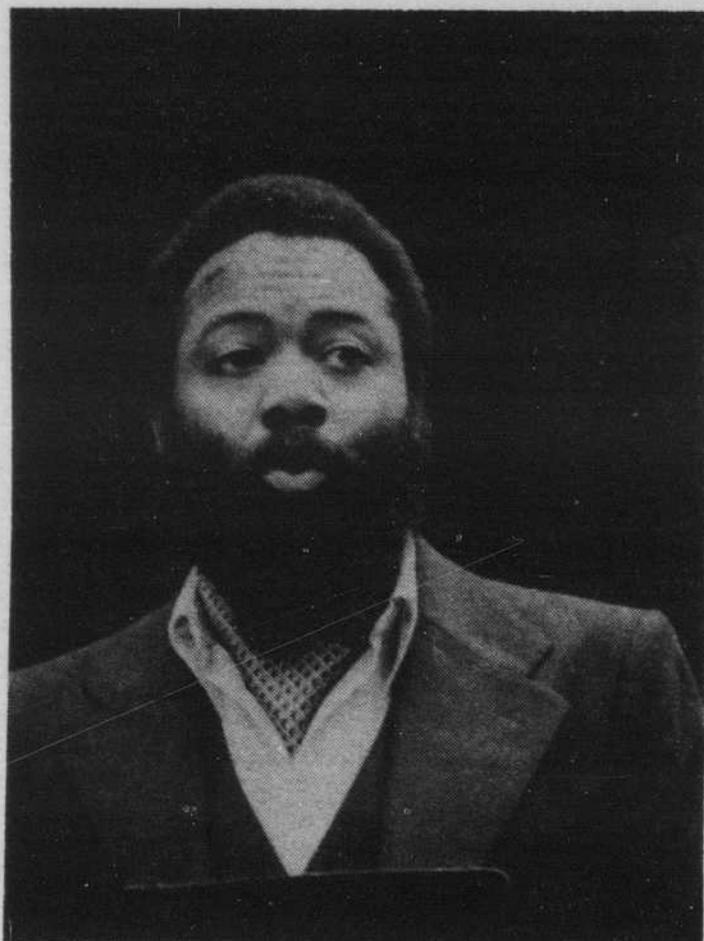


Poet shares his 'intimate communications'



Jerome Hall

Photo by Dennis Hickok

Poet and journalist Jerome Hall believes poetry is a very intimate kind of communication.

He shared his own personal concepts of love, friendship, hate, humor and psychological evolution in a lecture which he presented to some 50 students in the EMU Thursday.

By ANAMARIA BELL
Of the Emerald

Commencing his presentation with two poems about love, Hall said, "I believe love to be the most total emotion that exists." In his first poem titled "A Poem for Rosalee," Hall writes about a little girl whom he encounters but has to say goodbye to.

"You say things that only you and I know only a woman could say. Grownups often become what children want most not to be," he writes in this poem, closing it with "Until life's joys become what might have been."

In another poem, "Misery's Child," he expounds, "I come to stay a short time and bring years of worn-out dreams. We slip into the silence which we call conversation. A smile that knows no feeling and brings me down." In his poem to Chicago, Hall describes the city as, "Cement filled ground where children have to play," and "Piss-filled halls where people ponder yesterday's dreams."

He hails multi-national corporations as being "Aluminum-foiled hearts," and "Movers of bowels, people and merchandise, all with the same smoothness."

Once, when Hall was a young boy, his father bought a used car. The car kept breaking down and instead of giving them a refund, the car salesman would only let them trade it in for another used car.

Hall depicted this in a poem called "Junkyard of Demolished Dreams." "It's just like somebody else is trying to sell you a dream they've gotten rid of and tell you to live it," says Hall. "It will guarantee you good memories for a whole new day."

"Martin, we all shot you down," writes Hall in his poem dedicated to the late Martin Luther King. Hall was working with a group of black poets when King was assassinated.

Hall explains that a person must reach a point when he looks at himself and takes himself just exactly for what he is. He depicts this theory in various poems about what it is to be black, about his father, what it is to turn into a young adult and what it is like to have a parent die.

Hall, who is 34, was born in Nashville, grew up in Michigan and lived in Chicago. He has been living in Spain for the last eight years and says he loves it.

His poetry and articles on racism have been published in popular literary journals throughout the world. In addition to being a poet, Hall is also a psychologist. He also teaches English at the University of Madrid.

He is the author of two books; "What it is to be Human," which will be released in April and "This is not the Promised Land," a documentary on European racism.

Hall's lecture was sponsored by the Black Student Union, Norm Sandburg of CSPA and the Cultural Forum.

CLEP test Adviser says few know of opportunity

By KAREN KANGAS
Of the Emerald

Evelyn Rowe, a University psychometrist, jokingly compares College Level Exam Program (CLEP) tests to slot machines. In both cases, she points out, small deposits may bring high returns.

CLEP test deposit is a small exam fee — \$20 for one test, \$30 for two tests and \$40 for three, four or five tests. The returns are University credits obtained by passing standardized exams.

Rowe, who administers the tests in Room 354 Susan Campbell Hall, says students often take CLEP tests for financial reasons. She points out students familiar with material covered in a required undergraduate class can save money by receiving credit for that class through CLEP.

"The program helps students stay in school who might not start or might not stay for financial reasons," she says.

Dick Crawford, University Community Service Public Affairs (CSPA) adviser, explains students who receive credit through CLEP can use their time to take other classes or participate in programs more closely related to their major.

