

POP

Maurice Davis steps up to the microphone. "Let's hear it one more time for Kristin," he says, prodding the caffeine-jacked coffeehouse audience into another round of applause. Davis, dreadlocked and dripping with jewelry, is host-

ence members. From Paris' Left Bank in the '20s to the New York beatnik scene in the '50s to today's off-campus bohème joints, the coffeehouse has been the venue of choice for that most untoward brand of performer — the poet.

Typically imagined, poets are cloistered and serious writer types, hunched over pen and paper in seaside cabins near Dublin. So what is it that possesses these people to take the stage with only a thin

Beside hosting the UnUrban shows, Davis participates in readings three or four times a week. "Readings are a safe place for people to create," he says. "What's amazing is the passion that comes from people when they read their words. That's the magic right there; that's the purity."

Still, magic and purity don't pay the gas bill, a fact that Beer knows all too well. "I'll either be heading to law school or

another grad school after this," he says of the two-year MFA program. "But part of the reason I came here is to cement this sort of work — to acknowledge to myself that this is very important to me."

"If I were independently wealthy, I'd just want to be writing poetry, writing essays — exploring the frontier of language."

■ Glenn McDonald, Assistant Editor

Poetry In Motion

ing tonight's open mike poetry reading at UnUrban, an "anti-trendy" coffeehouse in Santa Monica, Calif. The place is packed.

"Let's see," Davis says, consulting his list. "Next up is Ben. Ben? Where's Ben?"

"He's in the john," someone shouts.

On cue, Ben steps out of the bathroom. The crowd erupts into applause. Grinning, he takes a bow. "I feel like a 3-year-old making his first potty," he says, grabbing his notebook and heading for the stage.

"Your best work so far, Ben," someone yells.

"I dunno," he answers. "I feel a little flush."

Such is the atmosphere at UnUrban, and at hundreds of other small-scale independent coffeehouses dotting college towns coast to coast. No blaring amplifiers, no impersonal bartenders — just java, mood lighting and smart-ass audi-

Mead notebook between them and a potentially abusive audience?

"I want immediate gratification," says poet Patrick Mooney, a regular performer at UnUrban. "I want my MTV, my ATM — all those three-letter conveniences. If something happens today, I can write a poem about it and perform it tonight."

John Beer, a first year MFA student in U. of Iowa's prestigious Writer's Workshop program, recently took over organizing the Talk Art Cabaret, a bi-weekly spoken-word event featuring fiction and poetry. Support for the shows is strong, Beer says, with upwards of 100 students attending.

"In performance, you add a new dimension," Beer says. "You find a way to recreate for an audience what you have on paper. Also, spoken poetry can focus on the musical aspects of the language, to complement the content."



Poet Maurice Davis is so crazy, some of his poems don't even rhyme!

Andrew Scholer, Daily Bruin, UCLA

PULSE

Women aren't the only ones eyeing the scales. Men are, too. Except no one's eyeing them eyeing the scales.

Although the National Association of

Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders estimates that 7 million of the approximate 8 million people with eating disorders are women, that's still an incredible number of sufferers who have essentially been overlooked.

Eating disorders seem to flourish during the college years, that crucial time when students' appearances become a statement of personal worth.

the U. of Iowa's eating disorders program, some of the reasons men develop eating disorders are to better their sports performance, avoid heart disease or improve a gay relationship. In addition, men are more likely than women to have been victimized as children by their male peers for being "soft" or for having a body type that deviated from the norm.

College athletes pressured by sports

women with eating disorders suffer to become as skinny as possible," says Hal Crawford, a psychiatrist at the U. of Arizona, "men sometimes diet to gain weight, by taking steroids, consuming protein powders and taking in as much food as possible." Also, men are more often criticized at both ends of the spectrum: too obese and too thin.

Ralph Wilps, a psychologist who is a recovered victim of an eating disorder, says men with eating disorders feel particularly isolated. "Men are twice misunderstood," he says. As with breast cancer, he says, doctors don't look for eating disorders as much in men, and women don't like it when men join their support groups. As a result, men feel not only neglected in diagnosis but also ashamed of having a "women's" disease.

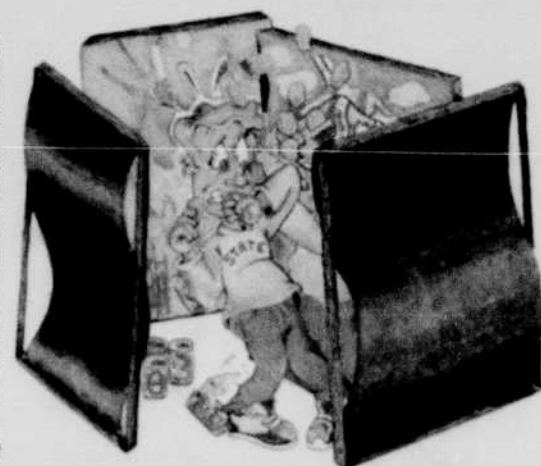
Wilps believes eating disorders are difficult for men of all ages, because society conditions men to be "captain of the ship" and "man of the house."

"In treatment for an eating disorder," he says, "men learn to break down the walls and realize that they have a choice of either dwindling away to a walking death or facing that they are not a piece of steel."

For more information, call the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders at 708-831-3438 or the National Eating Disorders Organization at 614-436-1112.

■ Karen Braddom, Manhattan College

Men Fight the Losing Battle



Roger Doeleman, Technician, North Carolina State U.

"In college, you have to have a nice body to get any attention," explains a female Indiana U. junior.

A male Manhattan College senior recovering from binge eating disorder says it was this emphasis on looks at college that made him self-conscious. "It isn't like high school — people don't know each other, so they judge according to appearance."

Men have additional reasons for dieting than just wanting to be thin.

According to Arnold Andersen, psychiatrist and director of

that mandate weight loss, such as gymnastics and wrestling, are especially vulnerable to eating disorders. In fact, one study found that college athletes are up to six times more likely than the general public to display anorexic or bulimic eating behaviors.

Anorexia is often a sign of confusion about sexual orientation, Andersen says, and the college years are when many people come to grips with their orientation. Andersen speculates that approximately 1 out of 10 cases of classic anorexia or bulimia nervosa in colleges are men and that 20 percent of all males with eating disorders are homosexual.

Men's eating disorders have broader definitions than women's. "While most