

N O R T H E A S T C O L O R A D O

January 12, 1986

The Personal and Impersonal Barnes

*I am dreaming. I am sitting here dreaming. It is raining
and a good time for dreaming. I do not know whether
the poetry will come today. If it does, I will be
ready for it.*

*I think it is going to come soon. There was an image of a
footbridge a moment's eye ago, and a river under it.
The water was still with a scum on it, and what looked
like, from that distance, a paper boat. It could have
been a paper sack. But that doesn't matter. Sack or
boat.*

*A limestone bluff to the north. I think I see a cave, with
flowers at the mouth. Steps leading down from the top.
I walk down them. Someone has lived in this place. In
powdered stone, the soft imprint of a thigh. Ants trail
across the dunes.*

*Strange how the wind writes on water. The wind carries
the scum away, and the sky floats by the mouth of the cave.
Someone is looking out across the river. It must be me,
but I do not know the eyes. They are a long way back,
and they see only the reflection on the water, not the
water itself. They are looking at the falling sky.*

*The water is suddenly white with geese, which see something
starting. The geese do not fly; they paddle dumb and
careful circles around one another, timing each stroke
with the certainty of flight. I am sure of one thing:
they try to know what it is amazes them before they
try the heavy sky.*

*On the bridge, someone has left a grandfather's clock. Its
face is peeling in the rain, and the short hand is
missing. I turn the key; there is an odd sound, like
sunlight striking leaves, or kisses in dark old doorways.
Something is going to start in a minute if I keep turning
the key.*

10-4-76

Mason City, Iowa

There you have it. A provocative poem, a rare glimpse into the soul of another man, into the heart of the author. Now, we know, like that grandfather's clock on the bridge, how this author ticks.

Wrong?

"I may have spent some time in Mason City, Iowa, on this date, but this is not me," said author Jim Barnes, professor of English.

Poetry is not personal; it should not be personal or it is autobiographical, Barnes said. Credit the man, the author, the poet with a little imagination. He said it is the prerogative of any writer to lie.

"They [poets, short story writers, novelists] are all welcome to use literary techniques in any way," he said.

So, Barnes, the writer of short stories and four books of poetry, the editor of the nationally acclaimed *Chariton Review* and the founder and editor of the *Chariton Review Press*, sits at his modern desk in his small but modern office in A.V.H. his imagination literally spewing out line after glorious line of poetry.

Wrong, again.

"I don't enjoy it [writing poetry]; it is hard work. Right after I'm finished, I enjoy having done it, but that is a very fleeting moment

because there is the knowledge that I have to do another one."

Barnes calls himself a poet of place; he likes to give the persona of his poetry a concrete natural setting. But Barnes' place is in his own imagination; like Emily Dickinson, his passion is of the mind, not necessarily from personal experience.

"The problem is the word 'experience.' If you have a mind and control of your five senses, there are very few experiences that you can't have. You don't have to go out and kill a dog to write about a dead dog or to even write about killing a dog," Barnes said.

Barnes reads very few writers with control of their senses. He said he reads more bad poetry than good when he sifts through the many manuscripts sent to the *Chariton Review*. But, Barnes must be finding something readable among the entries from amateurs and professionals; the *Chariton Review* was ranked among the top 50 poetry publications in the nation in 1984 by *Writer's Digest*. It is also growing in prestige and subscriptions.

"I honestly think that the *Chariton Review* has done as much for this University nationally as anything else," he said.

And Barnes should know. He has been with the University for 16 years and has edited the *Chariton Review* since 1975. Two of the six books the *Chariton Review Press*, of which he is founder and editor, has published have won substantial national awards: the William Carlos Williams award from the Poetry Society of America and the Columbia University Translation Prize.

Barnes reads his works all over the country. Since his poetry is not private, not personal, then it is to be made public. There is always ego involved, but it also makes his life suddenly expansive. He has a forum; he is representing one's need to be heard and . . . "it puts bread on the table," he laughs.

