

Writers series, grammar hotlines

BOOK news and views:

Wyandotte native Thomas McGuane, author of such highly-praised novels as "The Sporting Club" and "Ninety-Two in the Shade," will initiate this year's Visiting Writers Series at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, Sept. 19. The novelist will read from his latest work, "Keep the Change," at 8 p.m. in the Rackham Amphitheater.

Next up will be Tim O'Brien, a recipient of the 1979 National Book Award for his Vietnam novel, "Going After Cacciato," and other literary prizes. O'Brien will read from his works at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, also in the amphitheater. Admission is free to both events, so plan to be there early. For further information on this year's series, call Andrea Beauchamp at UM's Hopwood Room, 784-6296.

New and noteworthy: Amy McVeigh's "The Mackinac Connection: An Insider's Guide." Here is just about everything you ever wanted to know about the island, written by a long-time summer resident. Available at Waldenbooks, or send \$0.81 to Box 215-BF, Mackinac Island 49757.

Just Out: "Elmore Leonard," by David Geherin (Continuum, \$18.95). Geherin, a professor of English at Eastern Michigan University, who has written three previous books on the literary genre, takes a studied look here at the noted Birmingham author and his work (starting 38 years ago with Leonard's first short story, "Trail of the Apache," and published in *Argosy* magazine).

Coming next month: Westland crime novelist Rob Reutter's "Hell's Only Half Full" (Bantam Books, \$3.50).

Michigan writers finishing in the top 50 of the prestigious 1989 Writer's Digest Writing Competition: Barbara Fetsko of Ypsilanti in the poetry category, and Richard Vogt, of Okemos, Jane Rutter, Kalamazoo, for short fiction. Poetry and short fiction categories totaled close to 2,000 entries each this year, according to judges.

Reader's Digest, which has been condensing novels for decades, has begun doing the same with non-fiction books. First volume, released this summer and available through mail-order only, contains "Blind Faith," by Joe McGinnis; "Two Lives, One Russia," by Nicholas Daniloff; "Richard Burton: A Life," by Melvyn Bragg; and "Monday Night Mayhem," by Marc Gunther and Bill Carter.

Remember Classics Illustrated comic books? The series, which introduced many a comics fan to great literature in the '40s and '50s, is being revived. The new series will make an appearance in February 1990. First four titles: "Great Expectations," "Through the Looking Glass," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," and "Assorted Poems."

Today's best-selling category for mass market publishers is men's action-adventure fiction.



book break Victoria Diaz

Biggest-selling hardcover in 1988, according to the New York Times, was Tom Clancy's "Cardinal of the Kremlin." More than 1.2 million copies of the novel are in print.

Disappointing sales: Delacorte's "Killing Time in St. Cloud," by Judith Guest and Rebecca Hill; "Guts and Glory," by Ben Bradlee (Donald I. Fine); Joseph Heller's "Picture This" (Putnam), among others. All of these books received a large first printing (at least 100,000 copies) plus a vigorous promotional campaign. You never know, I guess, and obviously neither do in-house "experts."

If you're ever stumped by a problem with English grammar, take heart. You'll be happy to know that there are at least 50 "Grammar Hot Lines" across the country.

One, operated out of Tidewater Community College in Tidewater, Va., can solve your pesky problems 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Just call 804-427-7170. For a free copy of the 1989 National Grammar Hot Line Directory, send a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Grammar Hot Line Directory, Tidewater Community College Writing Center, 1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, Va. 23466.

As long as you're perfecting your English, you may want to take a look at "There Is No Zoo in Zoology," by Charles Harrington Elster (Macmillan, \$19.95; \$7.95 paperback), a guide to frequently mispronounced words, together with the history of their usage.

Speaking of zoology, if you enjoy being fascinated and informed at the same time, don't miss "The Flight of the Iguana: A Sidelong View of Science and Nature," by David Quammen (Doubleday, \$8.95). What nature-lover can resist a book with chapter titles like "The Face of a Spider," "Thinking About Earthworms," and "Stalking the Gentle Piranha"?

Every-writer-should-have-one category: A copy of Anne Dillard's latest work, "The Writing Life" (Harper & Row, \$15.95). Dillard, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1979 for "Pilgrim at Tinker Creek," has put together here a fine narrative about the very risky art of writing. "The Writing Life" is rich in metaphor, highly readable and often funny — and every writer who reads it will feel that Dillard, in her comfortable but thought-provoking style, has written it especially for and to them.

Helping minimize weighty perceptions

Despite my dieting efforts, I remain seriously overweight. Yet I want to look the best I can and was wondering if you could advise me on which colors could make me look thinner? I have dark brown hair and pale ivory skin that you may want to take into consideration.

A: In minimizing the sense of your size or weight, avoid wearing garments in a single color, particularly the brights and even the bright pastels. This is because of their expansive and exaggerating qualities. Otherwise, you can wear almost any color, from the darks, through the medium and pale tones as long as they are slightly subdued, or greyed. Due to your coloration, you may want to avoid pure white, olive greens, and yellow with a green cast.

Beyond that, it is more important to recognize that color will minimize the perception of size more effectively when it is first combined with certain other colors, or with particular types of patterns and styles.

You may want to consider wearing dresses with small-scale, flower patterns, in either geometric or floral motifs. This ap-



all about color Helen Diane Vincent

proach gives you the opportunity to wear the brighter colors you should not wear in solids, because the intensity of color is broken up in small designs. The same principle applies to suits and dresses in small-scale woven patterns.

The little black or dark-colored dress with a single color accent at the neckline or hem is also effective.

A more flamboyant option is wearing a two-piece, jacketed dress or suit with a strong pattern in the jacket, and a coordinated solid color in the skirt or dress. You would look well in the red and black pattern and solid coordinates being shown this fall.

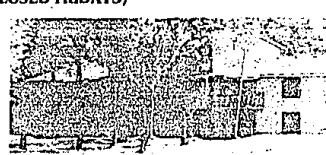
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Words can hit a child as hard as a fist.

I am sad

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Stop using words that hurt.

For helpful information, write: National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Box 28565, Chicago, IL 60670