"CLEP testing is a way of helping people get to where they want to be," he says.

The tests are part of a national program designed by the Educational Testing Service of New Jersey. The service composes standardized exams based on typical undergraduate courses. The exams cover a variety of subject areas.

Universities across the country

decide which of these exams cover their course material and then offer the approved tests to students for a fee.

Approved tests at the University include three general exams covering social sciences and history, natural sciences and humanities; and 10 subject exams ranging in subject areas from American Literature to biology. The general exams are closed to students who have more than 90 credit hours.

Students must pass a test to receive credit and the amount of credit given varies with each test. All tests, except the Writing 323 exam, are objective and take from 60-90 minutes to complete. Credit received for the tests is recorded on students' transcripts, but test scores are not.

Steven Staats, a University testing assistant, points out CLEP tests are not the same as course

challenge exams. Course challenge, or credit by exam, is not a national, standardized program as is CLEP. It is a local program under which University departments compose and grade their own test.

Students must petition a department to take a course challenge exam, and they may take the exam by appointment. Course challenge exams cost \$15 per test.

Staats stresses that students who plan to take CLEP exams must pre-register 30 days prior to the desired test date.

"Students can't just walk in and take the test," he explains. "They need to pre-register so we can order the necessary number of tests." Testing takes place the third week of every month throughout the year.

The people who take CLEP exams are often older students returning to school after working for several years, Staats says.

"Older students who come back to school have had a lot of experience in some of the general and subject areas," he explains, "and they may be able to apply that experience to the tests."

Crawford asks students who consider taking a CLEP exam the following questions: Do you read a lot? Do you perform well on multiple choice exams? Do you handle test anxiety well? Do you have fairly extensive general knowledge?

If students answer yes to these questions, they will probably perform well on the CLEP exam, Crawford says.

To prepare for the exams,

Staats suggests students study the sample question sheet available in Room 354 Susan Campbell Hall and review one or more of the suggested standard texts.

A CLEP exam preparation handbook, containing simulated CLEP tests and their answers, is available to students in the CSPA Advising Office in Room 121 Hendricks Hall. Crawford says the Advising Office will close in March, but he hopes the handbook will be made available in the Academic Advising Office in Room 107 Friendly Hall.

Few students seem aware of the opportunities provided by CLEP and Crawford theorizes this is because universities do not stress the program. He says universities lose credit-hour production through CLEP.

Crawford explains that the state universities' funding is determined by the number of credit hours carried by students. Universities do not receive funding for credits obtained by students through CLEP.

Rowe points out CLEP has been publicized at the University through notices posted around the school, through an information table established intermittently in the EMU and through her own personal efforts.

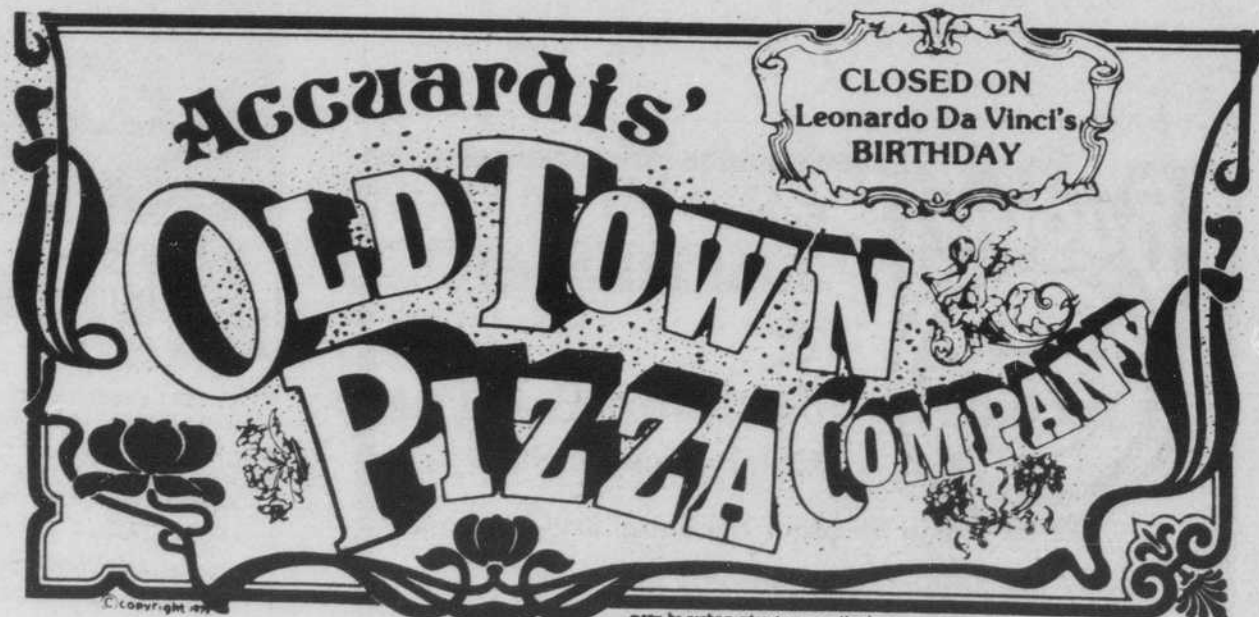
She explains that the program "just doesn't catch fire with people until they realize they need the credit."

Staats encourages people to come in and look at the CLEP test material. "The tests are generally quite fair," he says, "and people can get an idea from the handouts whether or not they should take the test."

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