

'A long block of time'

NEA grant frees Lyons to write book

All Richard Lyons wanted was "a long block of time" to be free to write. Last Thursday he got what he wanted.

When Lyons, head of the University's creative writing department, found out the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him \$12,500, he started making plans to write a "long piece of fiction."

The grants, which are allocated to states on the basis of population, finance a number of projects.

"I feel I am among the few fortunates," Lyons says. "I have no doubt that there are many who deserve this award but there just isn't enough money."

Lyons says he'd rather not comment on what his book will be about until it is finished.

Lyons plans to start work around the first of the year and finish up at the end of the summer.

"What I wanted was a long block of time that would free me up to work on the piece," he says.

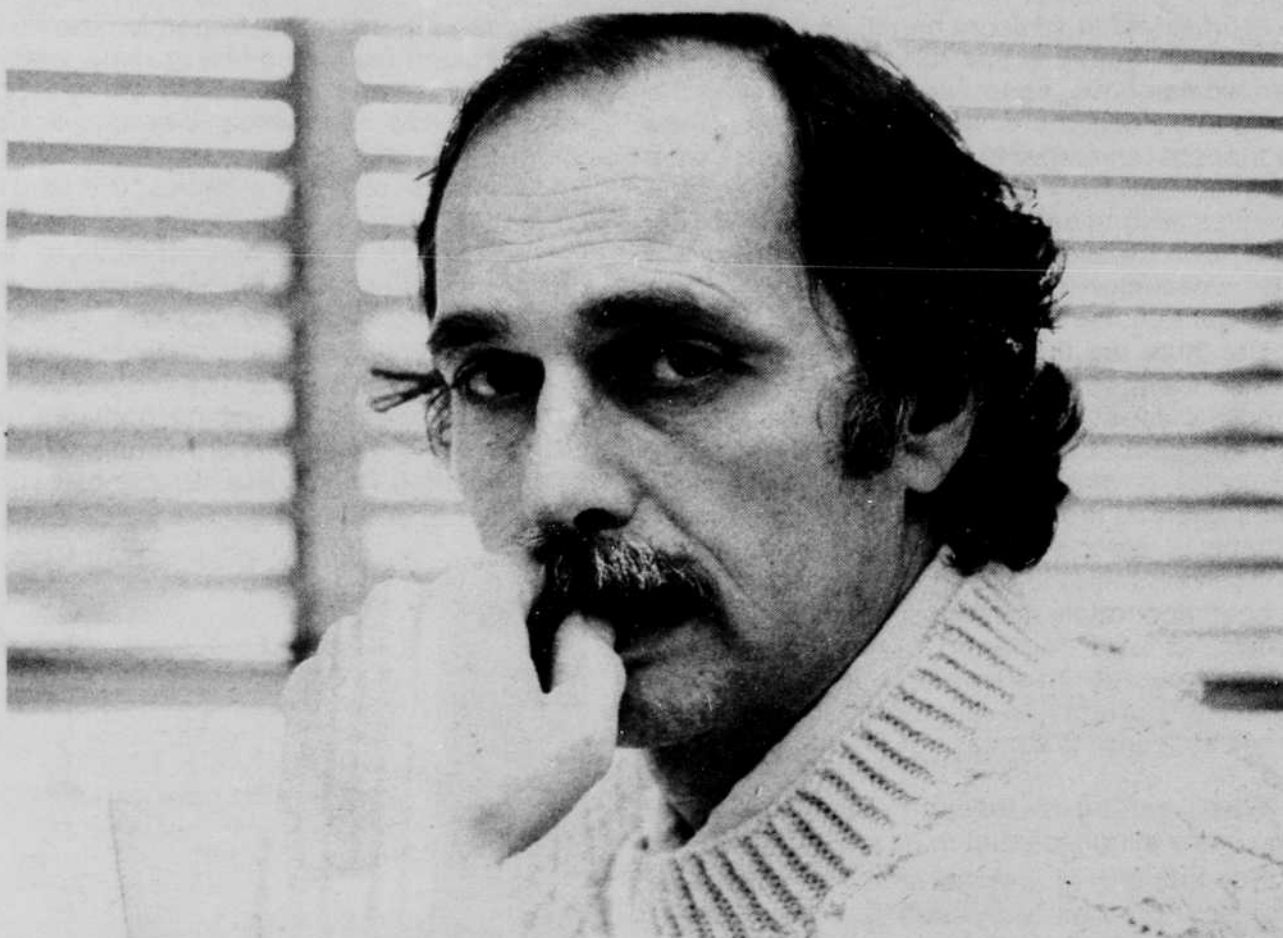
The grant money can be used at the discretion of the recipient, Lyons says. It helps pay for research, travel or just living expenses while the project is being completed.

The NEA was the subject of an investigation by the Reagan administration when it was looking for areas to trim the federal budget. What saved the NEA was the fact the investigative committee found NEA projects resulted in "something worthwhile, something of value," Lyons says.

The research and approval of the NEA reflects the validity of his project, Lyons says.

"It's a real boost to me."

John Whitley, editor of the Northwest Review, was also awarded an NEA grant. Whitley was unavailable for comment.



Richard Lyons

Photo by Bob Baker

FSO Continued from Page 1

The FSO, formed from the 1960s International Student Services, has some control over the foreign students' organizations it coordinates, Mungai says. Organizations need FSO authorization to use campus facilities, and the director must approve activities funded through the FSO budget.

The FSO is the sole provider of money for some foreign students' organizations.

The Muslim Student Association is independent of the FSO because "we are not solely on nationalistic or geographic grounds," says spokesman Ahmed Altwaijri.

The Chinese Student Association was a part of the FSO at one time but broke away in 1972 because of significant growth, says director Gabriel Leung. Gary Liang, a member of the CSA, says the organization currently has about 200 members from Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Like the MSA, the chief purpose of the CSA is to promote cultural understanding through symposiums, exhibits, and speakers, Leung says. The group also assists new foreign students and participates in the international fair, he says.

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