

Georgetown poet eyes international audience

By Oksana Buhel

Georgetown resident Carlos Roberto embarked on his literary career by keeping his nose to the grindstone, his pen on paper and his eyes open.

The 25-year-old saw an advertised contest in the Pennysaver newspaper in January and submitted his poem - "The Drunk,"

There he sits all alone
The bridge has become his home
And the bottle his soulmate.

He says nothing, but his eyes speak with fervour
Inside his spirit are many stories
His eyes tell of the pain in his heart
And of the horrors he has seen.

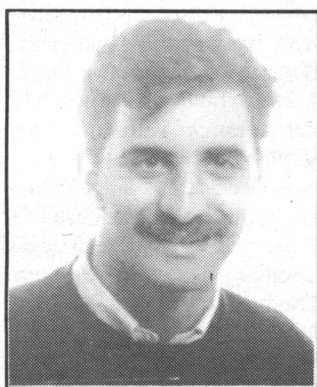
His eyes are a fading blue,
his hair, long and unkempt.
His clothes are tattered and his face is worn

He has been there for a long time
He trusts no one, and no longer cares for life
When he withers away, no one will remember him
For he has no family and no friends.

Hate has replaced love
And vengeance, compassion
He has no one to live for, but himself.

Roberto is not sure what motivated him to write the poem. "I was probably blue at the time," he guessed.

The poem was published in A Break in the Clouds, a 400-page anthology of poems, all



Carlos Roberto

gathered from contests, compiled by the National Library of Poetry in Maryland, U.S.A.

Roberto has been writing poems "as long as (he) can remember - or at least 10 years." He said ideas just pop into his head, and he writes them down immediately. "It doesn't always work," he admitted, "but it usually does." Two of his favorite places to write are in bed and at the library.

While at the library, Roberto makes use of the various reference books which list publishers, publications and other markets open to poets. "It's really worthwhile," he maintains. Canadian Writer's Guide and Writer's Market are two books which Roberto particularly recommends to novice poets.

When Roberto isn't writing, he works at Burger King as the hourly manager. And when he's not managing, he's writing. He has submitted another poem in a contest and is anxiously awaiting the results.

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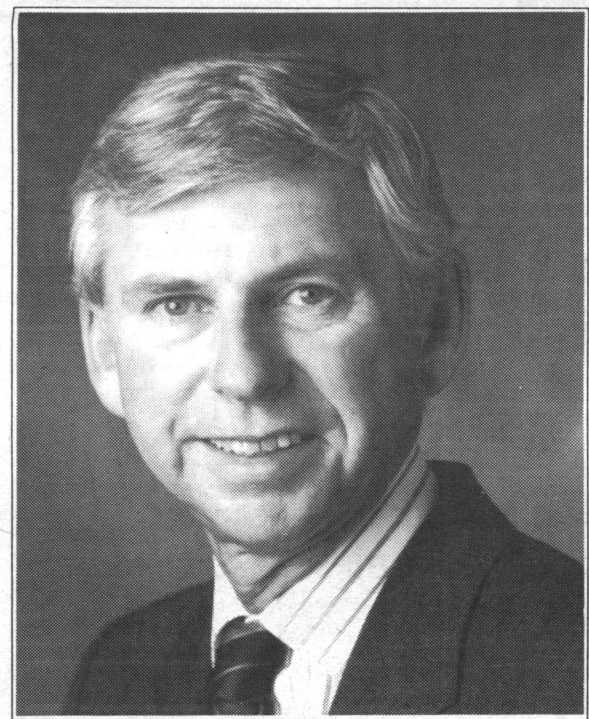
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