

Thursday • April 9, 1998

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Poetically Speaking

Literature reading at Sweet Eugene's, writers' organizations fill the creative arts void at Texas A&M

BY LEAH TEMPLETON
Staff writer

Flowers are in bloom, birds are chirping and students are wearing shorts to class. This could only mean that spring has arrived. Everything seems to start moving at a slower pace and the lazy days of summer are near. Since times like these are usually spent outside relaxing or lost in thought, it seems only fitting that April is national poetry month.

To celebrate poetry month, a poetry reading is taking place at Sweet Eugene's tonight at 8:30 p.m. Dr. Chuck Taylor, an English professor at Texas A&M, said the reading is a good opportunity for students who have an interest in poetry.

"To be a poet you have to get practice reading aloud. This is a chance for students to overcome shyness and get some audience reaction."

Poetry readings have become quite popular all over the country, and Taylor believes tonight's reading will be entertaining.

"I hope it will be open and fluid; we're going to try to keep it lively with audience response," he said.

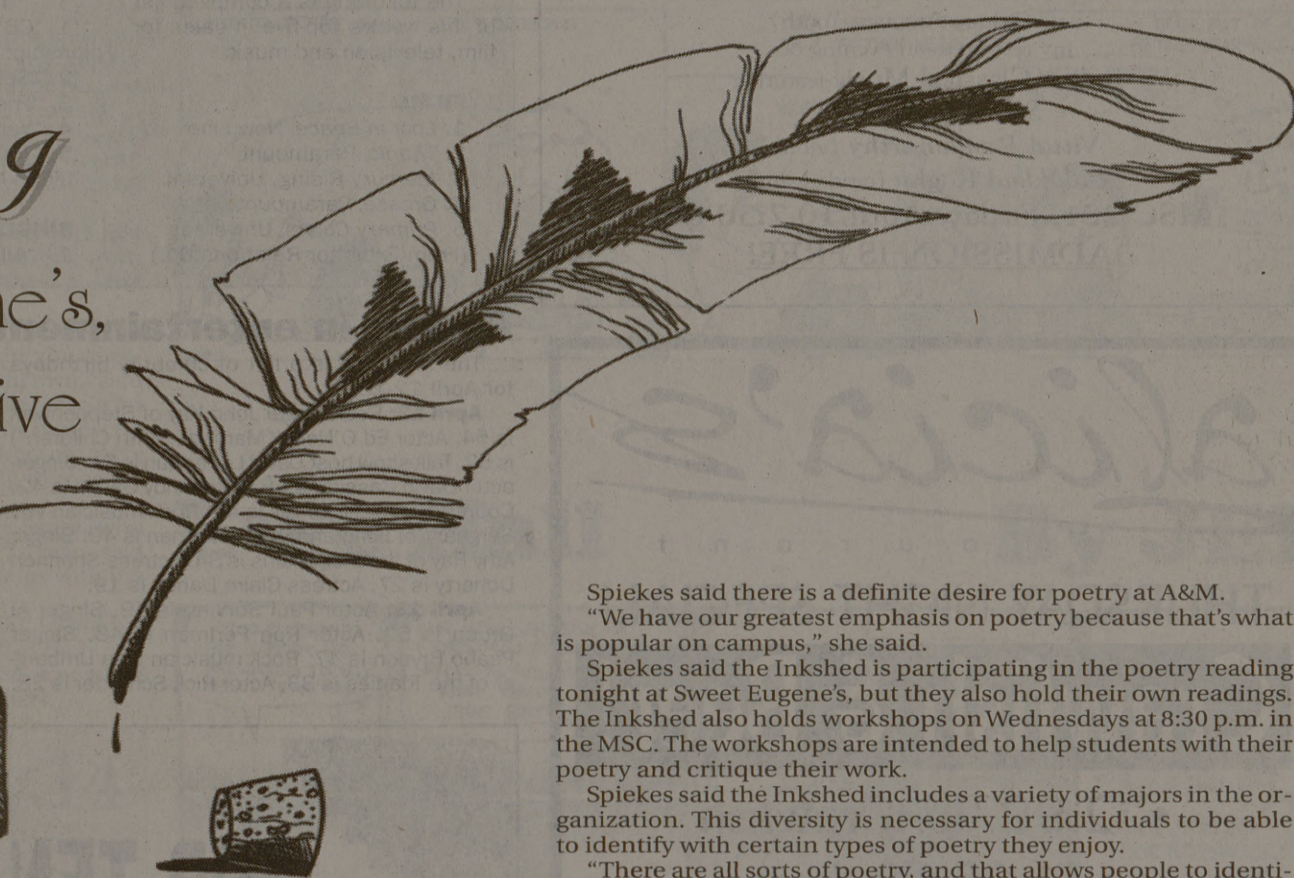
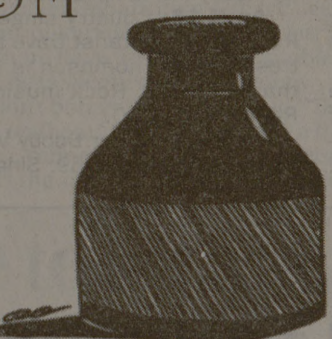
Taylor also said anyone is welcome to participate, and those involved with the reading should bring two poems, one work of their own and one poem by another poet.

