

Freedom defender, Kosinski, fights apathy

By WILLIAM F. HORWATH

C.S. Lewis never tired of reminding us that he was a living fossil, a dinosaur among a ruling class of mammals. More precisely, he considered himself a Medieval Christian caught out of time in a new secularism. As such, he begged to be treated with care — living relics are wonderful, most valuable items. His constituency suffered him with awe, never pretending to really understand him — not being of his kind — but always treating him with care — the care we give to yesterday. Recently, at a reception given him for his latest novel "Passion Play," at Bookpeople, West Bloomfield, Jerry Kosinski was clearly among his constituency. One of the fiercest defenders of freedom in the contemporary literary

world, he spoke of his novels as a "democratic process," a place where the novelist and reader combine to create a typography and imagery peculiar to themselves. In so doing, neither is superior, both writer and reader sharing equally in the artistic process. Yet, there is a bizarre imbalance in all of this. For like Lewis, Kosinski comes to us out of the Middle Ages.

HIS NOVELS READ like a triptych of Bosch. It is no accident that Kosinski rates Bosch as his favorite painter. From "The Painted Bird" through "Passion Play," his heroes — all picaroons — wander through a landscape peopled with Medieval demons, peasant superstitions and infernal horrors. His world imagines no Beatrice. He remains solidly within the tradition of "Lazarillo de Tormes," an anon-

In 1957, at the age of 24, he arrived in New York. Unable to speak a word of English, he spent evenings in strained conversations with New York City telephone operators. Two years later he had earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University, supporting himself in the duration with the meaneast of labor.

ymous 16th century Spanish novel of the world otherwise without purpose. Early in "The Painted Bird," Kosinski's hero realizes an awful truth. "My

parents were nowhere." He conceives the idea to be, in fact, "monstrous." The conviction that our parents are nowhere may well be the single most dominant metaphor in Kosinski's mind. PARENTS BUILD HOMES. If we have none, we are forced to fashion our own. Fathers teach morality and courage. Having none, we are condemned to forge a brave world of our own. Inheriting no family name, we are charged to invent one that suits who we are. Being both fathers and sons to ourselves we are every bit as monstrous as Shakespeare's description of lovers as

"beasts with two backs." It would follow that most Americans could in no conceivable fashion enter into a creative coalition with Kosinski. His shaping experiences were Eastern European, Medieval in basis. Fascistic and Stalinist in fact. Kent State and Vietnam were tragic, not monstrous. We must ultimately view him as we did Lewis — a relic of a more horrible age. Something from yesterday. The most valued of men. Kosinski's story is well known and worth remembering. In 1957, at the age of 24, he arrived in New York.

Ricky Dove puts dancers in step with the times

Dancers and would-be dancers can get in step with the times on Friday evenings in the Farmington Community Center under the expert guidance of Ricky Dove. "You'll develop your dancy style as well as your confidence in public," said the internationally-known dance in-

structor and choreographer who teaches in many area clubs. In five lessons, Dove said, "You'll become more involved and better able to move with move with the music. The dance classes offer exercise and a chance for couples to share a common interest."

Singles are welcomed. The classes meet on alternate Fridays. Dancers can come alone or bring a partner for the disco sessions that run from 7:15-8:45 p.m. beginning Oct. 5. Or, dancers are invited to the intermediate and advanced sessions that

run from 9:10-30 p.m., when social, ballroom and disco, will be taught. The five session class costs \$22 per person. Persons may registered in person by stopping at the center, 2470 Farmington Road, or they may call the center at 477-8404.

Pioneer Women Donor slated for Oct. 24

Local Pioneer Women are finalizing plans for their Annual Dinner Event to be held at noon, Wednesday, Oct. 24 at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield. Betty Rath of Farmington, chairwoman of the day, said the program will open with Sarah Friedman of Southfield offering the invocation. Entertainment will be provided by singer Marion Bates. Guest speaker will be Dr. Alon Ben-Ner, noted author and lecturer who is currently executive director of the Jewish National Fund's Central States Region. Esther Fishman of Oak Park, donor chairwoman, said the Donor Bulletin, edited by Miriam Rose of West Bloomfield, assisted by Lorraine Gale of Farmington Hills, raises funds to support 500 day care centers in Israel. These centers daily tend to the welfare of some 20,000 Israeli children. Pioneer Women also has built 45 community centers in Israel which offer services such as day care for pre-school children of working mothers, af-

ter school clubs, lectures, classes and discussion groups. Additionally, with its sister organization, Na'amat, Pioneer Women maintain some 1,500 social service and educational installations in Israel. In the U.S., the group participates in all community programs for enlightened social action. Ruth Miller of Birmingham, president of the Detroit Area Council of Pioneer Women, said another priority is improving the status of women of the world over. Elsie Harold and Margaret Huppert, both of Southfield, are co-vic presidents of funds. They are accepting reservations for the event at a minimum donor amount of \$18 and \$10 for the luncheon. Reservations can be made with chapter chairwomen or by calling the Pioneer Women's office at 851-0750. Reservations are required. Bus transportation will be available for those unable to provide their own. More information is available at the above phone number.

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