

# UA Journalism Aids Writers...

(Continued from Page 1)

over the years," explains Dr. B.G. Olson, head of the Department of Journalism, "and, not surprisingly, some of the students from most walks of life have never written anything for publication before. But they're publishing books. For a long time they got the instruction under Special Topics."

Keim, himself author of two books, co-author of another, with two more scheduled for early publication and with publishers "looking at three more right now," says the diversity of students and subjects is highly reflective of the diversity of Alaska, although not all the students are from Alaska or, indeed, even living here now.

"As Alaska has developed over the past 20 years increasing interest has focused on the past, present and future of our largest state," Prof. Keim explains. "Historically, national—even international—interest has switched to our territories and states undergoing discovery and change of an intensity greater than in the others. I fully expect our programs in book writing instruction to continue to accelerate."

The former dean of the College of Arts and Letters and nationally recognized author of books, magazine articles and short stories, said he is gratified that the students are publishing their books, but not surprised. "They have interesting stories to tell."

What are they writing about right now?

Dorothy Barclay, two books for juveniles; Mrs. Brown, two books of legends and one of songs (with assistance from the Department of Music); Patricia Collett, a novel; Lavena Crooks, a biography; Esther DeWitt, autobiography; Dr. Dorothy Frost of Seattle, a book on Alaska history; Margaret Gray, collection of factual stories; John Harris, biography; Roberta Lafferty, an anthropological subject; Alaska Linck, biography; Shirley Malkuch, factual book, partially autobiographical; Valma McClintock, novel; Neville Jacobs, anthropological book;

Ruth Orand, novel; Shirley Schneider, autobiography; Flora Sibold, biography; Wallace Sleness, novel; Alice Wilson, factual book and a juvenile novel; Melody Zager, autobiography; Larry Paquin, anthology of short stories and a novel. Mrs. Barclay is in Missouri; Orand, Montana.

What are some of the titles of books written by other former students?

"Again, they cover the whole spectrum," Keim explains. "Wager with the Wind," James Greiner; "Stories of North Pole, Alaska," Bon V. Davis; "Discovering Alaska," Mary E. Binkley; "The Rescue of the Sun and Other Tales from the Far North," Edythe W. Newell; "I Love the Land," Paul A. Elbert; "People of the Noatak," Claire Fejes; "North of Heaven," Agnes Rodli; three edited by a former graduate student under Keim's instruction: "The Purchase of Alaska," Archie W. Shiels, "The Battle for Alaska Statehood," Sen. Ernest Gruening, and "Mt. McKinley/The Pioneer Climbs," Dr. Terris Moore, president emeritus of the University of Alaska. The editor: now Dr. Olson.

Keim explained that the course will be offered next semester, too, and interested persons should call him at 479-7761.

"I want to emphasize that people don't have to be college graduates to take the course," Keim, a winner of numerous press awards, explained. "Authors of books come under many guises. Some of my very productive students have lacked formal education, but they have become educated to life and have stories that meet all the requisites for publication: they inform, entertain and move to action."

Keim, himself is of a rather diverse background. Newspaper reporter and editor, decorated combat first sergeant, registered big game guide, Fellow of The Explorers Club of New York, former member of the National Commission on Arts and Sciences, former member of the board of the national Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, one

of the first group of 49 Alaskans named a "49'er" by the Alaska Press Club for his "significant endeavors for the growth and cultural advancement of their state," former head of the Department of Journalism and Creative Writing at the University and twice named "Outstanding Professor of the University," once by the Alumni Association which named him lifetime honorary member at the same time, and once by the student body.

Can he point to someone who worked especially hard under severe conditions and produced a book?

"Edby Davis, the late Edby Davis," the educator promptly replies. "He came out to the campus and in a very halting voice told me that he wanted to write and publish his life story as an Alaskan pioneer. He wrote and published that autobiography, one double spaced line at a time in longhand on yellow sheets of ruled paper. And after he published his story, he continued writing and publishing much shorter works right up to the time of his death a couple of years ago."

"I learned a great deal from Edby, as I have from all my other students. He brought his diploma from Fairbanks High School with him one day. Its wording was burned on cured moose hide. One word was even misspelled on the diploma. But Edby knew, liked and understood people."

"Those are basic requirements of a writer, plus a willingness to write, instead of talking about it—never working around to

## Sitka Hi. Sch. Registration—

# A Day that Was

(From PUSHKA)

Confusion and utter chaos describes the registration day as school started for Sitka High 1975-76. At 8:00 the doors opened, from then on students were running back and forth trying to find a teacher who's at the opposite end of the school only to find out their class was full.

Better organization is what is needed for this day every year. Such as going from seniors, letting them schedule, then the Jr's and down the line. Having everyone come at the same time is like letting all the animals loose from a zoo.

Here are some of the student body and faculty's opinions of

registration:

Mary Brant: Seniors should have first choice of classes.

Laurie Miller: Rotten, some people had to wait 5 hours in lines.

Katie Tirador: They should have used more time and thought to figure out a better way to do it.

Theresa Thomas: Big mess.

Connie Kevin: It stunk.

Jody Donnelly: needed more organization.

Anna Marie B: Lousy, & sick. Only way you got any classes was to talk your way into it.

Mr. Harnum: Gross.

Miss Foster: Didn't really think it was organized effectively.

Mr. Dill: More complicated than usual, because we couldn't preregister.

Mr. Teague: Lousy, could have been improved.

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