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Poetry from chaos?
Prof proposes theory

By MARK BEATTY
Battalion Reporter



Dr. Paul Christensen

Poetry enjoys a rebirth as a genre every time the structure of thought in society seriously changes, Dr. Paul Christensen said Tuesday night.

Christensen, of the Texas A&M University English department, told the University's English society that there are three levels of awareness in society. These levels have an evolutionary relation to each other.

"The poem is essentially the awareness of 'self' as alone in the world," he said. "The lyric deliverance in the poem is the act of bringing the insides of self out, of making inner self aware of the outer one, as in self dialogue."

"Any time there has been profound and great shaking of the world, the first genre to surface after all the chaos and dust has settled is the poem."

As the poets mature, the world of fiction will surface, which includes the self with others, Christensen said. When fiction matures, drama is born. "Then the world crashes again and the poet surfaces again," he said.

Christensen compares the self in poetry with eating. He said the self takes objects in the world, digests them and turns them into being.

"Everything around us is objects," he said. "The objects become a part of the self and the poet tries to be the first to go out and eat the objects of the new world." He said that if the poet can do this, he will begin to give back the world into digested images of meaning.

The poet does this in stages, he said. First, the self is trying to taste the world. He groups things around him and categorizes them. Christensen calls this the level of the simile. Secondly, the self swallows these objects and produces images.

He calls this level the metaphor. Next, the self sees reality or the level of the symbol. Finally, the self sees everything literal and can translate into the ideal. This is the level of allegory.

"Nothing in the objective world that the poet sees is something that

he has not already seen," Christensen said.

The College English Association Critic recently published one of Christensen's poems. His work appears in the anthology "Poets," the book "Missing Selves" and the magazines "Porch," "thkin," and "Poets On: Endin"

THE BATT DOES IT DAILY

Prices may rise for cattle, hogs

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Cattle and hog prices during the first six months of 1979 will be higher than the first half of this year, the Agriculture Department predicted Tuesday.

Next year's poultry prices are expected to be at or above levels of the first half of 1978.

In a summary of a Livestock and Meat Situation report, economists said the price outlook was based on expectations of smaller supplies of red meat, increased poultry production and strong consumer demand for meat.

"For the consumer, the lower supplies of red meat suggest higher retail prices," the summary said. "While retail meat prices may continue to ease off this fall, they will probably begin to rise near year end or in early 1979."

The economists held out hope for inflation-strapped consumers with a prediction that red meat price in-

creases may be moderate if poultry supplies increase sufficiently.

Pork production is expected to increase 1 percent in the first six months of next year and 3 percent in the second quarter, a smaller gain than previously anticipated.

The economists said the number of hogs slaughtered this fall probably be below last year's, but low feed costs could encourage producers to market larger hogs, thus maintain total production levels of 1977.

Economists predicted that feeding of cattle will increase, but will not offset sharp reduction in non-feed cattle slaughter. The beef production in the first six months of next year will remain at 3 to 5 percent below the first half of 1978.

Total red meat production is expected to decline by 2 to 3 percent.

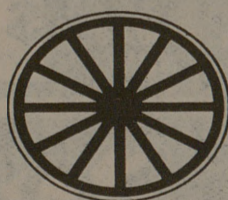
Broiler production is expected to increase 10 percent and total production 20 to 25 percent. Poultry production could expand by 1 percent.

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