

ARTS

Poet combines arts, business

By D. Dietrich
Of The Print

Writing a book is not easy. Combine the writing with illustrating, publishing, designing and marketing, and you have the accomplishment of Joanne Sullivan with her newly published book of poetry, *Orchids in the Sand*. A second-year graphic arts student at Clackamas Community College, Sullivan credits "expert instructors" at the college as a large help in the creation of her book.

Unlike the majority of poets hoping to be accepted by a publishing company, Sullivan didn't attempt to solicit her work to any publishing agents. Not that she didn't feel confident submitting her poetry, but because she said she wanted her book to be a "whole concept" of her character. She said she wanted to make sure no one else injected ideas without her power of authority because the book was to be a part of her personality. Sullivan decided to print the book herself using contacts she had made as the historian for the Oregon State Poetry Association.

By printing the book herself, Sullivan had "complete freedom of thought structure," she said. That included artwork and page design. The illustrations consist of a special process of photographing dried flowers and plants, an idea she processed herself using her expertise with drying flowers. Sullivan chose to use brown ink for both the print and the artwork for a certain effect. "I wanted it to be incidental," she said of the illustrations.

Sullivan said she felt the design of the poems was important because, "Sometimes you need space." The spacing and dropping of lines throughout the book allow the reader to interpret the poems several ways, as metaphors shift the meanings of the lines and keep the phrases lively and personal to the reader.

"I'm like a gambler. I'm gambling on myself," said Sullivan about publishing the book under her own company name of Mica, which is a "gleaming, shiny rock." She's betting that she'll recover her initial costs and may go into a second printing. The odds are looking



Joanne Sullivan

Photo by Joel Miller

GUILT

The quantity of guilt can be measured as an incoming tide, by weighing the amount of disturbance.

The mystery is solved by letting it move away in an outgoing tide, remembering, guilts are lessons learned.

By Joanne Sullivan

good already with about a hundred copies sold in less than one week of hitting the market. Sullivan is currently working hard on marketing, which leaves her little time to write, she said. But what is more important to her is, "I did what I intended," which was to "beat the system," she said. The system to Sullivan includes an artist's loss of control over the structure of their book when handled by a publishing firm.

Throughout the writing of her book Sullivan had encouragement from many fellow poets and artists, including poet Rod McKuen, whom she considers her "hero in poetry," she said. "I always enjoyed his writing. It's today, it's now," she said. Sullivan dedicated a poem to McKuen which she gave to him when he was at an autograph party at the Lloyd Center at Meier and Frank. He later wrote her a letter in which he said, "I'm looking forward to buying a copy of your book." With those words of encouragement, she intensified her pace on the book.

Although Sullivan has had no formal training in poetry, she said she has been interested in it since high school and has always been a poetic-type of person. Many of the poems in her book are dedicated to people such as her prospector father who "was always doing something for someone," and this was something she could do for him, she said. Along with her father, Sullivan wrote poems to her five children and her husband, Don Sullivan, who is an auto body teacher at the College.

Sullivan has other art interests, which include designing and making some of her own furniture and a bit of landscaping for friends. Part of her creative flair she attributes to her ability to visualize and a "programming for detail," she said. Sullivan hopes to write another book with an instructional format about drying flowers. For now, she's enthusiastically marketing her book which she hopes to circulate nationally.

Orchids in the Sand is currently available at Powell's book store in Portland and Graham's in Milwaukie for \$6.95.

One-acts begin rehearsals

Students in the Projects in Theater class have begun production on three one-act plays due to open in December.

"Perfect Pearly" and "If Men Played Cards As Women Do," are two short scenes chosen by the class. "The Interview Job" is a full one-act play lasting approximately thirty minutes.

The class is scheduled to run three shows between Dec. 4-6.

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