Poet reads works

Beneath the whimsy lies compassion

Sol Lachman, who coordinates the I-Browse Monday night poetry readings, recently presented nee of this area's least known poets — but one of the best, in his opinion.

Dan Minock hasn't published the usual slim volument of the poetry of the

human race.

The poet took his audience from the world of an altar boy at church to that of a college teacher and his students. Some of his more popular peems proceed from belief to disillusion — then to acceptance.

Minock told the group that a person who believes once, will always, in a sense, believe — even when the intellect is unwilling.

"SEES ALL" is one of his altar boy poems. The narrator shifts from boy to grown man, almost on a varying time stream. At first the boy is at Mass, "the nuns spaced like

review

fenceposts throughout."

fenceposts throughout."
He notices that the nuns are distressed:
"They believe the father is dying,
The son is dying . . . that the girls will not always
labor for As,
that even now there are boys staying out of Mass
. . in the restaurant across the street."
He then shifts to the restaurant — time shifts—
and he sees "the restaurant fall . . become a Big
Boy and fail again," he also sees "how gaunt the
priest is within his bicsom of vestiments."
The relaxed speech rhythms seem typical of Mincok's style, but the description of the gaunt priest
indicates that Minock can deliver a great deal of
intensity to some listeners.
Toward the end of the poem, the listener could
sympathize, not only with the narrator losing belief, but with the lagging boys "sitting with cups of
sweet tan coffee," and the sadness of nuns and
priests.

MINOCK'S REMEDIAL student poems are striking to some listeners because they are written by a college teacher, but seen through the sensibility of a student.

a student.

The student in the poem is portrayed without snobbery, but with compassion, and suffers college far more intensely than her weary teachers.

To her, the college classroom

"is full of warnings — warnings of the periodic table, warnings of metaphysics dimly understood,

warnings of the small snow against the window."
The student promises to attend class, promises to hand in papers. But little will come of her efforts.
Another of Minock's poems, "Comrade," tells of a meetling with a crown from the days when the narrator had believed in socialism.

He pretends to have reasons for leaving the movement, but recognizes that all are excuses:
"I didn't join you at the protest

movement, but recognizes that all are excuses:
"I didn't join voa at the protest
years ago
because I had to go home and stare at the rug.
Sili I agreed with you.
I do now, even to violence."
THE MARKATOR realizes the folly, practical
and intellectual, of the causes esposed by the "comrade," since the coming violence would "include
my uncle, who da surely take the wrong side."
But the narrator is still tempted to fight "for a
But the narrator is still tempted to fight "for a
But the narrator is still tempted to fight "for a
because they're stupid or rugy,
where no one is fed to the economynot workers or students or white-tailed deer."
The poem's Irony seems to strike in all directions
at the heavy dogmatism of the "Comrade," at
the timid idealism of the narrator, and at the multiple injustices of a society that will gladly split atoms but not corporations.
Minock, born in Filint in 1944, went to the University of Detroit to become a biologist, but ended up a
hDh. In English at Ohio State. He has taught English at Wayne State University and Michigan State
University.
He lives with his wife and childen in a house he
built himself near Kensington Metropark in Brighton.
The I-Browse Book Store fall poetry readings

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The I-Browse Book Store fall poetry readings take place every Monday until Dec. 10 at 33086 Northwestern Highway, West Bloomfield.

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