

Organizer skips out, series collapses

Whatever happened to the Gerstein lectures?

By DOUG TINDAL

You don't remember the 1974 Gerstein Lecture Series?

You don't remember hearing world-renowned speakers such as Noam Chomsky and Claude Lévi-Strauss discuss The Crisis of the Arts in the Latter Third of the Twentieth Century?

Small wonder. The distinguished 11-year history of the series was

marred last year by the total collapse of the programme. And the way it all happened reads like a Mack Sennett comedy.

The series is supported by yearly grants from the Frank Gerstein Charitable Foundation. Since its establishment in 1963, the series has featured such speakers as Mordecai Richler, Rollo May and Kenneth Boulding.

Then the roof fell in.

To plan the 1974 series, acting president John Yolton appointed fine arts professor Edward Fry. Fry formed a committee which met several times, established the Crisis of the Arts topic, and mailed out invitations to the four proposed speakers.

All of them refused.

Shortly thereafter (though not as a result), Fry excused himself momentarily from a conversation with some of his colleagues, donned his coat and hat, got into his car and drove to New York, never to return. Several days later the university received his somewhat tardy letter of resignation.

Within a few weeks the academic

year ended and Fry's committee disintegrated almost as suddenly as he had disappeared; some retired, some took leaves of absence, some went on sabbatical. Of the original nine-member committee, only two remain.

The two survivors, philosophy chairman Fraser Cowley and theatre professor Mavor Moore, have been

hard at work with a new committee chaired by dean of fine arts Joe Green. They have established a new topic, Communication Canada 2000, and once again the invitations have gone out.

Assuming that the proposed speakers express a more favourable reaction, the series is tentatively set for March 6.

Mickey Mouse for judge!

COMAL COUNTRY, Texas (CUP-ENS) — Mickey Mouse, in his latest incarnation as a political candidate, has run into some stiff, mud-slinging competition in Comal County, Texas.

During the recent election there, someone voted for Mickey Mouse as a write-in candidate for county judge. The editor of the local newspaper, going along with the gag, called for a recount after Mickey lost.

But local officials balked. They've gone after a court injunction to bar a recount, maintaining that Mickey Mouse is, "an idiot, lunatic and minor . . ." and consequently ineligible for office.

Arab Information Centre contest offers Mideast tour to Canadians

An essay contest sponsored by the Arab Information Centre in Ottawa will award a four-week tour of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, as first prize. The competition is open to all Canadian citizens from 18 to 25 years old, and the essay topic is: The Restoration of Human and National Rights to the People of Palestine.

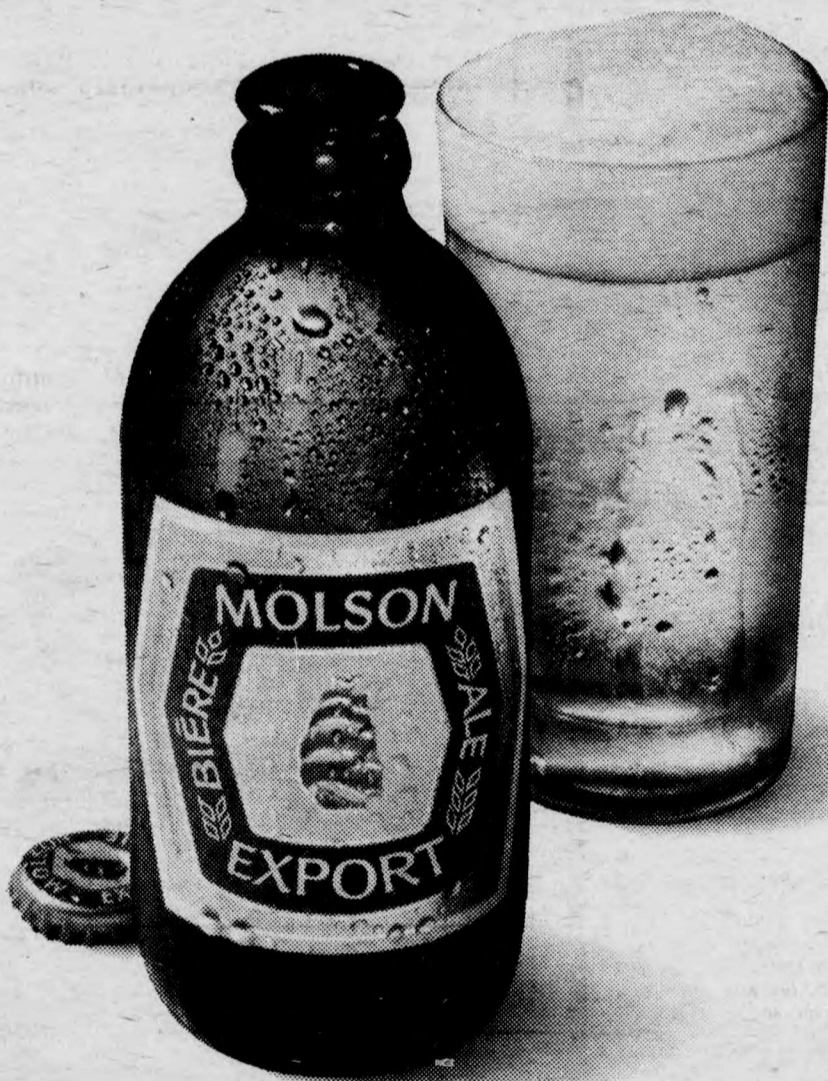
Essays are due by February 1, 1975, and a five man jury of Canadian specialists on the Middle East will evaluate the submissions. Winners will be announced March 22, 1975.

Second prize is \$500 cash and third is \$300.

Contestants who need more background information may contact the Arab Information Centre at this address: 170 Laurier Ave. W., suite 709, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V5. Submissions are to be made to this address as well.

Parallax View

Bethune Movies presents Warren Beatty in The Parallax View, as a journalist who unearths a 'respectable' corporation's raison d'etre: assassination wholesale. This Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m. in CLH L. Admission as ever is generally \$1.50, bethunally \$1.25.



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