

AOYAMA DOJO AD

AOYAMA DOJO AD IS AVAILABLE FOR RENT

A lovely quiet space, conveniently located in Kita Aoyama, a 5 minute walk from Gaienmae St. on the Ginza Line. The hall is multi-purpose, 9.0 metres x 6.6 metres, with cork tile floors, cedar wood walls, and a floor length mirrored front wall. Kitchen attached.

Rental Cost

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	¥10 000
1:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	¥20 000
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	¥15 000
All day	¥40 000

COURSES CURRENTLY OFFERED AT THE DOJO

Mon. <u>JUTAMA</u>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Instructor; Yuho Furusawa	Japanese/English
Blended classical Japanese & avant garde dance	
Tue. <u>MEDITATION</u>	10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Instructor; Yukihiko Tsushima	Japanese only
Patanjali yoga used, 3 classes per day	
Wed. <u>NINPO</u>	7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Instructor; Keiichi Nakadai	Japanese/English
Ninja martial arts	
Wed. <u>YOGA</u>	2:00 - 3:30 p.m., 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Instructor; Shin Sadako	Japanese/French/German
Thur. <u>RENKOJUHAPPO</u>	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Instructor; Mitsu Otsuka	Japanese/limited Chinese
Combination of Tai-chi & Chi-Qong in 18 movements	

A seed, sown in the soil, has begun to bud
Before long, it will grow, put forth flowers, and bear fruits
How wonderful, if we could share those fruits
With people all over the world

For class reservations or space rental, contact;

MISAYO FUKUZAWA
AOYAMA DOJO AD

2-12-39 Kita Aoyama, Minato-ku, Tokyo
Japanese: TEL. (03) 401-2607
FAX. (03) 401-9735

English: Kozue Yoshikawa at (03) 439-7276



If You Really Want to Know What's Going On Get Into the Alternative Press



If what you are interested in is serious contemporary writing (serious does not necessarily mean humorless), you may not find what you are looking for in most bookstores. You are not going to find it in most mass-circulation magazines and publications either. Probably you are not going to find it in the mainstream media because most of the really good stuff gets published in the alternative press. For writers who are looking to publish manuscripts mainstream publishers will not touch and readers looking for something *intelligent* to read, the alternative press is where the action is.

The alternative press is comprised of thousands of publishers who are in it for the love of good writing and honest journalism. The magazines and books they put out are usually not slick. They do not have an enormous number of readers and neither the publishers nor writers make much money. Even though the alternative press put out an astronomical number of books and magazines each year, you would hardly know it by browsing through most bookstores. Most alternative publications are simply too small to get

taken on by mass distributors; as a consequence, a lot of people who frequent conventional bookstores are unaware that alternative publication even exist.

by Richard Evanoff

Most of the *real* debate about "current events" takes place in the alternative press. It has only been recently, for example, that the environmental movement has caught the attention of the big-time press. Yet eco-publications such as *Earth First!* (\$30/year from P.O. Box 7, Canton, NY 13617), *Whole Earth Review* (\$24/year from P.O. Box 38, Sausalito, CA. 94966), and *The Animals' Agenda* (\$35/year from 456 Monroe Turnpike, Monroe, CT 06468) were covering ecological concerns long before *Time* and *Newsweek* jumped on the bandwagon.

The alternative press also reports on news and activities the mainstream press considers "too insignificant" to merit much attention. Most Americans are probably unaware, for example,

of recent calls in the United States for a third political party as an alternative to the *Republicrats*. Yet the *Utne Reader* (\$34/year from P.O. Box 1974, Marion, OH 43306), that reprints the "best of the alternative press," reported in a recent issue that at least three different groups—the National Organization for Women, the labor movement and the U.S. Greens—are currently discussing the feasibility of launching third parties. To me, this kind of information is vastly more newsworthy than being entreated to read George Bush's lips. If I want to go a bit deeper and find out just what kind of platform the Greens are developing, I can read all about it their quarterly journal, *Green Letter* (\$20/year from P.O. Box 14141, San Francisco, CA 94114).

The alternative press—since it ultimately is an *alternative* to the dominant world view—is about the only place where minority opinions get a fair airing. The *Guardian* newspaper (the one published in New York, not Manchester, England—\$51.50/year from 33 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011), for example, consistently reports on issues of

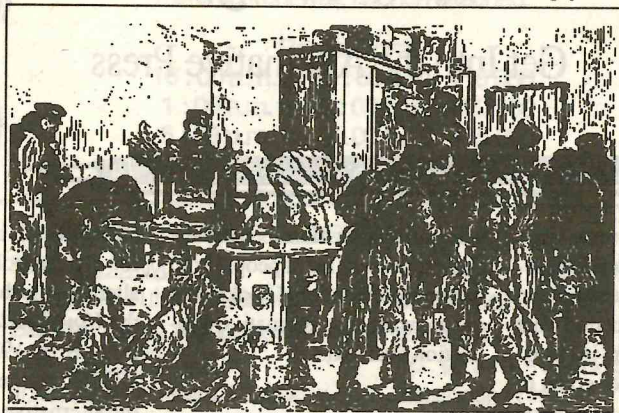
interest to peace activists, gays, labor, minorities, feminists, anti-nukes and environmentalists from a socialist perspective. This weekly, which is supported entirely by readers, consistently carries information the major presses (rather conveniently) overlook—

the fact, for example, that more innocent civilians were massacred in the U.S. invasion of Panama than died in Tiananmen Square. There is a long tradition of involvement with subversive and revolutionary movements by the alternative press.

