very quiet, they are very Christlike."

Book Cleared of Obscenity

For the adventurous reader planning to tackle this slim volume I would suggest as background reading "The San Francisco Scene," an Evergreen Review collection of works by the "beat generation." The most important entry is Allen Ginsberg's "Howl."

"Howl" has a stormy history, brewed mostly in the California Supreme Court, where it was being tried as obscene. Cleared of the charges this long, jazz beat piece of poetry, is now available and of great importance in understanding the true problem of the San Francisco malcontents.

Confession of Faith

The "high potentate" of this literary group, Kenneth Rexroth, said, "Howl" is the confession of faith of the generation that is going to be running the world in 1965 and 1975—if it's still there to run."

What this controversial work points out is that the "Beat Generation" is going through mental hell in these times of unrest and conformity, but that they are holding their heads high and silently plodding on in their dark back alleys with humanity's cross on their backs.

Annual tug-of-war
set for Wednesday

Wednesday the freshmen will again challenge the sophomores to a tug-of-war for the honor of becoming social sophomores.

The contest is traditionally held at the millrace with the sophomores on one side and the freshmen on the other. If the freshmen win they will be able to discard their ribbons and beanies and become social sophomores. If they lose they will remain freshmen and will continue to wear their ribbons and hats. In the past years freshmen have rarely lost.

The "war" begins at 4 p.m. at the millrace. All freshmen and sophomores may participate.

Awards, tapping
highlight dinner

Monday night Kappa Rho Omicron, radio honorary, held an awards dinner that included tapping of new members.

The six awards given were the KVAL-TV award to Bob MacNab, the KUGN Award to Jim Dutcher, the KERG Award to Claire Kelly, the KEED Award to Donnalee Dunkeson, the KORE Award to Joe Mayer and the KASH Award to Dick Bond.

New members chosen were Judy Anderson, Linda Luper, Errol Loving, Jan Sorrels, Gary Wills, Tom Y'Blood, Greg McLeod, Dave Whitbread, Dean Woodring, Ron Ogle, Bruce Trafton, Bob Stalick and Barton Cronin.

'Good taste' topic
of today's speech

"Good Taste Costs No More" will be the contention of Richard Gump, artist, architect, composer, and art collector as he speaks today at 1 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

Third in his family to head Gump's department store of San Francisco, he has recently returned from buying trips in India, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Hawaii, Japan, Scandinavia, and England. His topic is derived from his book, "Good Taste Costs No More" published in 1951.

He also spoke in a coffee hour at 4 p.m. in the SU.

"Many people have good design in their homes, but it is anything but good taste," he says, and it is to correct this that he lectures on some of the follies of "keeping up with the Joneses" in home furnishing.

Art Tradition Long

The art tradition in the Gump family began in 1865 when Solomon Gump, a former ship's chandler, began to sell mirrors and bric-a-brac to the newly prosperous west. Business boomed and by the second generation Gump's had added Oriental art to the stock of European paintings.

Expensive Jade Collection

The store is most famous for its jade collection which includes all colors and shades from the dark green shade flecked with black in which large decorative pieces were carved to "Imperial

emerald" over whose possession wars were fought. According to publicity releases the pieces range in value from \$25 to \$100,000.

As third-generation manager, Richard Gump, the store kept its buyers at "home" in order to seek art from the American cultures. In 1943 Gump opened a new department in the store to display and sell the creative work of artists of the San Francisco area. He has also helped develop Mexican crafts for the American market.

'Accident' Begins Career

Gump's hopes for a career in baseball were shattered at age 16 by a shotgun accident. During the convalescence he became interested in art, music, architecture, and design. Since then he has designed furniture which is still being produced and sold in Gump's. He has also written choral, symphonic, and chamber music, all of which has been performed in public concert. On the light side he plays the clarinet in an eight-piece German band, "The Guckenheimer Sour Krauts," which he organized.

Reuther proposal

DETROIT (AP) — Walter P. Reuther proposed Saturday that economic demands of his United Auto Workers, including profit-sharing, be submitted to binding, impartial arbitration.

Dean Wickham
to host women

Golda Wickham, dean of women, will host the Faculty at Home Evening Wednesday. The purpose of the informal gathering is to acquaint the students with members of the faculty and administration.

Dean Wickham will speak on her travel experiences. Women interested in attending are asked to meet at 7:40 p.m. in front of Gerlinger Hall. The dean's address is 1746 19th Ave. E.

Windows...

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commonplace in Adams and Clark dorms. One Douglas man went further by saying, "life is now worth living."

Offense Formerly Fineable

Until Friday Walton Hall residents were not allowed by dormitory policy to open their upper (larger) room windows. A safety screw in the window latch kept them closed. The only way the windows could be opened was by removing the hinge screws. If this was done, however, a \$10 fine was imposed.

The policy is based on the idea that the new dormitory, as built is sufficiently ventilated without opening the windows. However last week's warm weather hiked Walton room temperatures and aroused student opinion against the closed windows.

Several men from Douglas dorm conferred with the Lane County building inspector and the campus health service. They were assured that the matter would be looked in to.

CHESTERFIELD

MEN OF AMERICA:
ON VACATION

Soakin' up a tan
In the summer sun,
Smiles come easy
And the livin's fun!
Make it part of your
Vacation plan
To take big pleasure
When and where you can...

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Nothing satisfies like the
BIG CLEAN TASTE OF TOP-TOBACCO

REGULAR

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