

book break

Mona Grigg

Readers 'Witness' changes

WATCH FOR "Witness," a brand new, slick literary quarterly published in Farmington Hills by Sidney Lutz and the Center for the Study of the Child. But what does a literary magazine have to do with children? Nothing, Lutz says, it's simply the name of the non-profit arm of his corporation and he likes it — though he recognizes it may be confusing on the masthead of a literary magazine.

The center name came about when Lutz was pursuing his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan and set up a program at Children's Psychiatric Hospital. When he left the university, the name came with him. He's now the head of Lutz and Associates, a "schizophrenic" (his word) corporation that is half software and data base, half training, writing, research and graphic arts.

The idea for a literary magazine came when the writer, and ultimately the reader, would serve as witness to changing world and societal events came about during a brainstorming session with U-M Dearborn history professor Sidney Bolkesky as they put together a multi-media curriculum under the aegis of CSO for teaching the Holocaust in high schools. (Now in place in all Oakland County High Schools.)

ONE THING LED to another, and a literary magazine was born. At Bolkesky's suggestion, Peter Stine came aboard as editor. Stine is the former editor of "Ann Arbor" magazine and a frequent contributor to other literary magazines.

Stine, through luck and pluck, managed to draw big name contributors even before the first pages were printed by writing a magical letter to over 200 potential "Witness" contributors. Stine said the letter had to say everything, "and say it so well they would know this was a magazine they wanted to write for, and that we weren't just going to print it on a mimeograph machine in the basement."

Well, it must have been some letter, because Stine has managed to draw names like Joyce Carol Oates, Gordon Lish, Madison Smartt Bell, Lynn Sharon Schwartz and David Ignatius.

The magazine, slick and expensive-looking on

good stock, premiered this spring with writings devoted entirely to the Holocaust. The summer offering, a more general issue with fiction, poetry and essays by Oates, Lish, Schwartz, Robert Bly, Lee K. Abbott, Gordon Weaver and others, might still be at Borders' and other bookstores with a literary bent, along with the just-published fall issue.

Issue No. 3 is another special issue, Stine says, this time devoted to writings from prison. Stine's guest editor is author Fielding Dawson, a prison writings advocate involved with the Fortune Society (named for the powerful 1971 prison movie, "Fortune and Men's Eyes") and with the PEN Prison Committee.

"WE'VE GOT SOME amazing stuff," Stine said. "You can imagine the reservoir of suppressed anger and bitterness — though it's not all that kind of material. Writing has traditionally been a way of keeping yourself sane, of creating a little bit of freedom in your mind, but beyond the sociological aspects, the literary quality is astonishing."

Stine said the plan for "Witness" is for every other issue to illuminate a single subject. Future special issues will focus on evangelism and American politics, nature writing, the 60s, computers and information and nuclear weapons. Subscription rates are one year \$16 (four issues), or \$28 for two years. The subscription and editorial address is 31000 Northwestern Highway, Suite 200, Farmington Hills. The phone number is 626-1110.

GOOD STUFF COMING for readers and writers.

The Midwest Antiquarian and Collectible Book Fair will be at the Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 2.

At 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, John Irving ("The World According to Garp") comes to U-M's Hill Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, \$8, \$5. Call 763-8587 for information.

Monday, Nov. 9, Joseph Heywood will talk about his novel, "The Barkut," at the Southfield Public Library, Southfield Civic Center. Admission \$2.50.

Composer guest at concert

Composer Bernard Rands will be the guest at the Detroit Contemporary Ensemble's opening concert at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Rands won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for music.

The Ensemble, with music director Barrett Kaeliell, will perform two major works by Rands: Canti del sole (Songs of the Sun), his Pulitzer Prize composition, and Canti Lunatici (Songs of the Moon).

The soloists will be Edith Diggory, soprano, and Mark Pavewich, tenor. Rands will be present to discuss his music with the audience.

Canti del Sole is written for tenor and orchestra; Canti Lunatici is written for soprano and nine instruments. Canti del Sole was premiered

by the New York Philharmonic, Zubin Mehta conducting. Rands later adapted it for an 11-piece chamber orchestra.

Canti del Lunatici is based on poems about the moon written by Blake, Hopkins, Joyce, Plath, Shelley, Whitman, Artaud, Arp, Quasimodo and Loreca.

Rands was born in Sheffield, England in 1934, and emigrated to the United States in 1958. He has been professor of composition at Boston University since 1985 and is a member of the faculty at the Juilliard School in New York.

Concert tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors and are available at the door. The church is at Lone Pine and Cranbrook.



Folk singer to perform

The Academic Options Program of Schoolcraft College and the Salem Area Historical Society will team up to present Kittie Donohoe in "Musically Michigan," at 7:30 p.m. Friday Oct. 23, in the Gallery West, 7911 Dickerson Street, Salem. Donohoe will present a program of traditional and contemporary Michigan folk songs from the historical background of voyagers and the lumbermen to present day automobile factories and tourists. Admission is \$6. Reservations are recommended.



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