In a fascinating pamphlet called

Small Press as Class Struggle (\$1.00 + postage from *Samisdat*, P.O. Box 129, Richford, VT 05476), Merritt Clifton shows how the alternative press was a key force behind both the American Revolution and the Abolitionist movement, to give but two prominent examples. "The true impulse

behind working class literary rebellion is not Marxism but the American Dream," Clifton writes. To give a current example, Noam Chomsky is fairly well-known worldwide as a linguist. But few who pour over his writings on linguistics are aware that he has



The alternative press has a long and distinguished history: Police raid a *Samisdat* publisher in St. Petersburg, 1887.

also written highly controversial books on political subjects. *Radical Priorities* and *The Culture of Terrorism*, published by the anarchistic Black Rose Books (free catalogue from 3981 Boulevard St-Laurent, 4th Floor, Montréal, Québec H2W 1Y5, Canada), show Chomsky to be as

concerned with U.S.-sponsored suppression and aggression in Central America as he is with syntactical structures. Because the alternative press has a somewhat subversive reputation, it has had a hard time getting heard. But it is simply too diverse and too independent to be part of an anarchistic plot. The *International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses* (\$24.95 + postage from Dustbooks P.O. Box 100, Paradise, CA 95967), a bit hipper and less commercially oriented than *Writers' Market*, lists the names and addresses over 5,000 alternative publishers,

in fields as diverse as acupuncture, biology, computers, dance, erotica, film, gardening, haiku, interviews, Japan, Kerouac, language, metaphysics, New Age, outdoors, poetry, quilting, religion, surrealism, theater, U.S. Hispanics, visual arts, women, yoga and Zen.

Alternative Publications in Japan

Richard Evanoff's personal selection of favorite publications in English

Kyoto Journal (¥2,000/year from 35 Minamigosho-machi, Okazaki, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606). Probably the best all-round alternative magazine in Japan. It's a bit "Kyoto-centric," but there are plenty of good articles on a variety of subjects for readers throughout Japan.

Japan Environment Monitor (¥3,000/year from 18-11 Saiwai-cho, Kofu, Kofu-shi, Yamanashi-ken 400). The alternative publication in English for the environmental movement in Japan. Highly factual and well-researched reporting on grassroots struggles against the development interests of the big corporations and government indifference. Highly recommended.

Insights (¥3,000/year from IRF Labs, Takaoka Bldg. 4 F, Yushima 2-22-2, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113). The magazine you're holding in your hands is probably the best source of alternative networking information available in Japan. Plus comprehensive articles, features and interviews for and about now-age people working for "personal, community and planetary change."

A while back, tired of listening to the same old stuff on the radio and spinning the same old LP's, I ordered a sample copy of *Sing Out!*, (\$18/year from P.O. Box 5253, Bethlehem, PA. 18015), a quarterly rag devoted to folk music and blues. The magazine has extensive coverage of everything that's going on in the field, from spanking-new folk festivals to old-timer's obituaries and interviews with contemporary musicians who are keeping the folk tradition alive. They also publish lyrics and music to twenty folk songs in each issue that I can try out on my guitar. Pete Seeger and Happy Traum are on the staff and Joan Baez is a supporter, yet the magazine has a total paid circulation of about 6,800. It was through *Sing Out!* that I found out about Eldery Instruments (catalogue for \$2 from 1100 N. Washington, P.O. Box 14210, Lansing, MI 48901), a music distributor with a 96-page catalogue of hard-to-find recordings in genres as diverse as klezmer, reggae and zydeco.

But it is in the field of literature that the small press really shines. Literary friends in academe think

I'm really out of it when I talk about poets like Jeff Poniewaz, Sylvia Kantaris and Bob Arnold. "Who are they?" my colleagues ask me with skeptical, slightly condescending smiles. (Unfortunately the work of these poets has not yet been discussed at the an-



nual conference of the American Literature Society; by mentioning such uncanonized writers I have inadvertently put my academic reputation at stake!) For all the discussions about who the "great" writers are, it is the small press that is really keeping the front line of literature moving forward. As a

Printed Matter (¥3,000/year from 3-31-14-No.207 Ikebukuro Honcho, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170). Poetry, fiction, articles and reviews, mainly from Tokyo writers. Recently they've started branching out beyond the Kanto area and are publishing a wider variety of material than ever before. Always good reading.

