

# Surface and Symbol

The Emerald's weekly arts and entertainment supplement

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Photo by Perry Gaskill

Ken Kesey will be coming, along with plenty of others.

## ITS ART . . .

## General unusualness on tap for D-day

A considerable amount of word, thought and perhaps even deed will be offered up Sunday (D-Day for non-history buffs) in and around Mac Court. The event is the first perennial Poetic Hoohaw and Spring Trip (PHAST), conceptualized, put together and actualized by the Intrepid Trips Society for Aesthetic Revolutionary Training (ITS ART) and the Northwest Review.

At least twelve hours of poetry, music, theatre, magic, general happenings and whatever happens'es are promised and expected.

To facilitate that end, the Society and Review have gathered together a most impressive array of well-known and/or soon-to-be well-known people to share their talents with our community. Among the headliners are Ken Kesey, William S. Burroughs, Ann Waldman, William Stafford, Bob Kaufman, Charles Lloyd and Quintet, Walt Curtis, Tomas Fuentes, Gurney Norman, Paul Krassner, Ed McClanahan, Jerry Kamastra, Stewart Brand, and Ken Babbs.

These are only the expected ones. There are possibilities of others. Names are not available. Hope is.

Now a quick glance at a few of the people mentioned above.

William Burroughs . . . where to begin talking about William Burroughs? Ken Kesey calls him " . . . the first man in about 320 years to do anything new in writing." Jack Kerouac said, "Burroughs is the greatest satirical writer since Jonathan Swift." Norman Mailer gives still higher praise, "(Burroughs is) the only American novelist living today who may conceivably

be possessed by genius."

Burroughs is the author of *Junkie* (a book based on the events of his own heroin addiction), *Naked Lunch* (called "one of the most important pieces of literature in our time" by Ken Shapiro, and which for quite a while was deemed too dirty and strange to be published in America), *Nova Express*, *The Ticket That Exploded*, *The Yage Letters* (with Allen Ginsberg), *The Soft Machine*, *The Wild Boys* and, more recently, *The Exterminators*.

Back in the Beat days (pre, during and post) Burroughs served as a fellow writer, teacher, philosopher and sometimes prophet to people like Kerouac, Ginsberg and Neal Cassady, to name but a few. He has appeared many times in the writings of all three, especially Kerouac's.

Anne Waldman, the fastspeaking woman, was once called by Newsweek, "the reigning queen of the downtown New York poetry scene." She has put out several volumes of poetry and done several poetry readings/performances throughout the country.

A few of her collections of poetry: *Life Notes*, *Fast Speaking Woman* and *Journals and Dreams*. She has been recently published in *Adventures in Poetry*, *Crawdaddy* and *Transatlantic Review*.

Ginsberg says of her, "this woman-girl vocalizes, rhapsodizes and defines metaphysics of a whole spectrum of modern consciousness, communal as well as mine and hers." Ted Berrigan calls her " . . . brave. She is experimenting and I think she is the most exciting poet of her generation."

William Stafford, Oregon's poet laureate, will be there. His poems of quiet intensity and eloquence have won him wide esteem, including a National Book Award for *Traveling Through the Dark*.

His other works include *Allegiances*, *The Rescued Year*, *West of Your City* and *Someday, Maybe*.

His poetry has also won him a Guggenheim award and the Shelley Memorial Award. Stafford served as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in 1970-71. He is now Professor of English at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Gurney Norman wrote *The Divine Rights Trip* in the *Last Whole Earth Catalogue*.

Bob Kaufman is a Beat poet. In France he is called the American Rimbaud, no small compliment from a Frenchman.

Jerry Kamastra is the author of *Weed and Frisco Kid*.

Tomas Fuentes will read his poetry. The Teatro Campesino (Farmworkers' Theatre) will perform their mixture of theatre, music and poetry.

I could go on and on.

Several local groups will be performing on the Freestage. The ones scheduled include the New Mime Circus, The Checkered Players, Reverend Chumley and The Count. The Freestage, by the way, is open to anyone who desires a platform upon which to do anything one would like to do on a platform. A sign-up table for stage time will be set up next to the stage.

Also on hand will be Stewart Brand, founding father of the *Whole Earth Catalogue* and now the *Co-Evolution Quarterly*. He will be bringing his Earth Balls

(huge inflatable globes, six feet in diameter) and other games to play with in the afternoon.

Bob Gardner (*Closed Mondays*) is bringing his rainbow painting machine from Portland, along with some films and holographs.

A poetry wall will be set up for when the muse strikes.

Kesey and Krassner will be in the pit challenging all comers, whatever that may mean.

There will also be music, magic, daring escapes, a musical saw, juggling, bagpipes, dancing and such merriment as people are wont to make.

All this, and probably more, will be happening in the field between the covered tennis court and the baseball field, just east of Mac Court. If the rain gods loom ugly, all will be moved into Mac Court. The evening of poetry and readings, and all films during the day, will be in Mac Court.

The cost for this entire event, lasting from roughly noon to roughly midnight (hands will be stamped so one may come and go), is \$3.75 in advance and \$4.75 at the door. Advance tickets may be had at the EMU Main Desk, Meier and Frank, and the Springfield Creamery.

A number of balloons have been sent into the sky with invitations attached. Each invitation admits two people free. A special secret prize will be given to the holder of the invitation from furthest away.

In case any of the above isn't clear, the information number is 747-9124. /by Bob Webb.