

# WRITINGS

## Nuclear peril: literary images

**Warnings: An Anthology On The Nuclear Age**  
Edited by John Witte  
Northwest Review Books



With literary and visual images, "Warnings: An Anthology On The Nuclear Peril"

presents the spectrum of thoughts and emotions that have risen in this century under the threat of nuclear destruction.

The book's poetry, art, fiction and essays represent the combined talents of more than 40 writers and artists. The collection includes works by prominent authors such as Ken Kesey, William Stafford and Alan Dugan, and an interview with poet Gary Snyder.

Street photography, three-dimensional painting and conceptual art are some of the styles used by the contributing artists to illustrate their perceptions of nuclear anxiety.

"Eight Photographs," shot by Marly Stone during an anti-nuclear rally in New York City, is a series of photos that have been painted, pencilled, bleached, and burned around the edges, giving them a surrealistic quality.

Throughout the concrete poetry, the comfortable, civilized world of flowers, animals and baby strollers decorated with "Greenpeace," "Save the Whales" and "No Nukes" (from Michael David Madonick's "American Spring"), are starkly contrasted with the vivid horror of nuclear explosions and their aftereffects.

The fallacy of human omnipotence and ethnocentrism is summarized in the last couplet of Richard Eberhart's "Testimony": "We wanted to look in the eye of God / We got six feet of radioactive sod."

Through the use of graphic images and symbolism, as exemplified in James Bertolino's "The American," the poetry of such writers as Ray Young Bear, Geraldine Little, Madeline DeFrees and Ralph Salisbury is able to express almost inexpressible fears.

The questions and concerns of the nuclear age are put forth in several diverse short stories. R.D. Skilling's "Sunday Mornings" deals with social changes from pre-nuclear times to the present and the ensuing emergence of a world that is more nightmarish and gruesome.

"X-Day," by Marie Luise Kaschnitz, probes into the thoughts of a woman who knows it is the last day of her family's and her world's existence.

The essays examine some of the current intellectual approaches to the nuclear peril. "Something For Our Poetry," by John Haines, looks at the relationship of politics to writing, and Robert Mielke's "Imaging Nuclear Weaponry: An Ethical Taxonomy of Nuclear Representation" discusses nuclear discourse and imagery in fiction, film and television from the 1950s to the present.

Through these essays runs the underlying theme that society must shake off its apathy and become more conscious of the implications of nuclear war.

In Phil Woods' interview

with Gary Snyder, some of which was recorded at the University in 1983, Snyder comments on the vast differences between modern industrial civilizations and the pre-literate cultures which were much closer to natural processes. He also addresses the necessity of deeper self and social awareness in order to avoid complete destruction of Earth.

"Warnings" contains modern anti-nuclear literature and artwork of excellent caliber, created by some of the most talented artists and writers in the country. More than an anthology, it is a creative social statement that speaks to the greatest of all crises.

Lori Stephens

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### YOU CAN'T GET THERE (BURTON'S RESTAURANT) FROM HERE (U. OF O. DAILY EMERALD OFFICE)

Every fall the Daily Emerald publishes a feature on the restaurants in the campus area with a mild critique on the food and the prices...an admirable service to the incoming freshmen.

A commendable effort, certainly, on the part of the editors, releasing a team with youthful hubris rushing into the breach to provide knowledge to the innocent palate.

However, as the proud owner of a restaurant which is not much further from the Emerald office than an outstanding tee shot by Jack Nicklaus, a restaurant which has been in operation for many years and has hundreds of regulars, including faculty and students, I was shocked to read the article and find no mention of Burton's At-The-Campus Restaurant!

The first inclination was to jump into the swampland of paranoia, to get on the phone to the powers that be and claim discrimination, prejudice...even the lack of editorial integrity. I did check my accounts payable and discovered that my advertising bills to the Emerald were paid in full.

Also, since I hired students only to work at Burton's, and have placed over 100 students on the payroll in the past four years, I figured my individual public relations could not be in question.

Perhaps, in their anxiety to do a good job, Emerald reporters, like hummingbirds ecstatic in a field of daisies, buzzed around the fast-food eateries, overlooking the Bird Of Paradise in the center.

However, calm reflection of the omission came up with a simple answer. The reporter(s) that had the responsibility for the general roundup of restaurants in the area simply was not aware of the location. This obviously was my failure, and I seek to correct it now.

To say that Burton's is sandwiched (what other verb could I use?) between KINKO'S and KAUFMAN'S will not necessarily pin point the location. Or to give the address: 854 East 13th St.

More specific directions are obviously called for. Incoming students cannot help but notice Taylor's Tavern across from the University Bookstore. Thus, if you roll a bowling ball West, past the Red Rooster barbershop, and jog (killing two birds with one stone) along the ball for nine seconds, and then veer sharply to the left, you'll plunge through Burton's front door.

Or, if you are at Rennie's, another popular tavern, and watch a crow fly due Southwest at an approximate angle of 45 degrees, you can look down and see Burton's overhanging sign.

And, if you leave the Seven-Eleven at the corner of Alder and 13th, and walk East just 84 paces you will be there. This varies slightly as to the length of the pedestrian's step.

Or, better yet, if you are in front of the University Bookstore, you can actually toss one of those over-priced used textbooks, again Southwest, and perhaps hit Burton's window Michelob beer signs.

Last, if you are in front of the Kona Cafe, another fine restaurant, and you have legs like Carl Lewis, you can take a flying leap across the street and EUREKA! There is Burton's.

There. It's not exactly like finding a needle in a haystack, but I hope I've helped. The phone number is 342-2241. Just call, and next time I'll send a taxi for you.

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