



News Release

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POETRY PANEL DISCUSSION AT WESTERN

St. Joseph, Mo. — Sept. 23, 2003—Missouri Western State College will host a panel discussion on the state of poetry writing and publishing in America today featuring internationally known author Robert Bly. It will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, in the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building Kemper Recital Hall.

Along with Bly, panel members include Dr. Ian Roberts, associate professor of English at Western; Professor Emeritus John Gilgun; Robert Stewart, editor of “New Letters,” University of Missouri-Kansas City; and Dr. Michelle Boisseau, associate professor of poetics, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The panel will discuss topics including the importance of writing and publishing poetic works in light of the nation’s state after Sept. 11, 2001, the influence of electronic media on poetry and historical aspects of poetry writing. Each member of the panel will first state his or her views prior to engaging in discussion based on the issues raised. All those in attendance will be encouraged to question the panel about any topic related to the discussion.

Bly will also conduct a community reading at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18, at the Christian Science Church, 12th and Felix Streets. He will share works from his two latest collections, “Eating the Honey Words” and “The Night Abraham Called to the Stars.”

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Bly has published more than 40 books of poetry, essays and translations. One of his most famous books is “Iron John: A Book About Men.” It became an international bestseller translated into many languages. He is also known for co-founding American Writers Against the Vietnam War, which led much of the opposition against that war. He won the National Book Award for “The Light Around the Body.” His newest collections are “Eating the Honey Words” and “The Night Abraham Called to the Stars.”

Dr. Roberts earned his master of arts degree in creative writing and his doctorate in literature and literary theory from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His research and publications focus on realism, naturalism and the relationship between literature and science.

Gilgun taught at Western from 1972 -1999. He has authored the following books: “Everything That Has Been Shall Be Again: The Reincarnation Fables of John Gilgun,” “Music I Never Dreamed Of,” “The Dooley Poems,” “From the Inside Out,” “Your Buddy Misses You” and “In the Zone: The Moby Dick Poems of John Gilgun.”

Stewart is the head of the Midwest Poet Series which is performed at Rockhurst University, Kansas City, Mo. His books are “Letter From the Living,” “Plumbers” and “Rescue Mission.” He has edited “The Writer in Politics” and “Voices From the Interior” and has co-edited “The Writer & Religion,” “The People, Yes” and “Decade.”

Boisseau is the author of “No Private Life,” “Trembling Air” and “Understory,” for which she won the Samuel French Morse Prize. Her textbook, “Writing Poems” is widely acclaimed.

Western’s English honorary society Sigma Tau Delta is co-sponsoring the event with the co-curricular events committee.

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For more information about the events, contact Hans P. Bremer at 364 – 6824 or Roger Kirschbaum, instructor of English, at 271 – 4316.

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Missouri Western State College is a four-year public institution providing a blend of traditional liberal arts and professional degree programs. The college offers student-centered, high quality instruction that focuses on experience-based learning, community service, and state-of-the-art technology. Western is located in St. Joseph, Mo. and is committed to the educational, economic, cultural and social development of the region it serves.