

He urges students to mix words, experiences

By CORINNE ABATT

It was "chicken soup eyes" that made Dr. William Arnold Johnston smile. "Chicken soup eyes—I like that," he said leaning through a stack of papers a group of East Junior High School students had just handed him.

Dr. Johnston is writer-in-residence in the schools this week, spending the bulk of his time with seventh and eighth graders who came to sit in on the informal sessions. He was talking about having fun writing poetry.

The quick few word assignment was to write down a part of the body and then an other word that would make a connection the students had never heard before.

A PUBLISHED POET and song writer, Dr. Johnston also does fiction, non-fiction, has published two plays and made two albums of Robert Burns songs and poems.

"Forget ideas," he suggested. "Forget about trying somebody how to think—no body tells us how to look—how to look and listen."

Tying them to mix words and experiences the effects he compared it to a chemist who pours various elements into a beaker—some mixtures bubble some explode some change color.

"With poetry, you take a word and put it together with somebody else."

That's why he liked "chicken soup eyes" an unlikely combination that bubbled and mingled together.

He traced his affiliation with Robert Burns from the first time he was asked to do a program on the 150th century Scottish poet at the university to the present when he does many programs on Burns, has published a play, "The Waching Veck," on Burns' life and cut the album.

As he spoke of writing and how it takes place he began with play writing. It is very difficult to take something you've experienced in your head and make it come out on paper. I got to know my characters so well that I can set the scene, bring them together and let them start talking.

I am like the discussion leader, the person responsible for seeing certain points are covered. I just let the characters start talking and take off on their own.

HE SPOKE OF THE FUTILITY of writing.

Registration for the big idea before starting to write.

Inspiration is overrated. Poems ring at me a line or a phrase sticks out in my memory. Then I see I guess this wants to be a poem or the words to be a story. Mostly writing is a process of sitting down and making yourself do it.

In a rock band accompanying himself on the folk guitar, he sang several of his own compositions for the classes.

In these modern folk songs Johnston's enjoyment of words and everyday ideas takes splashes out soft and clear—like chicken soups.

In one about a man ready to leave a woman he once loved there's a line I'm long gone before I ever start to go and another is the same song echoes the feeling, "being gone begins so long before you go."

The students applauded his modern style composition at Albany Burns.

The writer-in-residence program is made possible through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts with the cooperation

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Writer-in-residence Dr. William Arnold Johnston talks with East Junior High students about the American poet Wallace Stevens. Johnston recited poetry, sang songs and talked about the writer's craft in Farmington junior highs this week. (Staff photo by Harry Mauths)

Men's league softball registration set to begin

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Department has set registration dates for its adult softball program.

Returning Men's League teams may register from March 1-12 during normal business hours at the Parks and Recreation Building, 30000 Evergreen Road. New men's teams may register beginning March 15 on a first-come, first-served basis. Entry fees are \$100 for Resident A League teams, and \$100 for teams in all other leagues.

Men's teams will play a 14-game schedule beginning the first week of May. There are teams for residents and employees of Southfield.

Registration for returning Women's League teams is scheduled for March 8-19. New women's teams may register beginning March 21. Entry fee is \$125 for the A teams and \$110 for the B teams. Women's teams will play an 11-game schedule beginning in the second week of May.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Parks and Recreation Department at 354-9832.

Beverage firm goes Hollywood

John Hlatnik, of Farmington general manager of the City Beverage Company, Inc. participated in the presentation of a \$10,000 check to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission which will be used to produce a film about the parks system.

Hlatnik's employer, City Beverage

agreed to underwrite the production of the film which is the commission's 100th anniversary project.

Students are on dean's list

Two Farmington area students have been named to the dean's list for the fall semester of 1975 at Halabala College.

Matthew A. Case, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Case, 25000 Pimlico, obtained an 'A' in a graduate of St. Matthew Lutheran School, Detroit.

Jeffrey Lomborg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lomborg, 3300 Heritage Hills, was also named to the list. He is a graduate of North Farmington High School.

Dr. Schiff and Dr. Kutinsky
OPTOMETRISTS
are at
7-MILE FARMINGTON CENTER

Ms. Cardwell awarded prize

Susan Cardwell, a Harrison High School graduate, has won the sixth annual John W. Perdue Memorial Prize.

The award is given to outstanding junior engineering students. She is a student at Swarthmore College and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Frostcraft of Farmington.

Mrs. Cardwell has won the David Bushmore scholarship twice.

All-arounders

Two area girls are members of the varsity women's gymnastics team at Central Michigan University. They are sophomore Karen Wallace, a graduate of Southfield-Lathrup High, and freshman Kim Sanders, a graduate of North Farmington High. Both girls perform in the all-around event.

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Which weapon is the real .45 caliber pistol? On closer investigation, it can be seen the weapon on top is the real McCoy. The bottom one is a toy. Public Safety Director Ron Holko says such toy weapons are often passed off as the real thing during robberies. (Staff photo)

George Washington didn't sleep here.

Somerset Inn would have been good enough for Mr. Washington. It's just that we weren't around then.

Unlike so many companies who coincidentally are 200 years old this year, we're only celebrating our 3rd Birthday. For a hotel that makes us about perfect—old enough to be experienced, new enough to have the latest in comfort and convenience. George would have loved it here.

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STRL AVAILABLE: Wednesday mat. at 2 p.m.; March 3, 10, 17, Also, Tues., Thurs., at 8:30 p.m., March 16, 17, 18; Sunday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m.