The author's most current work is "A Season of Loss," a book of poetry published by Purdue University Press. The critic T.R. Hummer said of Barnes' work, "The method of Jim Barnes' poetry is never far from chant, a virtue that gives his poems a double edge of the impersonal and the personal." "A Season of Loss" balances unromanticized antiquity and contemporary America on a painful obsidian knife-edge."

Barnes spent his youth in eastern Oklahoma, but he did not grow up there. He said he learned nothing from his high school education, except a love of contemporary fiction and how to type. Instead, he said, he discovered great authors like James Joyce and Sherwood Anderson on his own from a grocery shelf. It was, ironically, during the 10 years Barnes spent lumberjacking in

Oregon, that he "literally" grew up.

"I got my education in the '50s (while lumberjacking), living with my eyes and ears open for a change—something I had not done before," he said.

Barnes read extensively during this time, but the biggest lesson lumberjacking taught him was that he needed to quit. He needed a creative outlet. Ten years out of high school, Barnes went back to Oklahoma then to Arkansas to go to college, and that is where he discovered poetry and short-story writing.

"Discovered" may be a misnomer; Barnes dug and scraped for the buried treasure called writing for several years. After a 48-page "terrible" novella and 17 or 18 "terrible" short stories, Barnes finally wrote his first and only short story to be published, "a masterpiece in my eyes." It took 10 years, though, for that short story to be accepted by a literary magazine.

Barnes hasn't written a short story since, but would still like to. He also likes the idea of writing a novel.

For now, though, Barnes will stick to writing his poetry, "because it gives me so many choices. There are so many containers [in poetry] that I can pour my ideas into," he said. The containers often have the appearance of regular meter, but Barnes also has written much free-form poetry. Like the theme of many of the stories he accepts for the *Chariton Review*, Barnes' poetry often deals with alienation of the persona, with the searching spirit of the subject. This, he said again, does not reflect his character. One can see, though, Barnes' Choctaw-Welsh-English ancestry in his poetry.

*For one thing, you can believe it:
the skin chewed soft enough to wear,
the bones heven hard as a talent
from hemeck. It's a kind of wear-
crow that will follow you home nights.
You've seen it ragged against a field,
but you seldom think, at the time,
to get there it had to walk through hell.*

What advice does the editor of a publication that helps recognize struggling writers give to those struggling writers?

"I would honestly tell a beginning writer this: if you want to have peace of mind, stop writing. If you get hooked, it's going to bother you for the rest of your life. You might find it deadly. If you can't stop writing, you better jolly well learn to love the language. Learn to use the language in the best possible way; learn to find the right word to put in the right place, love the sounds," Barnes said.

"This from a man who doesn't enjoy writing, and 'It is work. It is also, after all, my art; and if I don't make it, it won't get done. My immortality will not be.'"

Instructor's Text Reaches Students, Professionals

NMSU students are not the only ones learning from "High-Risk Infants: Identification, assessment, and intervention," a textbook used in the Communication Disorders program and written by an NMSU instructor.

Since the book came out on the market in October 1986, Louis Rossetti's work has been used by professionals and students from around the country. Rossetti is an associate professor of speech pathology.

"The book's publishers, Little, Brown and Co., said they have had good reactions to the text.

"It was very well received at the American Speech and Hearing Association convention," Sheryl Sacks, product manager, said.

Rossetti uses the book in his graduate-level class on high-risk infants. This is one of the few classes in the country geared toward high-risk infants. Rossetti knows of only two other such classes, one in New Jersey and one in California, and both use his text.

The study of high-risk infants is a relatively new area in developmental psychology and medicine. Several books related to high-risk infancy are presently available, but according to Rossetti, they are not ideal for students or professionals in the field.

"The books are either so heavily research-oriented that a person working with babies can't interpret the data, or they are written by multiple authors, which makes it hard to maintain a consistent theme throughout the book," Rossetti said.

Although not written for parents of high-risk babies, the book includes a chapter on parents and can be used by professionals to instruct parents.

