



CASUALLY CLAD POET and critic, John Ciardi, uses his hands to emphasize a point while speaking on poetry and the writing of poetry at a session yesterday of the Pennsylvania Contemporary Writers Conference.

# Poetry Progress Reported Nil

By JUDY SCAFFIDI  
It is not possible to have progress in the arts, according to John Ciardi, poet, poetry editor of The Saturday Review, and director of the Bread Loaf Writers Conference in Vermont.

"Poetry is always the concern of only a few people," he said. "I am not sure that this is the most fruitful age for the arts. We have failed in many ways."

Ciardi is on campus to speak to members of the fifth annual Pennsylvania Contemporary Literature Conference which began July 3 and will continue until July 21.

Although he doesn't recognize that there is progress in poetry Ciardi said that poetry changes from age to age. He added that poetry in this century is closer to the writing of the 17th century than to writing in either of the intervening centuries.

Instead of writing with a "burst of language" as was typical of the last century "the poet today, for the most part, says only that of which he is entirely convinced."

Concerning one of the pertinent questions facing artists today Ciardi said, "I am very powerfully opposed to state subsidization of the arts as far as poetry is concerned. I don't see how any sound artistic impulse can survive senatorial questions."

Poetry in school systems is, for the most part, according to Ciardi, "organized by dinosaurs to be taught by fossils."

"There tends to be a definite conflict between academic and professional writers. Most academic writers are lousy writers. However practically every poet is connected with a university."

He added that this is a successful arrangement "if the poet doesn't take it too seriously." He said he would advise the poet to "cheat the university for the sake of his poetry."

Ciardi resigned as professor of English at Rutgers University as of the first of July. He said, "I can make a living as a writer now so I'm through teaching."

## Free Named Assistant Dean of Education

George J. Free, professor of education, has been named assistant to the dean of the College of Education, effective Sept. 1.

He will continue to teach on a part-time basis.

Dr. J. R. Rackley, dean of the College of Education, said Free will be concerned primarily with the administration of the student personnel program in the College.

Undergraduate enrollment in the College has increased in the past five years, from 1,275 in 1955 to 2,700 during the last academic year.

Free has served on the faculty since 1929 when he was named instructor in nature education. Earlier he taught in the public schools of Vandergrift.

He is a native of York and received his bachelor of science degree in forestry at this university. His master of science degree in natural science was conferred by Cornell University and he has completed work in education both at Penn State and Columbia University.

In 1946, he organized the Pennsylvania State Conservation Laboratory for Teachers which has continued as a program to acquaint teachers with conservation problems and practices, which they in turn can integrate into their teaching programs.

Free is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, professional education fraternity; National Education Association; Pennsylvania State Education Association and the American Ornithologists Union.

## Seigels Will Study At 'Sciences' Center

Mr. Sidney Siegel, research professor of psychology, and his wife, Alberta, associate professor of child development, have been invited to spend the 1961-62 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Palo Alto, Calif. Each has been granted a year's leave from the University.

The Center was founded by the Ford Foundation to provide a setting for concentrated scholarly work by established behavioral scientists, such as psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, and anthropologists. Fellows are chosen by nomination, not application, and come from all parts of the world.

Mr. Siegel will devote his time to preparing for publication reports concerning the research which he and his co-workers have conducted during the past three years under grant support from the National Science Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

Mrs. Siegel will pursue research and writing concerning methods for the study of personality and

social behavior in young children. She also will study social and cognitive development in children.

Mr. Siegel was chosen a Fellow in 1957 and was in residence at the center for the 1957-58 academic year. He is the first center fellow to be asked to return for a second year of residence and was the first University faculty member nominated (Continued on page eight)

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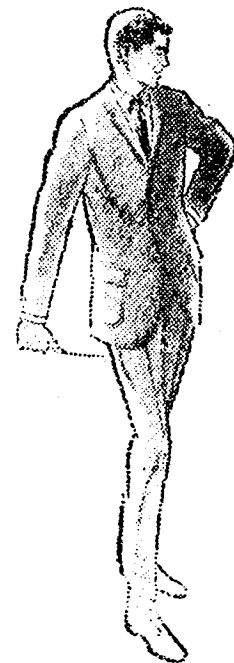
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