

CONVERSATIONS UNLIMITED - MONDAY, Dec. 16, 1985

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. During this holiday season, millions of us are finding "just the right book" for annual gifts. There are, it sometimes seems, as many kinds of books as there are writers. Fiction for children, science fiction, mystery stories, text books, scholarly research. The writer is generally celebrated in our society as a learned person who can tell a story, or instruct, or even lift the spirit. Today I'll be talking with Dr. David Sheehan, who heads up a faculty of writers that does all of these types of writing.

David Sheehan chairs the Department of English at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. That department has turned out more than a dozen volumes in the past two years and has more than a dozen nearing completion or due out soon. Dr. Sheehan, when your faculty members get together, I would guess a major topic of discussion would have to be the progress they are making with the books they are writing.

INTERVIEW DAVID SHEEHAN:

- Discuss writing: author's needs
  - disciplines
  - rewards
- Role of books in society
  - entertainment
  - instruction
- Competition of publishing
- Publish or perish

14:00

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We'll return in a moment to talk with Dr. Sheehan about some of the books the English faculty at Stony Brook have been turning out. Please stay with us.

BRIDGE UP AND UNDER

Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with David Sheehan, who chairs the Department of English at Stony Brook. Let's talk about that productive faculty of writers. What diversification: poetry, political essays, critical analysis, even history of a sort.

INTERVIEW DAVID SHEEHAN:

-- June Jordan, Louis Simpson, Ron Overton, Joseph Pequigney, Susan Merrill Squier, Peter Elbow et al.

29:00

OUTRO

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10:14