



ALBERT LEE

So, you intend to be a writer?

By ERIC PETERS

Southfield writer Albert Lee, whose new book, "Weather Wisdom" is just out in print, has begun an experimental, new concept in teaching. It is a writer apprenticeship program.

"Writing is a trade, a closed shop to those without the union card of credentials. Apprenticeship can open the door," Lee said. It is his intention to try to help new writers get their feet wet and then plant them firmly in the field as soon as possible.

Lee, author of 11 books and numerous articles, went the long, hard and chancy route taken by most persistent would-be writers: trial and error. He endured the stacks of rejection slips and held down multiple jobs while he was establishing himself as a professional writer. Now, Lee wants to offer new and strong writers the opportunity to get a name in the trade rapidly, without needless struggle.

"One of the most obvious reasons for the experiment," he said, "is that being a writer means being totally alone. If this works out, it will be the first step toward a writer's center. I'd like to see a place where writing can be taught and where writers can congregate."

"ONE PART of the writer's center would include a bookstore with sections on 'how to write' and on Michigan authors. It would be for writers to learn the practical aspects of writing. Journalists could get materials of Michigan writers who live nearby. The authors could be invited to give lectures on all kinds of writing," Lee said.

Lee will begin his writer's workshop Sept. 22. He wants a maximum of seven students enrolled so he can give more attention to each student. If there are fewer than six, however, he will call off the class and return the \$50 fee. Class will meet once a week for six weeks at the convenience of the students.

Areas which Lee outlined as the basis of the course included a "query letter" to the publishers. Also covered would be areas such as: evaluating what the student should be writing, teaching how to re-

search; helping to develop style; and starting and developing ideas for new articles and other forms of writing.

The next step, according to Lee, is to decide if each student is sufficiently qualified to develop a career in writing. Some may decide the field is not for them. Some may be so talented that it would be obvious they should go ahead.

"ASSUMING IT ISN'T clear cut either way, we would meet in a one-to-one session and discuss the problems and what to do," Lee said. "Someone may have absolutely no talent but have perseverance and dedication," go on to the internship. If they did, Lee would tutor each person and coauthor the articles or even books that were under contract. The apprentice would do most of the research and writing, while Lee did the guiding and editing.

"I have to be careful about sending off things with my name on them. I have a reputation to protect," he said. "New writers must also complete assignments within reasonable time limits or I will have to take them over and finish them. If somebody in the class is well beyond apprenticeship, I will just put him in contact with my agent."

Lee admits that this venture was not done as a selfish endeavor, solely for the benefit of the students. Besides the \$50 course fee, he would receive 30 to 40 percent of the profits for the published articles or books. The apprentice would receive 60 to 70 percent, which Lee said would likely amount to more than if the new writer had 100 percent of the lower pay as an unestablished writer.

LEE HAS DONE some teaching before. He was a student teacher for four months and did some substituting in Detroit. He also taught an adult education writer's course at one of the community colleges.

"I am persistent, so if this experiment fails, I will probably try it again," he said. Lee emphasized he wanted to get across the message that writing is a trade and not an inspired art. "Purists just don't make it," he said.

Would-be writers interested in more about his class can speak to Al Lee at 337-5664, every day.

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U.N. correspondent to speak for bonds

Moses Schoenfeld, United Nations and foreign correspondent, will speak at 7 p.m. on Sunday at the Congregation Beth Achim-Israel Bond Dinner in Southfield. Cocktails will be served from 6 p.m.

Honored at the dinner will be William I. Liberson of Southfield, past president of the congregation and a partner in the law firm of Liberson and Crystal. Liberson will receive the State of Israel Kofah Award.

Schoenfeld is the son of the late Dr. Victor Schoenfeld, prepping rabbi of the first Union of Orthodox Congregations. He lived for a time in pre-Israel Palestine. He is the host of the Inside UN radio series and his news assignments have included the Six Day War, the White House, political conventions, the U.S. arms limitation talks, the Berlin Treaty and the prob-

lems of Jews in Russia. He is one of the few Jewish journalists with contacts among Arab and Soviet officials.

Schoenfeld is also the director of American Friends of Hebrew University and the American Section, World Jewish Congress.

Tribute dinner committee chairman is Steven I. Victor of Bloomfield Hills. Congregation president is Alan Silverman of Southfield, who asked that the entire congregation, their friends and families, support the congregational effort to raise funds for Israel through the bond program.

"In honoring Bill Liberson through our bond commitments," Silverman said, "we will be doing what must be done for Israel as in their way, the Israeli rescuers at Entebbe did what they had to do."

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