

Mills on Media

CBC under attack

by Stephen R. Mills

January 29th, the CBC program "Thursday Night" will present several talk-in sessions taped at various locales across the country on the general topic of the CBC's information programming.

One of these sessions was taped in the Dal SUB's conversation pit.

I was present at the taping and found very interesting some of the questions put to the two hosts of the segment and some of the answers they gave.

The topics discussed were many and most were given fair answers by the gentlemen under attack but for two types of inquiries they were unable to supply satisfactory answers.

These two recurring themes were government control of the CBC and the American influence on the Network. One student tried desperately to get the hosts to admit that the Canadian government owned and ran the CBC and several others tried to point out how much American advertising and how many American programs are carried over the Network.

Naturally, the gentlemen could not admit government control. No one, not even this one student, expected it of them. They did, however, concede American influence and, in doing so, damned themselves. Before I can explain why, it is necessary to discuss briefly just what is meant by "government control".

When one thinks of government

control of media, the idea of direct management manipulation on the part of government officials comes to mind. Direct manipulation is not necessary for control, however; a fact easily seen when one realizes the purpose behind control of television and other media forms. That purpose is, of course, to propagate and popularize the political system now flourishing throughout the nation. To do this, the government of Canada doesn't need direct control of the CBC. (Please note carefully: I am not saying they don't have it; I merely assert that they don't need it.) The reason why lies in the previously mentioned American influence which falls into two interrelated categories; advertising and programming.

I am not much on statistics but I do watch a lot of TV and I would say that 75% or more of the programs I see are American and about 60% of the commercials.

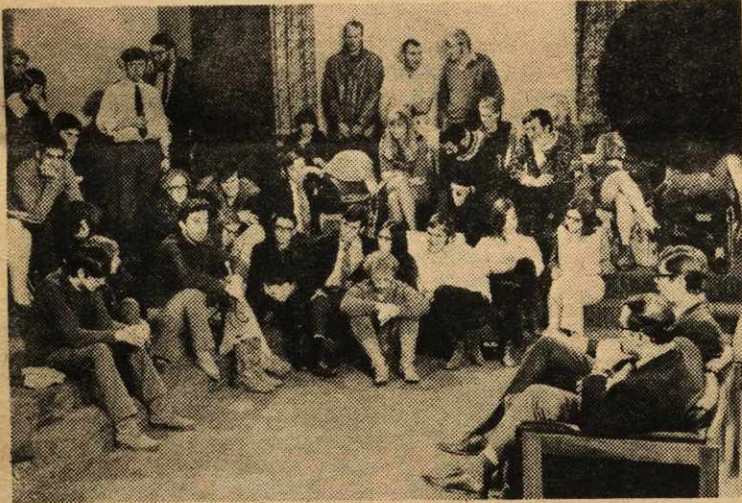
The American political system is democratic, capitalistic, and imperialistic and because 87% of Canadian industry is controlled by American interests, the Canadian system is democratic, capitalistic, and imperialistic. American industry controls the advertising, advertising controls the programs the Network broadcasts so by a simple deductive process we are able to conclude that what you watch is indeed controlled by the government but to make matters a hell of a lot worse, it is not even

your government; it is the government of the United States of America.

Now you can see why the two men from "Thursday Night" damned themselves by conceding American influence. In doing so, they, in effect, are telling you that the vast majority of the programs you watch have as their chief purpose the promotion of what is so rightly called the Establishment.

This promotion, in itself, would not be a bad thing if you believed in the established order. Yet the really horrible thing is that you are not given a chance to believe in anything else. Communistic and socialistic viewpoints are never freely and honestly expressed on the CBC (or, for that matter, on the CTV network which likewise serves Yankee interests).

This is perhaps the final proof that the television, which should be an instrument to promote peace and international brotherhood through mutual understanding, rational argument and compromise, is the chief contributor to the narrow-minded nationalism and egotistic greed that causes the great wars between nations and the bitter conflicts within every individual who must live with the perverted mechanism!



Irma plays at Dal

Irma La Douce opens in the McInnes Room of the SUB January 27. Presented by the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society, it is this year's major theatrical production of the Dalhousie Student Union.

The original music (for production in Paris, 1956) was written by Marguerite Mannot, and the original book and lyrics were by French novelist and cartoonist Alexandre Breffort. Irma has since played both in London and on Broadway.

The story is basically simple... a prostitute meets a poor student, they fall in love, and she supports him until he becomes jealous of her many customers. In desperation he poses as a wealthy gentleman who pays her well enough that she needs no others. However, he eventually becomes jealous of the wealthy gentleman because Irma likes him so much; he therefore stages a murder and kills the wealthy gentleman (himself).

But he is arrested and sent to prison for the crime. His escape

from the island prison and return to Paris via raft just in time for Christmas and the birth of twin sons bring a happy — but round about — conclusion to the confusion.

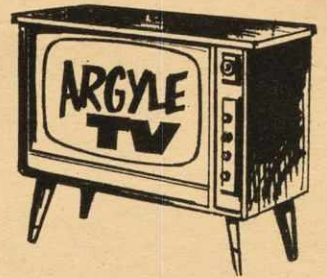
The Dalhousie production is directed by Pamela Micheal, a New Zealander who has been in Canada for three years. She has extensive experience in acting and dancing, and is an acclaimed choreographer.

Music and choral production is credited to Barbara Shore and Paula Mart, two of the metro area's young and capable music instructors.

A Halifax native, Sharon Martin, plays the lead as the irresistible Irma La Douce, with Frank Mendleson in the dual parts of Nestor and Oscar.

The show will run from the 27 to the 31. Curtain time is 8 p.m., with tickets being sold at the door, or in advance at the Enquiry Desk at the SUB. Cost of admission is \$1.00 for Dal. students, \$1.50 and \$2.50 for the general public.

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Tickets available ONLY
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