



Photo by Mark Pynes

The lie invented by the writer reveals the truth, says author Herbert Gold.

Writer's 'lies' reveal the truth, create 'a-ha' type experience

By GINGER BARNES
Of the Emerald

Addressing the "art of successfully combining fiction and lying," novelist, writer and traveler Herbert Gold casually delivered jokes and shared personal anecdotes with his audience Thursday afternoon.

"The difference between a lie and the lie that is invented by a writer," explained Gold, "is that the lie invented by the writer reveals the truth. It is a fantasy that is somehow communicated." This fantasy, the author said, should create an "a-ha" type of experience in the reader in such a way that the author's dream becomes the reader's experience.

"There is nothing more boring than someone else's dream," said Gold, "and there are only a few artists or writers that can take dreams and make them art. Otherwise, the dreams we have are trivial, wish-fulfillment, fear or phobia dreams. The magic of storytel-

ling is making a trivial dream 'quadrivial,' making it storeable."

Gold has written numerous novels including, "Fathers", "He/She", and "Family". He said his own writing is a mixture of personal experience and "objective/correlatives," a T.S. Elliott term which means to objectively tell a story so that it becomes a reality for the reader.

To tell a reader that the sergeant was a mean, brutal, sadistic man isn't believable to the reader, said Gold. "You have to find the objective/correlative of how you saw that man."

The reader can get a picture of that sergeant without being told about him by using dialogue. An example Gold used was to dialogue the sergeant answering the question, "What are you doing?" by saying "Eating chocolate and killing people."

Making a writer's experience interesting and

shareable with others is one of the hardest things to do, said Gold, but besides using rhetorical possibilities, he added, there are other ways a writer can create the "a-ha" experience in the reader. A writer must use language in its largest sense, explained Gold, including using the language we know today.

This is a good argument for reading things that are less than eternal because these things are written in the language we know. Bob Dylan's poems create feelings in those who hear them and they can be sung according to interpretation. The classic stories sometimes need to be refreshed by our own experience."

Gold will speak again at 2:30 p.m. today in Room 176, Education. His appearances are presented by the Creative Writing Program on campus, through the gifts of the Time Life Foundation and University alumnus Kenny Moore.

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