

*Takes place Oct. 25-27*

## *Glendon Forum on the Indian*

by Carol Baker

Genocide: the deliberate extermination of an "inferior" race — here in Canada? The Canadian Indian faces just such a demise. Lack of concern results, perhaps because we prefer to speak in terms of assimilation, a word which carried with it less strong and less ugly connotations. And yet isn't the end result the same? But the government of Canada, and the Canadian people by their silent complicity set out to pressure the Indians, to impose upon them our set of values.

The Glendon Forum on the Canadian Indian believes Canada must recognize the value of Indian culture and contributions and cease its attempt to make him a carbon copy of the white man.

Students, who will be the influential force in this country shortly, and who have power right now, must discover what is wrong in Canada before they set about to change it. In this respect the Forum is merely presenting one aspect of the wrongs in Canadian society. Bob McGaw, one of the Forum organizers calls it "the uncomfortable mirror". In this mirror we can partly evaluate Canadian society by seeing its treatment of the Canadian Indians. For a starter they consider them to be an inferior people.

The grand Forum itself will take place during the weekend of October 25 - 27. Accommodation is available for students not in residence at the Glendon Campus. By the time this is printed, tickets will be on sale — \$5.00 for a resident student and \$8.00 for a day student. It is known that a limited number of tickets can only be sold.

The Forum will consist of plenary and seminar sessions with addresses by notable Canadian Indians, journalists and government officials, such as Chief Andrew Delisle of the Caughawaga Reserve, Commissioner of Expo's controversial Indian Pavilion and President of the Quebec Federation of Indians, Mr. George Mortimer, formerly of the Toronto Globe and Mail who has won several journalism awards for his writings on the Canadian Indians, Dr. Robert Andras, Minister without Portfolio who is currently conducting a nation-wide government survey on the proposed new Indian Act, and, tentatively, Mr. Jean-Chretien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The plenary sessions will be devoted to the topics of cultural genocide, and education as the key to maintaining an Indian identity and the means by which the federal government can prevent assimilation of our Canadian Indians. The seminar sessions will carry on the discussion from here and it is hoped many small seminars will be formed so everyone can actively participate.

Throughout the weekend various films will be shown and on Saturday evening Indian folksingers and dancers will present a program of Indian culture. Sun-

day night the conference will conclude with a banquet in the Old Dining Hall, followed by an address from Mr. Harold Cardinal, former president of the Canadian Indian Youth Council.

As a lead-up to the big weekend the Forum council has already staged a number of exhibits of Indian art and sculpture, films have been shown and several speakers engaged.

The main purpose of the Forum is to educate those who at-

tend, especially the Glendon students, about the Indian situation in Canada — both its good and bad points.

It is hoped that the Forum will also have a positive effect outside the campus since it is being covered by both the press and television. All Canadians, not just students, need to be aware that it is not a question of an inferior race with which we are dealing but that of a people who, although their culture and values

do not resemble our own, have a valuable contribution to make to Canadian society. The Forum is bringing together a congregation of important Indians as well as Dr. Andras who is negotiating the revised Indian Act and will thusly be able to consult the Indians as to what they would like government policy to be.

In addition, the Indian Affairs Branch is giving the Forum Council six hundred dollars to present a report on the proceed-

ings to the I.A.B. It is expected that any recommendations developed during the conference will also be included.

This year articulate leaders are emerging from among the Indian people. They know the Indian wants and what he has to give. At the Glendon Forum they will be able to let us all know how it is. Any information can be obtained by phoning the "Canadians" office at the Glendon Campus.

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