

• Second Nature • Howard Moss

Second Nature, by Howard Moss, Atheneum Paperback, \$1.95

by Mike Snook

Second Nature is the sixth vol-

ume of poems by Howard Moss. Howard Moss is Poetry Editor of the New Yorker, an American poet born in New York.

The poems in second nature happen to you. You read with your mind, and your heart responds. In this volume Moss adds a new dimension to his usual lyr-

ic. That dimension is a dramatic monologue, with a listener implied that could be an imaginary third person, could be Moss himself, or could be you as you are the reader.

His words are all a part of now, and you feel the imperative call built right in to what he has

to say. He deals in narrative and his stories are telling. When he deals with the "mystery of the commonplace", the "forgotten rooms, forgotten scenes" that all of us have, you understand. But he draws from these everyday happenings and from his everyday characters to go beyond our momentary grasp to say in "Great Spaces" that "Nothing is unwilling to be born."

Moss' poetry is gentle, but it does not sacrifice force to softness. It surrounds you with the force of a current of water instead of striking you in any particular place. You are disillusioned with him when he tells you "whatever love is, it isn't child's play." But he does not destroy your love, for you begin to see as he does that we are "unnatural animals".

• Steps • Jerzy Kosinski

• Pornographers • Akiyuki Nozaka

Steps by Jerzy Kosinski and *The Pornographers* by Akiyuki Nozaka

by John Simpson

Jerzy Kosinski, Polish-born author of *Steps*, has seen some strange things in his life. He writes of people who are outside society. This novel, in a series of brief anecdotes, reveals a pathological mind with clinical clarity and a freedom from speciousness that is often characteristic of the deviant. It is up to the reader to make his own indictments and

bring his own moral sunglasses with him when he enters this brilliant nightmare.

This is Kosinski's second novel. The first, *The Painted Bird*, whose title was an allusion to the practice of painting a captured bird in bright colours then turning it loose to watch the flock tear it to pieces in the air, dealt with the formation of the personality he observes in *Steps*. Kosinski is a sociologist, and in his writing it is sensed that he is as much concerned with the society which produces this personality as with the man himself. A man who is capable of seducing terminally ill women in a sanatorium, of feeding fish-hooks imbedded in bread to the children of people who annoyed him, of emigrating from Europe to the United States.

Kosinski does not impose any plot or continuity on the fragmented journal. That is where both its strength and, for some perhaps, its weakness lies. However a unity is achieved through

the consistency of Kosinski's vision, which is without flaw. In *Steps* we are forced to look through the eyes of a madman.

The Pornographers, by Akiyuki Nozaka, one of the rising suns on the Japanese literary scene, is translated into English by Michael Gallagher. It is a very smooth idiomatic, readable translation and anybody who has achieved such a mastery of a difficult language is to be admired.

Subuyan, the boss, is a middle-aged, moderately successful businessman who is conscientiously devoted to producing and expediting distribution of good quality pornography for which there is a crying need in his society. The novel is the story of his efforts to stay out of the red while maintaining his high aesthetic standards. He works in all media: books, film, erotic tapes, even pornographic happenings with

platoons of professional "virgins" and drunken, horny businessmen.

In spite of being impotent, he is unflagging in his efforts to know his market and deliver the right product. It is a demanding business: strange hours, difficulty of advertising, emotionally sapping (one of his associates died masturbating while writing the screenplay for Subuyan's latest film), but the rewards are in

the grateful, shifty eyes of his satisfied clients. The climax comes when Subuyan senses the meaning of his life, of life itself, after the unqualified success of his magnum opus, a super-orgy worthy of its Roman models.

The story is told with suitable oriental impassivity and gentle irony, mocking with its satirical but unflinching acceptance of its plot, in the true classical tradition.

HI LADS AND LASSIES!

De favorite pub
The Red Lion

467 JARVIS STREET

Welcomes you
Draught on Tap at Regular Prices
NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT
Upstairs Room • Now Open

(proof of age required)

YORK UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

presents

J B

by Archibald MacLeish

"A modern version of the Story of Job"

directed by Nicholas Ayre

BURTON AUDITORIUM

NOV. 15, 16, 17

8:30 P.M.

"Scuby-Duby-Doo and 23 Sca-Doo"
Everyone is having fun at the
SPEAK-EASY

ATTENTION All You Guys & Flappers
Come To Our Tea Party
Every Fri. — 4 to 7 P.M.

Also Join Our Dixieland
JAZZ PARTY
Every Sat. 2.30 — 5.00 P.M.

NOW APPEARING STANLEY STEAMERS
Sandwich bar open 12:00 noon daily

Just climb the dingy steps
at 529 Bloor St. W. (upstairs)
AND ENTER THE
SPEAK-EASY
(LICENSED)

SING ALONG

