Women poets stir strong passions

"Lovers and Other Losses: Poems by Seven Women," edited by Nadean Bishop, is published by Isis Press, 1981, \$3.95.

By Jack Zucker special writer

Anthologist Nadean Bishop of Eastmikeligan University deserves compliments for "Lovers and Other Losses:
Poems by Seven Women."

Each of the poets is strong in her
own craft and individuality.
Patricia Hooper of Birmingham is
outstanding for her unique vision and
the beauty of her diction. Published
widely in nationally eminent journals,
Hooper presents us a world in which
poople dream they are other people, in
which a porch or a door is rarely seen
as a porch of door.

Her narrators don't take the nec-

Her narrators don't take the permanence of everyday objects for granted. A person standing at a window in 1982 may also be standing at a window in the past; a daughter may be her mother and people's dreams may, in fact, be another kind of reality.

In "Other lives" Hooper writes of a trip toward a road, "a road you took/ past some else's house: porch propped up with boards,/the car dismantled in the yard, a door/where half-dressed children watch you."

The everyday scene becomes a vision, an insight that a given person could have been someone else. Hooper's characters are rarely sure they are themselves, but when they are firm in the moment, when time is yeal, then fulfillment occurs: "Touching the suphoard"

cupocard, touching the plate, or each other, we touch something invisible, like a secret we almost re-

ember, which earth hints at. Quickly I touch

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YOUR BEST FOR SUMMER

ALL PERMS

as if in an ancient ritual, taking on texture and strength from the threads which

If I woke in beaven, I'd say wood, bread, and your names. According to Robinson Jeffers the study of astronomy puts mankind in its place. Interestingly, Hooper includes

nace: interestingly, morper in in astronomy poem: Night after night I've seen it. Drying the dishes, or scouring, I've looked up, in my kitchen, and noticed the sun dissolving, flame after flame, into cloud.

Into deep, fathomless blackness. They say that the stars are leaving vast holes when they perish. I need no evidence, but believe this earnest-

Lorene Erickson of Livonia who aches at Washtenaw Community Colteaches at Washtenaw Community Col-lege, is a very different kind of poet, a realist and a storyteller. In Erickson's world, things are real and don't float off to another time and place. Erickson not only gives us the true sense of expe-rience, but has an unrivaled feeling for

rience, but has an unrivaled feeling for passion.

I drasm that no one wants you. You bring a woman to our bed. She is dark-eyed, dark-haired. Not me, perhaps my sister. You sak for her body, not for keeping, only for moments of close attention. You reach for her, feel her flesh turning free from you. You fear there may be limits, that the white heat you've lived by is passing out of you. That, soon you may not want the bloodfire, may not even remember.

Erickson, author of "Seasons Small Purpose," has written poems of equal merit on her family, her youth, womanhood. The warmth, craft and sincerity of her work can't be denied.

Judith McCombs writes earnest and insightful poetry that is muscular and tough, but contains moments of lyricism. Her books, "Sisters and Other Selves" and "Against Nature" have attended that they attended to the contained attended to the contained attended they are attended to the contained to the contained they are attended to the contained

Solves" and "Against Nature" have attracted autional attention.

The peems on her father's dearn which wo the Nilmod prize, are memorable in this selection. I can only indicate her depth, psychological scope and homespun. fiber by presenting a large selection from "the Inheritor." September, & these cold hill streets where the Quakers
failed & died out. Beside the old road appirea goes gray, goes bald, & the tame.

ame
barberry argues with gusts, claws
at the cold, useless as grief.

ovrgrown, dying back, ivy billows & tugs at old mortar, old walls. High over-ead

ead blue sheetwinds of cold race for the

south, for warmth, for the glaring great hill of sand where my father lies dead & dead in-deed.

under heaven.
Nadean Bishop's poetry is most enjoyable when it is withy and serious at the same time. A narrator pushes on a sofa "and suddenly a cavern opened and my hands/Reclaimed tost treasures of 10 years: pens,/acissors, pendle".

This find will become a metaphor standing for loss and gain simulta-neously. Bishop gives us a touching au-toblographical moment in "A Fledgling Dancer Dreams."

ancer Dreams. In the dream my sweet Christian

nother
Did what she never did in life:
She showed her age and her rage.
My dark lush sister, beauty queen,
Got yelled at...
It was an echo of Mary Hartman

"Lovers and Other Losses" also of-Lovers and Other Losses" also of-fers poems by Carolyn Gregory, Louise Bernikow and Almitra David, all of whom deserve discussion. The book is published by Isia Press, 1516 Morton Ave., Ann Arbor. It was a Small Press Book Club monthly selection. Available at local book stores.

Bonsai gardeners meet

The first Michigan bonsal convention will be held May 21-23 at the Wayne County Extension Center, 5454 Venoy Road, Wayne.

It is open to members and friends of all bonsai clubs in Wayne and Oakland

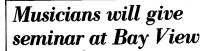
counties.
It will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday and continue through noon on Sunday. There will be a nominal charge to see the exhibit of more than 60 miniature trees.
The program will include lectures and worthhops for both beginners and experienced gardeners. Workshop in-

structor will be Melba Tucker of Los Angeles.
Tucker, a master of the bonsai tech-nique, has studied the art for 20 years. She has lifetime teaching credentials in ornamental horticulture and last year completed a five-week lecture and demonstration series in Australia.
On Sundau morning at 9 a m. she will

demonstration series in Australia.

On Sunday morning at 9 am, she will demonstrate how to create a miniature living landscape or Saitle. Following the demonstration, Tom O'Conner will give a alide lecture on the gardens of Japan. There is a charge.

For registration information, call 278-8488 or 278-8281.

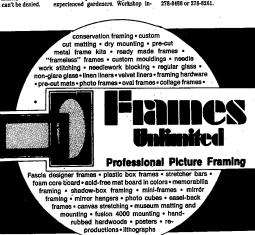


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seminar and mastar class designed for
times.
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Flavio Varani, piano, and Robert concert for orchestra fanny
formers next month.
Flavio Varani, piano, and Robert concert for orchestra fanny
frack will be released, he will make a
Flavio pedagogy specialist, are giving in South America in October, appearing
the piano workshop in conjunction with with the Venezuelan National Symphothe Bay View Music Festival in Petoshey, The workshop was given last sumtime for the first time and was found to
month. He is assistant professor at
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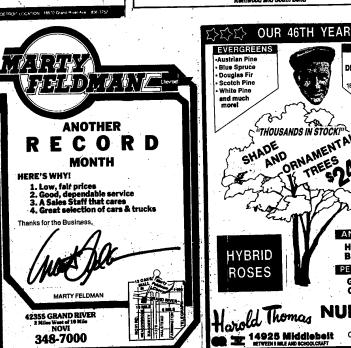
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