Blue Jacket (¥700/issue from Blue Jacket Press, 1-5-54 Suguecho, Sanjo-shi, Niigata-ken 955).

One of the liveliest alternative litmags currently being published in Japan, carrying on (and often transcending) the beat tradition. Editor Yusuke Keida is well-connected to writers who matter.

Poetry Kanto (for sub info write Kanto Poetry Center, Kanto Gakuin University, 4834 Mutsuura, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama 235). A highly selective magazine of both original and

laboratory for new literary ideas, not all of the experiments will prove to be of lasting value. Most of the poets and writers that get published in magazines like *Sulfur* (\$12/year from 210 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti, MI 48197) or distributed through alternative bookstores such as City Lights Books (catalogue available from 261 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133) are not that well-known! But it will be at least another twenty years before scholars and critics get around to conferring "academic respectability" on any of these writers. By that time the literary front will have moved on.

I have been sharing with you a few of the alternative publications that I myself read and enjoy, and a bit of info on how to get in touch with the alternative network. But fair warning, once you get caught up in the alternative press, you also become part of an alternative culture that is going to give it to you raw and uncooked, without all the fancy sauces and dressings of mainstream publications. But I'm certain you will find a lot more to chew on in that alterna-

translated poetry put out annually in a bilingual edition. Quality poetry for the connoisseur.

Poetry Nippon (¥3,500/year from 5-11-2 Nagaike-cho, Showa-ku, Nagoya 466). The official publication of the Poetry Society of Japan contains poetry, essays and reviews. Writers of all abilities are published and poetry submissions from new faces are welcome.

tive magazine put together in somebody's basement than you will find in all the slick magazines you find on the newsstands. That is because the alternative press is more interested in substance than style, more interested in challenging the way we think than in entertaining us, more interested in saying what needs to be said than in making a profit.

By the way, if you have written a book, poem, story or article for which you cannot find a mainstream publisher, by all means look into alternative publishing. That is how Mark Twain, Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, D.H. Lawrence, James Joyce, Anaïs Nin and quite a few others got their starts.

Richard Evanoff, former editor of the literary quarterly *Edge*, is currently working with Japan Environment Monitor. He teaches at the School for International Politics, Economics and Business at Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo.

INSIGHTS

CAN BE FOUND AT:

RESTURANTS

TAO
TENMI
OPEN SESAME
HEALTHY KAN
HEALTHY BOUTIQUE

BOOKS

PRASAD BOOKS
BOOKWORM
BOOK CLUB KAI
ONE LOVE BOOKS
✓ SECOND STORY BOOKS
TUTTLE BOOKS

SEE HIKARI FOR ADDRESSES

SENRYU

poems of the people

by Chris Summerville



In a delightfully illustrated small book, J.C. Brown has compiled a collection of forty Senryu, three-line 17-syllable poems. R.H. Blyth, the translator of *A History of Haiku*, calls this book "expressions of moments of vision into, not the nature of things, but the nature of man."

Ecstatic at being
set free,
the bird collides with a tree

Politely listening to
the samisen-
what a racket!

Originally, these short pieces were written for *maekuzuke* or "verse capping" contests, where a short verse of fourteen syllables composed by one person was capped by a longer one of seventeen syllables composed by another person producing the traditional thirty-one syllable *tanka*. During the 18th century, however, these *tsukeku* or capping portions came to be read and appreciated by themselves, thanks predominantly to the efforts of a government official, Karai Hachieman (1718-1790). Karai, a poet himself, never actually wrote any Senryu but he did compile over twenty-three volumes of these *tsukeku*, which reflected his per-



The ferry boatsman-
everyday in the same place
he rows.

Watashi-mori
mainichi hitottoko
de kogi

sonal taste and humor and eventually came to be known as Senryu, from his pen name Senryu (River Willow).

The sick person
observes the doctor's
nostrils well

Human cruelty-
swatting flies as
they make love

The verses selected by Brown, though often ironic and sometimes bitter, nearly always contain at least a trace of humor, even if this humor is often a dark or cynical comment on the truths of daily life. As Blyth comments, "Senryu's themes always reflect the everyday concerns of ordinary people, allowing insights into traditional Japanese life available nowhere else."

Brown has artfully woven his simple ink drawings together with his diverse calligraphic style to

produce fluid and poignant images that never cease to surprise the reader. English and Romanji translations are also provided so that both Japanese and non-Japanese speakers can enjoy the original sound of these witty gems.

Overall, it is a visually inspiring collection that will delight readers of all ages and truly succeeds in fulfilling his hope that it a "small book [that] will make you smile, reflect upon life and come to the realization that poetry can be found in anything."