"High-Risk Infants: Identification, assessment, and intervention," was written to "better equip professionals who are out there doing work with these infants, so that they can do a better job," Rossetti said.

Fifteen years ago, Rossetti began working with children who had survived difficult births. The small size of an infant and a premature birth put a child at a greater risk for developmental, school, behavioral, family and social problems, Rossetti said.

"Difficulties are linked to the fact that the babies were born too soon, too small," he said.

The book defines a high-risk infant as a baby born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 lbs.), or born prior to the 38 week gestational age. Under these circumstances, the infant is not only at risk for its life, but for problems later in life as well.

Since completing his book, Rossetti has taken on two other challenges. First, he has begun working on a second book, titled "Assessment in Early Child-

hood: Birth to Age Three." Second, Rossetti has applied for a \$200,000 grant from the federal government designed to develop a growth and development clinic for northeast Missouri. The clinic would be part of the Communication Disorders department.

If funded, the clinic will bring every high-risk infant born in northeast Missouri to Kirksville for evaluation. The infants will be checked by the clinic on a regular basis to ensure that developmental problems are identified, and as the title of the book says, assessed and intervened. A professional would be available to go into homes and instruct parents on how they can help their babies overcome any problems

they may have.

"This is an innovative program—there is nothing else like it in the state of Missouri," Rossetti commented.

With medical care improving and technological advances, more high-risk babies are surviving. As a result, "the question isn't whether they will live . . . the question is what will the quality of their life be down the road," Rossetti said. Rossetti hopes his book will be a positive force toward that goal.

"The main point of the book . . . was to alert other professionals that they should be doing something, if they're not already, with these kids and alert them to the kind of things they can be doing with babies born too soon."

Disaster Wins Award

Receiving award recognition for a disaster sounds a little strange, but NMSU's Residence Life Program did, that is, for their mock disaster.

NMSU received first place for Safety Awareness Programming at the Upper Midwest Region of the Association of College and University Housing Officers (ACUHO) regional conference held in LaCrosse, Wisc., last November. The award was given to NMSU for the mock disaster in Missouri Hall last March. Students, staff members and local emergency crews took part in the event.

Ron Gaber, director of residence life, will give a presentation on how the mock disaster was designed and imple-

mented at the international conference of ACUHO (ACUHO-I) this summer in Los Angeles.

Information compiled from the results of the mock disaster will eventually be used to train staff members and students on what procedures are necessary in the event of an actual disaster. Local fire departments have already used the material for training.

"Students are not always aware of how safety is promoted in residence halls. This award demonstrates our commitment to providing security and safety for our students," Gaber said.

Residence Life plans to hold future mock disasters every few years.



The atmosphere was oriental, but the mood was Spanish at Minn's Cuisine, Dec. 17.

Thomas Coates, associate professor of foreign language, and senior Amy Wood, perform a humorous skit in Spanish in front of approximately 30 students gathered to show off what they've learned in Coates' classes during the year. This is the third annual "Spanish Semester in Review."

Telelecture: A Great Idea for Teaching

Pat Ellebracht, associate professor of business, has brought more than 250 of the top businessmen in the country to his classes. However, his students have never seen any of them.

Interaction between professionals and students was made possible by an idea Ellebracht had 16 years ago, telelectures—lectures by prominent businessmen via amplified telephone. The concept, which Ellebracht developed, "Telelecturer—An Innovative Classroom Tool," will be published in the upcoming book, "Great Ideas for Teaching Economics," Third Edition.

Ellebracht's idea was selected from a large number of applications. His idea has previously been published in the Journal of Financial Education and Industry Week.

The technology for Ellebracht's telelectures is simple. When he began the lectures in 1971, an amplifier was connected to the phone. Today, Ellebracht uses a portable conference telephone.

This method of bringing top lecturers into the classroom saves time and money, plus it allows students to interact with the speakers. Ellebracht said it is like playing golf with a pro—you can only learn.

Although the technique for presenting telelectures is easy, Ellebracht said there is always a risk involved. Some speakers are better than others, and some students just do not respond to telelectures. Initially, Ellebracht used telelectures in economics, corporate finance and investment classes. He presently uses them in management and other business classes.