Taylor teaches English 236 which is a beginning poetry class and said his students are taking part in the reading.

"There should be a wide variety of poetry to be read. Some students are planning on some comic poetry, some people write all mythical poetry and a lot of science majors are very idealistic and want some artistic expression."

Taylor said there is also relationship poetry about breaking up or being in love.

Taylor added that poets can sometimes become stereo-



typed as lonely geniuses who are isolated from society, therefore the purpose of the reading is "to celebrate the community of poets."

Taylor describes poetry as "a primal art or people's art that is very simple with a very intimate communication."

Tigger Schweighofer, a senior environmental design major who works at Sweet Eugene's, says poetry readings usually go well at the coffee shop.

"We've had them here a couple of times before and quite a few people attend. It's usually a good crowd."

Schweighofer also said the mood at the readings is relaxed and open. "Everyone just goes up one at a

time, and some start open conversations about the poetry. It's good original stuff and pretty enlightening."

For those students who are focused on liberal arts studies and wish to get involved, there are various writing groups on campus that will help get the creativity flowing.

Leslie Spiekes, a junior English major and president of the Inkshed Press, thinks writing groups are long overdue on campus.

"I think the fact that A&M is so conservative and left-brained makes it perfect to have an organization like Inkshed. People need a release."

The Inkshed Press is an undergraduate creative writing organization that supports fiction and poetry.

Spiekes said there is a definite desire for poetry at A&M. "We have our greatest emphasis on poetry because that's what is popular on campus," she said.

Spiekes said the Inkshed is participating in the poetry reading tonight at Sweet Eugene's, but they also hold their own readings. The Inkshed also holds workshops on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC. The workshops are intended to help students with their poetry and critique their work.

Spiekes said the Inkshed includes a variety of majors in the organization. This diversity is necessary for individuals to be able to identify with certain types of poetry they enjoy.

"There are all sorts of poetry, and that allows people to identify with all sorts of problems."

The Inkshed is now working with the English department, and although they had a lack of funds last semester and could not publish their work, this semester they have a publication coming out on April 24.

Sigma Tau Delta is an honor's club that invites professors and different speakers to talk about research and English.

Jennifer Eichhorn-Robinson, a senior English major and president of Sigma Tau Delta, said anyone is welcome to join the meetings.

"The meetings are open to everybody, and it's only the official members that must make the grade point requirements."

Discussions follow the Sigma Tau Delta meetings, which are every other Monday at 8:30 p.m.

There are also other writing groups on campus, including the English Language and Literature Society, that allow for more creativity on campus. Liberal arts at A&M is slowly beginning to grow, thanks to the support and desire of the students who want to get involved with the various writing groups. Perhaps the trend will continue and it will grow even more.

On the ethnic edge of music

SPIC-MACAY helps bring cultural diversity to students through the sound of Indian tonations

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Ever get the feeling that all modern rock songs are actually just the same song reshaped over and over? Modern western pop music is often just the same old song and dance—hook, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, solo, chorus and chorus.

Those looking for a little something different to tickle their cochlea should look no further than

room 201 in the Memorial Student Center on Friday. At 7:30 p.m., SPIC-MACAY (Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Among Youth) will host a concert featuring Sri S. P. Ramh, an accomplished classical Indian vocalist in the Carnatic style.

Indian classical music has two main styles, the north-Indian Hindustani and the south-Indian Carnatic style. A typical concert features a soloist accompanied by a violinist and percussionist.

Dr. Mysore Mohan, faculty advisor for SPIC-MACAY, said that while the north Indian music is secular and romantic, the southern Carnatic style is more devotional and praises God.

"[Carnatic] is used in ceremonies such as marriage," Mohan said. "The south Indian music is more structured and the grammar is highly evolved."

In addition to being an exceptional vocalist, Ramh is also an accomplished instrumentalist who studied under Maestro Shri. Lalgudi Jayaraman.

Ramh will be joined by Shri. Vittal Ramamurthy, a leading violinist, and top mridangam percussionist Palghat Shri. R. Raghu. All artists have performed throughout India and the world.

SPIC-MACAY, a campus student organization, has been bringing leading artists from India to perform on campus since it was founded in 1989. The organization's aim is to promote awareness about the rich Indian culture amongst youth, both in India and abroad.

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Acct 230	Test Review Mon Apr 13 3pm-6pm	Test Review Mon Apr 13 9pm-12am	
Biol 113	Part I Sun Apr 12 6pm-9pm	Part II Mon Apr 13 6pm-9pm	Part III Tue Apr 14 6pm-8pm
Math 141	Part I Mon Apr 13 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue Apr 14 6pm-9pm	Part III Wed Apr 15 6pm-9pm
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Tickets go on sale Sunday 8:30 p.m.
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