

# Chapman speaks

by David Lutes

Monty Python fans received a special treat last Wednesday when Graham Chapman came to speak. Chapman, a member of the infamous British comedy team Monty Python came to the McInnes Room to inform and entertain for two hours with a collection of anecdotes and film clips.

The lecture followed a question and answer format with the occasional film clip thrown in when Chapman "needed a rest." This method proved successful

due largely to the interest and enthusiasm the audience displayed. The questions were for the most part intelligent and allowed Chapman to speak on a wide variety of topics.

Chapman began the show by calling on the audience to yell abuses at him. Though somewhat bewildered by this request, they nonetheless got into the swing of things. This seemed to loosen everything up and everyone quickly settled down to let the dialogue begin.

The obvious questions came

first. He was asked of his future plans, which include a new book and a couple of movie scripts. He answered questions ranging from what the rest of the Python group were doing to the inspiration for sketches as well as opinions on different political and entertainment figures.

Though admitting to be relatively new to the lecture tour business, Chapman nonetheless handled himself admirably. He gave a strong impression of being intelligent and witty as he deftly fielded the questions

posed to him. There were a few things that he felt needed to be spoken on and when given the chance he went into great detail on these topics, which included his deep friendship with the late Keith Moon, his problems with alcohol, and the movie *Yellowbeard*, which he says was an excellent film until it was edited and he is "seething with rage" at the film's producers.

Other topics he touched on:  
• When he was asked why Halifax was the only Canadian stop on his tour, he said, simply,

"Why not?"

- His religious beliefs: "I'm a fervent agnostic. I was confirmed but not convinced."
- On Maggie T. and the Falklands war: "What's the point?" adding that the patriotic fervor the war inspired "makes me sick."
- On Pierre Trudeau: "Ah, bien. Actually, I don't know enough about him. Do you?"
- On his appearances on the game show *Hollywood Squares*: "It was madness, I think."



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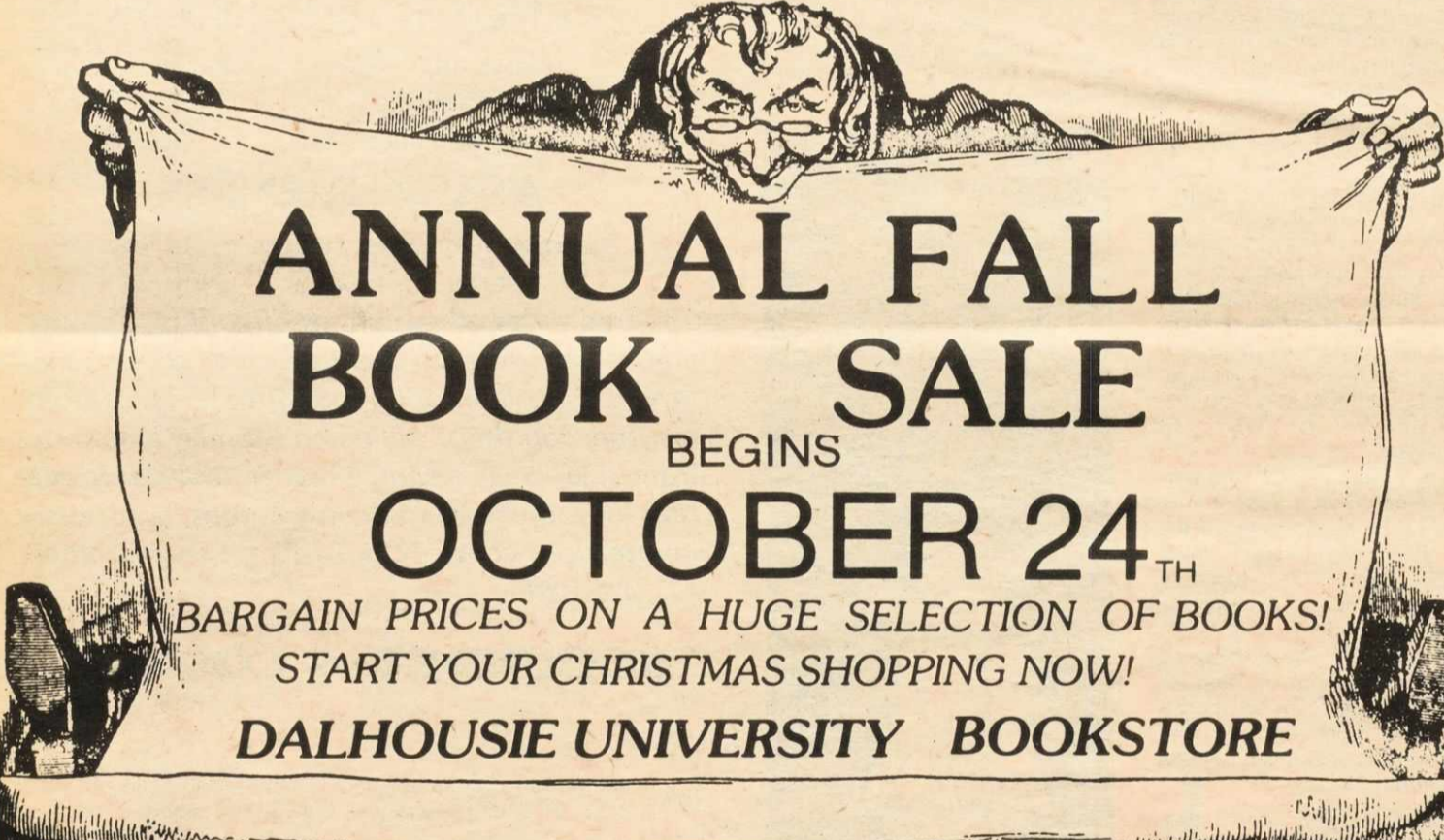
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