Ellebracht is not really sure how the whole idea came about. He said he began by experimenting with a few lectures. Ellebracht revealed that one of the first telelecture participants, investment manager Philip A. Fisher, was highly supportive of the lectures. Fisher encouraged him to continue.

There is no real method for how speakers are chosen. Ellebracht generally tries to find someone who is not too well known. The bigger an organization is, the less likely they are to accept the lecture invitation.

Size is not the only reason companies choose not to lecture. Ellebracht once approached Johnson & Johnson, Co., and was turned down because the nature of the company's business was highly secretive.

Over the years, several impressive speakers have participated in the

telelectures. Three of the nine great investors listed in John Train's book, "Money Matters," have lectured via amplified telephone to Ellebracht's classes. Other notables include Paul F. Orefice, former financial vice president of The Dow Chemical Co.; Arthur Rock, venture tycoon; and Frank J. Hoehnmeier, executive vice president of The Prudential Insurance, Co., of America.

After an organization agrees to participate in a telelecture, Ellebracht sends them a list of questions they can use as guidelines for the lecture. Ellebracht stressed that it is important to let the lecturer know exactly what you want.

All of the telelectures are recorded on tape. Therefore, Ellebracht can present previous lectures to his students. The students cannot ask questions to a pre-recorded tape like they can with a "live" telelecture; however, Ellebracht feels students can learn much from both.

This spring, two more lectures will be added to the telelecture series. Ellebracht's classes will meet Inland Vacuum and L.L. Bean.

"This is a chance for students to listen to some of the top businessmen in the country. What's that worth?—depends on the student," he said.

Presenting the Grammy Award-winning
S A I N T L O U I S
S Y M P H O N Y
O R C H E S T R A
Leonard Slatkin, Music Director and Conductor
Wednesday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Baldwin Auditorium
presented by the Lyceum Series with financial assistance provided by the Missouri Arts Council and Union Electric



Roland Van Gieson arranges some of the 36 dolls donated to the University by his second cousin, former assistant professor of clothing and textiles Geraldine Gosch. Gosch willed the authentically dressed dolls to the Division of Family Sciences. The division will display the dolls in Division Head Louis Korslund's office and use them in clothing and textile classes and for costuming theater productions.

Gosch collected the dolls during her many travels abroad. The dolls are so authentic that the one depicting the bald Queen Elizabeth I actually has removable hair.

12 MONDAY

Sign-Up today through Thursday, Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by Blue Key/Cardinal Key Honor Societies. A/H and SUB lobbies, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Ryle, Centennial and Missouri Hall lobbies, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

13 TUESDAY

Last day to register and/or add classes.

- 3:30 p.m.—Informational meeting and clinic concerning **Bulldog mascot tryouts**, Pershing Building Little Gym.
- 5:30 p.m.—**Lambda Alpha Epsilon**, criminal justice fraternity, informational meeting, Pershing Building 335. All interested students are welcome.
- 6 p.m.—**Alpha Sigma Gamma** service sorority organizational meeting for spring semester, Violette Hall 172. All members should attend.
- 7 p.m.—**Residence House Association** meeting, SUB, Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- 7:30 p.m.—**Circle K Club** service organization meeting, SUB 6. New members are welcome.

14 WEDNESDAY

- Change of schedule fee (\$5) begins.
- Intramural Sports Department** men's and women's basketball (open and AST), and bowling (AST) roster deadline, Pershing Building 309. I-M office hours are noon-4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.
- 6 p.m.—**Campus Gold**, campus girl scout organization, open meeting, SUB 6. All members should attend.
- Accounting Club**, open meeting, Violette Hall 111. New members are welcome. Must be enrolled in or have completed Elementary Accounting I.
- 7 p.m.—**Delta Sigma Pi** and the Division of Business and Accountancy panel discussion, Violette Hall 121. Topic will be, "A Guide to the MBA Degree."
- French Club** meeting, SUB 2.

