'Harry Moon': You just had to be there

HOMAS SULLIVAN'S novel, "The Phases of Harry Moon" (E.P. Dutton, hardbound, \$18.95) strikes me like this, even after a second reading: I want to tell you about the book but I don't want to tell you anything. Does that make sense? No. Good. "Harry Moon" is about love and hate and disappointment and redemption and . . . all those good things that other books are about.

about. Phases of Harry Moon" is a misnomer, just as "The World According to Garp" was not exactly so. In "Garp" we saw the world according to a lot of people. And in Sullivan's almost lirst novel, Harry Moon isn't the only one going through phases. There is a cast of seeming thousands, each character with a special place, each one with memorable words to speak. So why am I so reluctant to give out a line? Maybe because — well, maybe because you just had to be there. "Harry Moon" is funny. Sometimes hysterically funny, Sometimes so panfully funny it is your duty to groan out loud, refuctantly turning the page, knowing there's another pun, another double meaning in there somewhere — and after that (afraid so) another one.

"HARRY MOON" is aggravating, exasperating — and totally winsome, though I haven't the got the slightest idea why that is.

"Harry Moon" made me want to cry. Not for Harry — nevel r Harry — but for the "victims:" for Winslow, Nino, Ray

for Harry — but for the Victims.

But I'm rambling, Here's the story, in a nutshell, Four brothers, 18th century Colswold no-goods, are banished by their father and choose the colonies as their stopping-off place. Drunker Jonathon, obsessed by water; clubfooted Samuel, the peeping Tom; Benjamin, the sneak-thief; and Alexander, the simpleminded. They each, in their own way, have disgraced the name of Moon.

minded. They each, in their own way, have disgraced the name of Moon.

Advance now to modern days, where we meet another generation of Moons. There are four brothers and a hapless though well-meaning father. Alice, their mother, having the strength of her own venerable ancestors, the Stanners, sees her sons like "Nickh had become a thirf, Stu a pervert, Stanley an addict, and Harry a manic depressive."

Only Harry a becomes something else. Harry became a swimmer, a husband, a father and finally a teacher.

Harry the swimmer is obsessed by water, as was his ancestor Jonathan before him, and by book's end, Harry's attempts to swim the English Channel bring the four contemporary brothers together, where they find themselves in attendance at the Bienelmenial of the Moon Festival in the hills of Gloucester-hire (celebrating the death of Eramus Moon, father of the early brothers four and no angel himself. He had been responsible



for a "typhoid epidemic in 1769, the accidental poisoning of Bourke-on-the-Wold's water table in 1771, and the unintentional destruction by fire of the town cathedral in 1773, causing many to revert to paganism.") But there — I've said enough already. Like I said, you just

SATURDAY, JOIN children's authors Jon Buechel, Bettle Cannon, Margaret Hillbert, Patricla Hooper and Martin Kohn an autograph session at the Children's Museum, 87 E. Kirby, Detroit. Program stats: at 2 p.m. and is free. Call 494-1223 or 540-0166 for information.

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Cranbrook P.M.'s new full schedule is out with good news for writers: screenwriter Harvey Ovshinsky offers a master class in television production and a weekend seminar in screenwriten. Margo LaGatiuta, poet and creative process teacher offers her popular creative writing seminar, "Inventing the Invisible," inspired by Gabriele Lusser Ricos" Writing the Natural Way. "Talented playwright Kitty Dubin teaches a six-week evoluge course entitled "Playwriting from Premiss to Production." And if that's not enough, Scribner Jeliffe continues the popular discussions on Great Books (starting with the Bible). Call 645-3635.

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U-M's Visiting Writer Series promises something for everyone again this year, with names like Elizabeth Tallent, Toni Morrison, Nancy Willard, C. Michael Curtis, Kenneth McClane, Robert Planky, and others. Francine Du Peslix Gray, will be the Hopwood lecturer at the spring ceremonies. Call 764-6296 for information. Lawrence Joseph reads in the Rockham East Conference at 4 p.m. Sept. 27.

The 27th Annual Writer's Conference sponsored by Oakland University and Detroit Women Writers fills the weekend of Oct. 14-15. Elmore Leonard will speak on Pfidaly evening and eculuria workshop during the Saturday sessions. Award-winning poet and neveltal Brad Lelthauser gives the Saturday keynote speech. Thirty-two 70-minute sessions offer writing and marketing tips for both beginners and published writers by top agents, editors and writers. Call the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland, 370-3120 for more information.

Feminist art public lectures are offered

Mariam Schapiro, a leader of the feminist art movement, will begin a series of public lectures, "Reviewing Feminist Art: A Look at Women's Visual Culture from Early Times to the Present," at the University of Michigan.
Schapiro's lectures are scheduled for 8:30 p.m. in Angell Hall Auditarium Don Friday, Sept. 23, Monday, Sept. 26, Tuesday, Sept. 27 and Wednesday, Sept. 28, "Schapiro's is one of the ploneering figures in contemporary womens' art," says Prof. Diane M. Kirkpatrick, who chairs the Culture Department of History of Art. "She began painting in the U-M Department of History of Art. "She began painting in the early 1950s, moving from abstract expressionism through hard-

edged symbolism and Into what has been called 'decorative extravagance' in her current works. Along the way she created, with Judy Chicago, the nation's lirst major feminist art program at Callifornia institute of the Arts and helped launch what would be called pattern and decorative art."

Kirkpatrick says that although Schapiro is best known for paintings and "femmage" — coilages of painting and decorative items such as fabric and paper — she recently translated two figures from one of her paintings, "Pas de Deux." Into a 46 rob-high sculpture for the front of a Washington, D.C., area office building and is working on other sculpture commissions.

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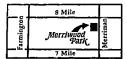


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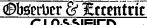


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