

# John Fante

## *The First Conference*

May 4-6, 1995

California State University, Long Beach



Twelve years after his death in 1983, John Fante continues to speak to new generations of readers both in the U.S. and abroad. His books, which are set in Colorado and in locales throughout California—from Laguna Beach, Long Beach, Wilmington, downtown L.A., and Malibu, out to the Mojave Desert, and up to the fictionalized northern California town of San Elmo—present an original and engaging picture of American life from the early 1930s through the early 1980s. Long popular among general readers, Fante's humorous, compassionate, and accessible novels and stories are now being recognized by critics and scholars as important documents in American literary and cultural history.

### Headline Address

**Gay Talese**, journalist and author  
"John Fante and the Dilemma of the Italian-American Writer"  
Friday, May 5, 8:00 p.m.  
CSULB Student Union  
Reception, 7:00 p.m.

### Keynote Speaker

**Jay Martin**, Leo S. Bing Professor of English at University of Southern California and biographer of Henry Miller, Nathanael West, and others

"John Fante: The Life of His Mind"

Friday, May 5, 12:30 p.m.  
Seaport Marina Hotel, Long Beach

### Participants

**Vera Austin**, CSU Long Beach  
**Jean François Béranger**, Université Michel de Montaigne, Bordeaux, France  
"Echoes of Protest in Fante's Works"  
**A.I. Bezzerides**, screenwriter  
**Leonardo Buonomo**, University of Trieste, Italy  
"Masculinity and Femininity in Fante's 'A Wife for Dino Rossi'"  
**Mary Bucci Bush**, Los Angeles novelist  
"Possessing Women in John Fante's Fiction"  
**Richard Collins**, Fulbright Fellow at the University of Bucharest, Romania  
Fante's Families  
**Stephen Cooper**, CSU Long Beach  
"Knut Hamsun's Influence on Fante"  
**Dominic Cretara**, CSU Long Beach  
**Rene Diedrich**, University of Northern Colorado  
"John Fante: A Writer for Writers"  
**Geoffrey Dunn**, documentary filmmaker  
Fante and the Filipino  
**David Fine**, CSU Long Beach  
"Ask the Dust as L.A. Novel"  
**Fred L. Gardaphe**, Columbia College  
"John Fante's American Fantasia"  
**Frank Gaspar**, Long Beach City College  
"The Young John Fante at Long Beach City College"  
**Lucy Gray**, journalist  
Fante's influence on Charles Bukowski  
**George Guida**, Hunter College  
"Italian-American Modernism: John Fante's *Ask the Dust*"  
**Andrew Horton**, Loyola University, New Orleans  
"Fante and Film: *A Walk on the Wild Side*"  
**Kate Kordich**, UC Santa Cruz  
"Fante's Fiction as Historical Narrative"  
**Paulino Lim**, CSU Long Beach  
Fante's depictions of Filipino-Americans  
**Gerald Locklin**, CSU Long Beach  
Fante and Bukowski  
**Stefano Luconi**, Third University of Rome  
"The Protean Ethnic Identities of John Fante's Characters"  
**Louise Napolitano-Carman**, State University of New York, Stony Brook  
"Mothers and Fathers in John Fante's Short Stories"  
**Bill Nericio**, San Diego State University  
"An Italian/American in the Suburbs: Why John Fante's *My Dog Stupid Bites*"  
**David Peck**, CSU Long Beach  
**Adrienne Pilon**, CSU Long Beach  
**Giovanna Pompele**, University of Southern California  
"Sexuality and Catholicism in the Works of John Fante"  
**Frank Spotnitz**, documentary filmmaker  
**Gina Urbano**, CSU Long Beach  
**Pasquale Verdichio**, UC San Diego  
"Fante's Inferno"  
**David Viera**, CSU Long Beach  
**Maria Viera**, CSU Long Beach  
**Donald Weber**, Mount Holyoke College  
"Shame and Self-Hatred in Fante's Early Fiction"

In attendance will be members of John Fante's family.

### Screenings

**WAIT UNTIL SPRING, BANDINI** (Thursday, May 4, 8:00 p.m., Student Union, CSULB)  
**JOHN FANTE, A LIFE**, a documentary-in-progress by Frank Spotnitz (Friday, May 5, 3:00 p.m., Seaport Marina Hotel, Long Beach)  
**FULL OF LIFE** (Friday, May 5, 9:00 p.m., Student Union, CSULB)

Accommodations at the Seaport Marina Hotel, Long Beach. For special conference rates, call Kiersten Nordahl at (340) 434-8451 or fax (310) 596-6480.

Support also provided by Friends of the Italian Program, and by The Department of Radio-Television-Film, The Department of Comparative Literature, the Italian Program, The Department of Art, The Student English Association, and The Center for the Humanities, CSULB.

*John Fante, The First Conference* is the first in a series of conferences on 20th-Century literature and film.