# Letters to the Editor

TRAGIC EVENT

Dorchester, Mass. - Immediately after my son William Best was the subject of a DAWN Magazine article in the October issue: "They Gave Him 9 Months to Live," he was involved in a terrible accident.

He has been hospitalized ever since, and will be for an indefinite time. Just thought you and your readers would like to know.

MRS. HILDA BEST

ABOUT POETRY

Fredonia, N.Y. - I turned with bated breath to the new DAWN poetry page, hoping to find real

DAWN Magazine welcomes letters expressing all viewpoints.

Letters must include signature and mailing address. Names may be withheld for adequate reason. The editor reserves the right to condense letters. Address all correspondence to The Editor, DAWN Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md.

poems there and not the usual condescending doggerel ones one finds in newsqpapers. I thought DAWN might have had the guts to stand for quality in poetry. I was

As a poet and teacher of English, including creative writing, I am among those who are in a position to witness over and over again the damage such condescension inflicts upon the

Certainly, you do not encourage good journalism by publishing bad journalism. Poetry is of equal importance in this respect.

I am convinced that good poems are available, for there are numerous writing workshops around the country in which black people, young and old, are producing good poems.

I register this complaint in full awareness of the problems inherent in publishing poetry, particularly for a popular audience; but I register it also with the conviction that the problems are not insoluable.

I am equally convinced that it is better to publish a single good poem an issue (or none at all) than a page full of bad verse.

ALVIN AUBERT

Editor's Note: The Poetrie Gallerie was started in response to requests from readers of DAWN. All poems printed are sent in, unsolicited, by our readers and make no claim to being high literary art.

If our readers like poems that do not follow more formal poetic guidelines as laid down by academicians, then we believe they are entitled to a forum.

We too grew up in an era when all poems had to scan, rhyme or be written in iambic pentameter. But this is 1978 and the freedom from traditional boundaries is fast fading away.

King, Jr. Issued this month, it is pictured on Page 9. · Discomania is the name of

the theme of this issue, and it all begins at the bottom of Page 9. There are reports from New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Detroit.

In This

Issue:

. What has become one of

DAWN Magazine's

favorite attractions, the

Poetry Gallerie, has

another collection of poems

sent in by readers. It all

. The food recipes this is sue,

are concerned with the

especially, breakfast foods.

• There is a new stamp

dedicated to Martin Luther

It's all spelled out on Page

nutrition,

begins on Page 7.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Philadelphia, Pa. - In the November DAWN Magazine, someone wrote and asked how to subscribe to some of those black newspapers listed on the front

Your answer was to get a copy of Editor and Publisher Annual Edition. But, you didn't give an address or the price. Would you please give me this information. ALTON HUGHES

Ed. Note: The address for Editor and Publisher is 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022. The price for the annual is around \$15.00, but our recommendation is to go to a public library to copy down the information needed.

# Notes From-

# The Editor's Desk

The phenomenon of disco is almost unbelievable. But it shouldn't be if you remember your history.

During the roaring 20s, they did the Charleston, Blackbottom, Snakehips and all the rest of those hoppity - skippity type dances. They were fun, and the speakeasies and blind pigs -provided the setting for the dances.

By the 1930s, ballroom dancing had come into its own. The Lindy Hop was "the dance," which gravitated into the jitterbug. And, most hotels had ballrooms, with live radio remotes.

The late 30s, and 40s saw the big bands ruling the musical roost, and ballrooms flourishing. Dinner-dances were the order of the day, and taking a date to a nightclub meant you could have dinner and dance between shows.

DAWN MAGAZINE

By the 50s, bebop had taken

JOHN H. MURPHY III

JOHN J. OLIVER, SR.

RAYMOND H. BOONE

Vice President/Editorial

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President

over, and dancing went into a slump. The big bands disappeared. The ballrooms made attempts to survive, featuring such things as "mambo nights," but the dance scene was almost

Then rhythm and blues and rock and roll hit in the late 50s, and dancing was back in favor. This was the era of the record-hops, the sock hops, and all the rest.

Jitterbugging was "the" dance and everybody was into it. The scene gradually changed and dancing without touching grew into popularity. By the 1970s, dancing was "in" again in the guise of disco.

So, DAWN Magazine does a report on some of the discos in this

Obviously, we couldn't go everywhere, but we think the results are typical.

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