



DADDY DAVE CHIPS IN and buys a Campus Canada, the new National Campus Magazine published by NFCUS. The magazine went on sale last week in the NFCUS office and is priced at 35 cents.

photo by Jens Tabur

American Writer Not Sure Of Self Or Reader

by Beverley Gietz

"The American writer is unsure of his audience. He is unsure of himself. He is unsure of his work."

Dr. Leslie Fiedler, himself both writer and critic of renown, was addressing last Thursday's meeting of the Humanities Association and Philosophical Society on the writer and his audience—or, more exactly, the American writer and the American audience.

Fiedler, who teaches at Montana State University, pictured as typical the "sentimental, erotic author wooing or attempting to seduce an audience which is conducting a treason trial." Mutual bafflement is the result.

Does the writer write for himself? No, Dr. Fiedler decided. He writes more often to find what this self is. The true writer is one who writes for others, particularly for other writers, both living and dead.

The situation of American writers is peculiar in both cases, said Fiedler. The American writer has little sense of community with his living fellows, he continued, mentioning Hawthorne, Poe, Powers, and Morris. Writers at a conference resemble "animals at a zoo with nothing in common but the crowds that feed them the peanuts."

Neither do they have a sense of community with writers of the past, or a common literary tradition. Fiedler labeled as "fond and misguided" the belief that Americans share the literary tradition of Great Britain. "Shakespeare is not our grandfather, too."

What then is American literature, according to Dr. Fiedler?

"It is part satire, part parody, part protest, part imitation. It is essentially late literature, timid, imitative, dull, and worst of all—genteel."

The American writer's problem is always one of adaptation rather than creation, said Dr. Fiedler. We have never invented an American literary language. Each writer must create his own; for example, Hemingway-ese, Faulkner-ese.

With no continuous tradition on which to base his writing, each writer must make the same mistakes in order to discover the same truths as every other American writer.

Neither have Americans created any distinct genre or sub-genre of literature, according to Fiedler. The class structure of Europe that gives

Richardson's novels much of their significance, when adopted to "classless America," reduces simply to man-woman struggle.

Fiedler attributed American taste in literature to irresponsible adaptations. This unique situation, where "the debasing and degradation of literature preceded literature itself," conditioned audiences to accept and demand "the kind of book against which serious American literature was ever after in defiance."

Such a reading public means frustration for the writer. He is afraid of becoming a panderer to it, yet at the same time cannot help being tempted and intrigued by its existence. The problem becomes inescapable when the writer realizes he cannot please both the true critic and the audience.

Melville and Mailer had the public, then lost it—a considerable indignity. Hemingway, as his work deteriorated, gained popularity—the ultimate indignity.

Suicides of writers such as Hemingway illustrate the plight of the American writer, concluded Fiedler. "He turns himself into his own judge, and having found himself guilty of being innocent of the great public, condemns himself to death."

Evans And McTavish

U Of A Debaters In Finals

Two U of A debaters will represent the Western University Debating League in national finals sponsored by NFCUS.

The debating team consists of Chris Evans, law 3, and Doug McTavish, comm 3. The finals will be held March 9 in Ottawa.

Other debating leagues usually represented in the finals are the Inter-University Debating League (Ontario and English-speaking Quebec), the Quebec Debating League, and the Maritime Interservice Debating League.

The topic is "Resolved that the space race is beneficial to humanity." Normally debates are bi-lingual, but this year this might not be the case because the Quebec League is not sending a debating team.

This means that only three teams will be debating. Lots will be drawn and one team will receive a bye in the semi-finals. The other two teams

SUB Expansion

ARCHITECTS SELECTED

The firm of Richards and Berretti has been selected as architects to design a major addition to the Students' Union Building.

Richards and Berretti, of Edmonton, were chosen from among 40 Alberta architectural firms which had indicated their interest in the project in response to a letter sent out last December by the SUB Expansion Committee.

Because of the enormous number of factors to be considered, a special subcommittee chaired by Leigh Haysom was created to make as thorough a study as possible of the relative merits of the interested firms.

FIELD NARROWED

The field was narrowed to ten firms after a preliminary survey of references. These ten were then interviewed by the SUB Expansion Committee. Further study was given to

each of these firms by the selection subcommittee. This consisted in visiting offices of all firms under consideration, in visiting buildings they had designed, in consulting with client references, and requesting answers to a series of questions.

Finally the firms were rated according to their qualifications under each of several categories. On the basis of these and other factors the firm of Richards and Berretti were recommended to be commissioned as architects for the new building.

At a meeting last week the SUB Expansion Committee approved the Haysom subcommittee report. Sunday afternoon the committee presented its recommendation to Council, and a unanimous vote confirmed Richards and Berretti's name.

As the person responsible for the ultimate design of what is to become the "community centre" of the campus, architect Richards will have to give form to all the varied facilities to be included in the new SUB.

Probably the most important single facility being considered for inclusion in the new building, according to committee members, is a 600 seat theatre. This would be a full-scale theatre capable of holding such diversified functions as mixed chorus, debates, large meetings and drama festivals.

The new addition is scheduled for occupancy by the students in the fall of 1965. Reason for the expansion project is crowding of the present building and present use of the building by the average student. The Association of College Unions uses a figure of 10 square feet per student as a recommended size for the Students' Union Building. At the University of Alberta there are less than 5 square feet per student. The result is that the student is neglected as all the available space is turned over to office and storage.

Even present lounges double as meeting rooms and offices for many campus organizations.

Students' Union clubs have offices spread all over the campus, and thus neither have contact with Students' Council, or with other students on the campus.

A bigger SUB should bring these people together, says the committee.

Rendle Best Essayist

Judith Rendle arts 4, won \$50 first prize in the annual MacEachran Essay contest, it was announced last Thursday at the meeting of the Humanities Association and Philosophical Society. Ray Archer, also arts 4, placed second, while Bentley Le Baron, arts 3, and Mike Horrocks tied for third prize.

The MacEachran Essay Contest, sponsored by the Philosophical Society, is open to all undergraduate students. This year a record number of 28 students competed.

Gateway hopes to publish Miss Rendle's prize-winning essay next issue.



TALKATIVE TOMMY DOUGLAS talks provocative to grad students. Mr. Douglas spoke in Con Hall last Monday on his only visit to Edmonton during the present Federal Election Campaign.

photo by Jens Tabur



DILIGENT DEBATERS Chris Evans, law 3 and Doug McTavish, comm 3 (the center pair), are to represent the Western University Debating League in the NFCUS sponsored national finals. Alternatives are John Burns, arts 3 (right), and Bill Guest, arts 2 (left).