

Author resists stereotype

By NICK GALLO
Of the Emerald

Shy, 35, and immediately likeable, James Welch read poetry and fiction to an appreciative crowd at the University Wednesday night.

Welch, a Native American, grew up in Montana where his

father tenant-farmed 40 acres. He has written "Ride the Earthboy 40," a book of poetry, and a novel, "Winter in the Blood," given excellent reviews this fall.

At a workshop Wednesday afternoon Welch reacted to critics who pigeonhole him as a Native-American voice crying out from the reservation.

"People automatically assume that an Indian writer can only write Indian poetry about Indian experiences," he said. "I'm a human being writing about people searching for something, about alienation. I want to be read on as many different levels as possible."

Alluding later to such problems, Welch added, "Writers have to know where they want to get to, but can't be restricted by the journey along the way."

His novel, "Winter in the Blood" is narrated by a 32-year-old Indian who honors the past and is further splintered by life on and off the reservation.

It is a landscape of psychological distances, people apart from people, from cultures, from "What they are, and what they want to be," says Welch.

On one hand, his poetry brings light to small movements such as, "the mouse, a part of a wind that stirs the plains," yet also ranges to bitter, "political" stances.

In "The Renegade Wants Words" Welch writes, "In Zortman on a Sunday we died/No bells, no man in black...Makeshift hangman, our necks/noon and the eagles—not one good word."

In his upcoming novel Welch described his main character as an isolated man who weeps continuously. In the end he murders another man, the act of violence alone providing meaning to an otherwise useless life, covered with permafrost.

Despite the forlorn nature of much of his work, Welch himself is quick to laugh, and warm with his audience. Like a virtuoso who sheepishly admits to wanting to pick up the guitar, Welch is taken to the notion of "bringing along a camera, catching fish and writing articles for something like *Field & Stream*. No doubt they would be rich in detail with echoes from the past.

Ford honors Lincoln

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Ford placed a wreath at the Lincoln Memorial Thursday in tribute to Abraham Lincoln on the 167th anniversary of his birth.

Before a crowd of about 300, the President said the nation honors Lincoln "for the force of his faith in America and in the people."



Drawing by JoAnn Fatigren

Marry your Valentine for a cat and 50 cents

For 99 years now University students have been sending Valentine Day messages to each other. And 1976 is no different than any of the past years as is evidenced by the Heart Throb messages on pages 13 and 14 of today's Emerald. Some of the messages are serious, while others are humorous or satirical.

A Wisconsin county clerk has

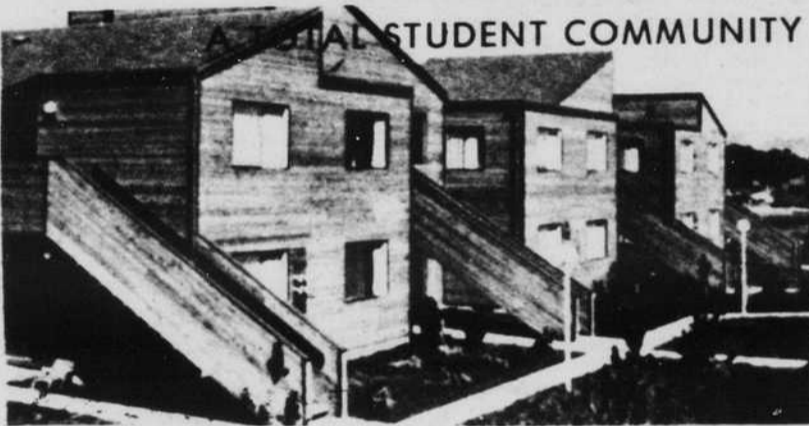
found another way to deliver his Valentine Day message, however. According to Associated Press, Vernon County Clerk Roger Novy is offering his annual St. Valentine's Day marriage license half-price deal again. But this year the bargain could be even better.

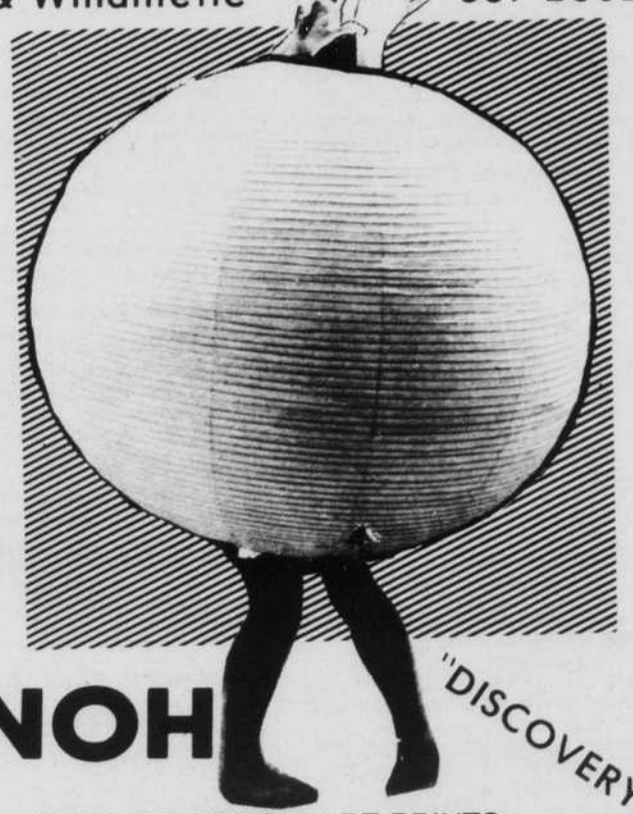
Since Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday, Novy will sell \$5 licenses today for \$2.50. And since today is Friday the 13th Novy will knock another dollar off if the couple brings a black cat along when the purchase is made.

And any couple buying a license between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m., will have the price cut a dollar.

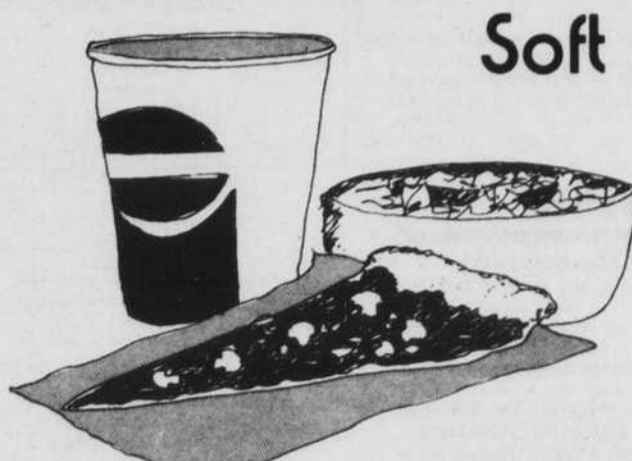
So a couple with a black cat, arriving during the first hour of business today could get a license for 50 cents.

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