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Jon Davis wins 1982 Merriam-Frontier Award

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English/mmm
3/4/83
Entertainer +
dailies + h.t.

MEDIA RELEASE

JON DAVIS WINS 1982 MERRIAM-FRONTIER AWARD

MISSOULA--

The 1982 Merriam-Frontier Award of \$250 has been given to Jon Davis for a manuscript of poems titled "West of New England." Davis, a University of Montana senior in English, is the son of Mrs. Joan Somers of Cheshire, Conn.

The award includes the publication of the winning manuscript and its distribution to college and university libraries in the Northwest. Judging was done by a UM faculty committee consisting of Sharon Barrett, journalism; Beverly Chin, English; Julie Codell, art; and Rick DeMarinis, English.

Below is an excerpt from one of Davis' poems, "Sartre":

In this confusion of seasons
these fishermen drift
while you watch from your porch
the heat clanging in the pipes,
your breath fogging the glass,
the coffee cup steaming in your hand,
wet leaves stuck to your bare feet,
the door left open--warm rain
and the wind. Over the bay
you hear the plunge and stroke,
and you know that this
is the edge of an impossible future,
the absence of everything you know.
Over the bay you hear
droplets falling from a stilled oar.

H.G. Merriam, longtime professor and Professor Emeritus of English until his death in 1980, established the Frontier Award to recognize the work of outstanding young writers enrolled at UM. From 1920 to 1939, Merriam edited the quarterly journal Frontier, and helped start many

(over)

Merriam-Frontier Award-- add one

now-famous writers on their careers. Friends of Professor Merriam who wish to contribute to the Merriam-Frontier Award fund should contact the UM Foundation office at 243-2593.

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