

## THE CAPILANO REVIEW FICTION CONTEST, 1980

Last year, with the deficit hovering around — \$3000, and subscriptions flashing double-bankruptcy, the editors grinned and set aside \$500 prize money for a fiction contest. We picked a judge who is completely independent of *The Capilano Review*, respected writer and editor Robert Kroetsch, and were delighted when he accepted the task. We drafted the rules, and sent out a Media Release to radio stations, newspapers and literary journals and newsletters across the country. Mainly we wanted to stimulate people into sending us really good, polished work (because although we get on average six manuscripts a day in the mail, it's almost all mediocre and unfinished). To make it clear how open we are to good submissions from anybody, we announced that submissions had to be under pseudonym, with the real name in a sealed envelope. We coded the manuscripts to the sealed envelopes, and handed the latter to Ann Petrie of CBC Vancouver, who kindly agreed to hold them in a safety deposit box, till Robert Kroetsch sent us his judgment. Eighty-two manuscripts came in by the closing date — some with good pseudonyms ("Giver Leprize"! ). At a reading in the Cafetheatre, Kroetsch's winners were announced: Sean van Rijn, Quality Bicycles, and O. M. Primrose. Ann Petrie riffled through envelopes till she found them: D. M. Clark, the winner, and William J. Klebeck and Mildred Tremblay the runners-up. Here are the stories. Hope you enjoy them.

(Oh and by the way: We paid for the prize money by making \$480 on sales of the special hard-cover edition of the Marlatt/Ondaatje issue, #16/17, at \$20 apiece. Well, actually . . . we were a buck or two short. Nudge, nudge. Wink, wink. Or there's Brian Fawcett's *Tristram's Book* at \$15. Nice books . . . signed and numbered . . . collectors' items.)

To Robert Kroetsch, Ann Petrie, and all the writers who sent in submissions, thank you very much.

Watch for details of our next contest. This time for full-length theatre pieces. Closing date to be announced.

— BILL SCHERMBRUCKER