



photo by Brewer

106 awards were bestowed on UNB students, Wednesday, at 9 special Senate Prize Giving Ceremony. The Annual "Quit Rent" of one english penny was also paid to the Lt. Gov. Robichaud in commemoration of the University's tie with the crown. Above Bruns staffer, Pam Saunders receives an award.

Wait until christmas

By JOHN HAMILTON

The elusive cornerstone of the Old Arts Building has finally been unearthed and opened, but university officials aren't saying what they have found inside. According to Eric Garland, vice-president (administration) of the university, items have been discovered hidden in the stone and will be used as part of the University's 150th Anniversary ceremony in December.

However, until then the discoveries will be kept secret. Garland said these 152-year-old

items will be put on full public display after the anniversary ceremony, but until then we will have to wait. He added that this tactic will probably create more interest in the finds than if they were made public now.

Garland said that none of the commercial or university media will get any more information than released to the Brunswickan, but that in December a very sophisticated display of the articles, including a video-tape system, will be set up.

1978 NEW MCAT

The 1979 New MCAT test dates are April 28 and September 15. The Spring postmark registration deadlines are April 2 for candidates testing in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico; and March 26 for those testing in foreign countries.

Registration materials will be available in the Dean of Science Office about February 1, 1979.

OMSAS

The deadline for submission of applications to OMSAS is November 15, 1978. OMSAS kits are now available in the Dean of Science Office, Room 109, IUC or may be obtained by writing to OMSAS, ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES' APPLICATION CENTRE, BOX 1328, GUELPH, ONTARIO.

PREMED INTERVIEWS

Any student making applications to a medical school for next year should submit their name to the Dean's Office. A premed interview will be arranged before Christmas.

R. H. Grant
Premedical Advisor
Assistant Dean of Science

David Miller

North American residents are notorious for the fact that they avoid reading like the proverbial plague. The most recent statistics indicate that less than 6 per cent of the population read more than a newspaper and Playboy on a regular basis.

In Canada, the number of people purchasing and reading books is increasing quite significantly. It is expected that there will be a 20 per cent increase in the number of books sold in Canada over the next year with a total value of over 500 Million dollars.

A significant percentage of the books sold today are in the generalized category of science fiction. On campus, there is a strong interest in science fiction. The library at UNBSJ has one of the largest collections of science fiction books in this part of the world. You certainly do not have to go very far to find people discussing the progress of The Battlestar Galactica or the promise of the new Star Trek movie.

Off-campus, science fiction is often laughed at or looked down on. Consider, however, the Robert Heinlein (an important science fiction author) has never published a book which has sold less than one million copies. When you equally consider that he has written over 30 books, this one author, a science fiction author, is therefore one of the most important writers in North America.

I like science fiction novels because they make you think, and entertain without depressing the hell out of you. One particular novel, The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells is perhaps a good example of what I mean. This novel has enjoyed success and also considerable notoriety since the broadcast of the Orson Welles adaptation for radio in 1938. No doubt, many on campus took the opportunity to listen to this classic radio drama when it was rebroadcast on CIHL on October 31, 1978. Other people may have come to hear the rock version of the story produced and largely written by Jeff Wayne.

This double album set was produced in England and features some first rate talent. The story is narrated by Richard Burton. He agreed to do this rather unusual project because he came to read the H.G. Wells book while being bored doing Equus on Broadway. Jeff Wayne submitted his script to Burton, and because it was true to the original novel, he agreed to do it. Musically, Justin Hayward (of the Moody Blues) co-wrote and performs a song called 'Forever Autumn', which was a Top 30 hit in England this past year. Other performers include David Essex and the lead singer for 'Thin Lizzy'.

The first notable point about H.G. Wells' book therefore is that it has been successfully presented in media which Wells had no thought of when the book was written, i.e. radio of the 30's and rock music of the mid 1970's. How many books in other styles could claim such a feat within presentations which are faithful to the original?

Wells starts his book with the report of the strange explosions on Mars. The astronomers (or the famous scientist from Princeton if you like) assure mankind that no life could come from Mars "a million to one, they said". How cogent! Our society looks at scientists as figures of near comedy-absent minded, full of esoteric thoughts and deeds. In the crunch, the scientist is sought out of his musty hole and is urged to provide the panacea to all ills, even if he does so in his own bullshit rhetoric, providing always for an avenue of escape if he's wrong.

The second line of defence is the military-- we are then assured that we will be protected by our own armies and navies. "Bows and arrows against the lightning" says the cynical soldier in Wells' tale. The mind of the public skips over the politicians, useless as they perhaps are, to the scientists and then to the military. Both of whom promise security but in any age have failed, for various reasons, to deliver. In Canada we spend around 2.5 per cent of our GNP on a military which could neither defend us from the commie hoard nor the Cylons.

The third line of defense is our faith and, with the Martians kicking the shit right out of us, faith seems to fade away in all but a few stalwarts. The mad priest launches an attack on the Martians with his cross, fails and is ultimately used for a blood transfusion to the Martian invaders.

An earth, desolate and void of human society is redeemed in the end by a bacterium. Wells writes that despite all of man's devices and skills, in the end, the world was saved by "God's humble creatures." God's love and wisdom provide this ultimate salvation for man. As a microbiologist, I can key particularly well into this notion. Indeed bacteria may be God's humblest creature (viruses being quite pretentious, I think), but they are much more powerful than any of man's activities. Interestingly, in the 1938 version, Orson Welles changed H.G. Wells' expression of "humblest" to "most insignificant of God's creatures. This is certainly incorrect; perhaps an indication of America's pre-war arrogance.

In summary, reading a reasonable well-written book can make you think about a broad range of issues. I am glad to hear that more Canadians are getting more interested in reading. This interest has been, at least partially stimulated by the surge in interest of things scientific. Or, it may just be more fun to read "The War of the Worlds" (listen to its radio or rock and roll version) than to read "War and Peace".