15 THURSDAY

- 3:30 p.m.—**Tryouts for Bulldog mascot**, Pershing Building Little Gym.
- 7 and 9:15 p.m.—**"Ferris Bueller's Day Off,"** SAB movie, Baldwin Auditorium. Admission is \$1.50 or free with an SAB sticker.
- 7:30 p.m.—**Historical Society** social club first meeting of semester, SUB 6.

THIS WEEK

17 SATURDAY

- 1 p.m.—**Men's and Women's swimming** vs. Washington University, Natatorium.
- 5:30 p.m.—**Women's basketball** vs. University of Missouri-Rolla, Pershing Arena.
- 7:30 p.m.—**Men's basketball** vs. University of Missouri-Rolla, Pershing Arena.

NOTES

The *Northeast Today* entry deadline is 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to Monday's issue. Forms are available in the Public Relations Office, A/H 202.

Student Senate applications for a freshman representative and councilman are due at 5 p.m., Wednesday, in the Student Senate Office, SUB. Class representatives must maintain a 2.2 GPA, and councilmen must maintain a 2.5 GPA. For more information, contact the Student Senate Office, 785-4193.

The French department is organizing an intensified six week French study at Laval University in Quebec from July 6 to Aug. 14. Students may have the chance to stay with French speaking families. Room, board, tuition and books will cost \$866.40. Contact Dr. McLane-Iles, Baldwin Hall 278, for further information.

Grants and Interest-Free Loans are available for sorority women. Applicants must be residents of the greater Kansas City area and be a senior by fall 1987. Applications are available until Jan. 30, in the Greek Life Office, Ryle Hall Foyer.

"Dames at Sea," SAB's Sixth Annual Dinner Theater begins at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 16, 17 and 18, in the SUB Georgian Room. Tickets are \$9 or \$5 with an SAB sticker. The price includes a buffet-style dinner and admittance to the play. Tickets are available in the SAB office, SUB, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and at the Edna Campbell Bookstore. If you have a valetine, please bring it when you purchase tickets.

Women interested in sorority life may register for Spring Rush from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Jan. 19-23, in the Greek Life Office, Ryle Hall Foyer. Cost is \$3, and a 2.5 GPA is required. A Spring Forum about sorority life will be at 7 p.m., Jan. 25, in the SUB Alumni Room.

Delta Sigma Pi will host its third annual "MBA Day" from noon-3:30 p.m., Jan. 21, on the first floor corridor of Violette Hall. Representatives from area schools will provide information about their MBA programs.

A conference for instructors titled "Development and Teaching Programs for Adults in the Humanities, Arts, and Sciences: An Exchange between Theory and Practice" will be held Feb. 19-22, in Chicago. The conference is sponsored by The University of Chicago Office of Continuing Education and by the Division of Humanities, Arts and Sciences of the National University Continuing Education Association. The conference will focus on the role of liberal education for adults. Registration fees range from \$150-\$195. For more information, contact Joyce Feucht-Havilar, conference coordinator, at 312/962-1723.

The **Science Seminar Series** will present Erwin Buncil, of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, and 12:30 p.m., Wednesday in the SUB, Activities Room. Buncil will speak on "Reactivity in Chemical Reactions."

KNEU is still taking applications for news, technical engineer, and disc jockeys for religious programming, international programming and classical music. Students should turn applications in to Lori Dunsieith, A/H 326, or KNEU station manager Courtney Stewart, immediately. All students and faculty members with program ideas should contact either Dunsieith at 785-4517, or Stewart at 627-1853.

Karen Quade, 1982 NMSU graduate, will present a violin recital at 8 p.m., Wednesday in the Baldwin Hall Little Theatre. Accompanied by Lenora Suppan on piano, Quade will perform works by Franck, Bruch, Kreisler and others. The concert is free and open to the public.

Intramural Sports Department roster deadline for men's and women's hot shot (open and AST) is Jan. 21, for men's and women's free throw (open and AST), Jan. 28.