

STUDENTS' UNION AWARDS

Do You Qualify?



Lorne Calhoun Award

Award — winner: \$100 gift certificate redeemable at the book store of the winner's choice
 — \$300 monetary prize
 — a silver shield

To be awarded to a student who has achieved a satisfactory academic standing, an active member of the Debating Society, an active member of National and/or International Organizations, as well as an active member in a University of Alberta Club and/or Faculty Association.

Maimie Shaw Simpson Book Prize

Prize — \$100 gift certificate redeemable at the book store of the winner's choice
 — \$300 + a plaque

To be awarded to a student who has achieved a satisfactory academic standing, and made an outstanding contribution to campus life through hard work and leadership.

Eugene L. Brody Award

Award: The interest from the Eugene L. Brody Fund

To be awarded to a physically handicapped student who has achieved a satisfactory academic standing and has made a valuable contribution in extra curricular activities.

Walter A. Dinwoodie Award

Award — \$100 gift certificate redeemable at the book store of the winner's choice
 — \$300 monetary prize
 — plaque

To be awarded to a student who has achieved a satisfactory standing in the 1987-88 academic year, and has made an outstanding contribution to student life through active involvement in public service clubs registered with the Students' Union and/or Students' Union Services.

Students' Union Award for Excellence

Award — \$1000 + medal

To be awarded to a student in his/her graduating year who has achieved a minimum Grade Point Average of 7.5, and who has the ability to work well with students, staff, and the general public in extra-curricular involvement in the University and/or community activities.

Anne Louise Mundell Humanitarian Award

— \$100 gift certificate redeemable at a book store of the winner's choice
 — \$300 monetary prize
 — plaque

To be awarded to a student who has actively contributed to arts and culture on campus.

Bishop's University Scholarship Exchange Program

Bishop's University is a small, predominantly residential university located in Lennoxville, Quebec. Its academic programmes (arts, sciences, business administration) are broadly based and stress the inter-relationships of disciplines rather than their specializations.

The scholarship includes remission of tuition and fees at Bishop's University for the 1988-89 academic year.

Qualifications:

- must have completed one year of a 3 or 4 year degree
- must return to the University of Alberta for final year
- be a full time undergraduate student in good standing
- be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and have lived in Alberta at least 5 years.

Applications are available from the Student Awards Office, 252 Athabasca Hall.

Application Deadline: Monday, 2 March 1988

For more information contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, 259 SUB.

Additional information and application forms available in the Students' Union Office, Room 256, SUB VP Academic Dale Nagel

Application Deadline: March 2, 1988

Books

Holocaust poems shock

Fortunate Exiles
 Irving Layton
 McClelland and Stewart

review by P.J. Groeneveldt

This is an angry book of poetry, a collection of works by the Jewish-Canadian Irving Layton. In fact, this book is so angry I was convinced to read more of Layton's works just to see if he ever had anything beautiful to say. (He does, don't worry.) *Fortunate Exile* contains little or no beauty; but then, genocide is not a beautiful subject.

It would be hard to read this book as a non-Jew and feel no resentment at the blanket of blame Layton throws over the reader. One feels that all titles and spacing could be removed and have the resulting mass titled "Why I Hate Christians (especially Catholics) and/or Nazis." One example of this guilt trip is found in "You Never Can Tell" (p. 121): "You fool, keep quiet/About the Holocaust!(There are Christians/who haven't heard/and it might give them/ideas."

He shows his awareness of the hypocrisy in some religions in the poem "The Golden Age of Spanish Painting" (p. 57). He shows us the beautiful pictures of martyred Christian saints and lovely beaming angels, painted during the same time period that brought death to so many Jews — the Spanish Inquisition.

"The Luminous Bagel" (p. 51) is Layton's account of what could happen if Christ were to appear on any street today. The title is an interesting image, referring to a halo.

I don't like this book. It disturbs me, which is exactly the response desired by the author. He doesn't want people to gush with praise for these poems. He wants them to be revolved, disgusted, shocked, and beaten into contemplation. Then they may understand perhaps the hundredth part of the horror he is trying to convey.

Fortunate Exile is primarily a series of reflections of a long, long history of racial prejudice, tempered by the life experiences of one man. If you are interested in poetry of a similar nature, the rage of a people is portrayed in the book *Shallow Graves* by Wendy Larsen and Tran Thi Nga. The poems of these two women show you things that cause you to react with horror, rather than telling you to react with horror, as Layton does.

Perhaps I should have been kinder to Irving Layton. His poem "Heinrich Heine" (p. 37) says:

*I dreamt that I was Satan
 Being warmed by molten stones
 And critics who had scorned me
 Had to memorize my poems.*

There are some works in that book, however, which I would rather forget.



Music

Bragg gets Back to Basics

Billy Bragg
 Back to Basics
 Got Discs

review by Christopher J. Cook

Together at last the first 21 songs from the roots of urbane folk music," states the cover of this new compilation album — a credible statement, because Billy Bragg is indeed a suave folkie. *Back to Basics* is the compendium of early Bragg, encompassing his first three albums: *Life's a Riot With Spy vs. Spy*, *Between the Wars*, and *Brewing Up with Billy Bragg*. While this is indeed folk music, it is definitely music for the 1980's. Bragg just pulls out his guitar and belts out powerful, driving rhythms without the aid of drums or a bass — and the final product is a group of compelling musical masterpieces.

One cannot but marvel at Bragg's simple yet exceedingly profound lyrics, even though his musical themes are not in the least bit original — revolving almost entirely around the memories of past loves or upon contemplation of Britain's political state of ruin. But this is where Bragg's intelligence shows through most clearly; he can write original, moving words about the most standardized of ideas.

His lyrics range from the curiously unusual in "This Guitar Says Sorry": "The time that it

takes to make a baby/Can be the time it takes to make a cup of tea"/to the comically cynical in "To Have and Have Not": "Just because you're better than me/Doesn't mean I'm lazy/Just because I dress like this/Doesn't mean I'm a communist."

Bragg can be deeply moving, as in "The Man in the Iron Mask": "The nights you spend without me /This house is like a dungeon/And you only return to torture me more"/or wittily analytical: "I saw two shooting stars last night/I wished on them but they were only satellites/It is wrong to wish on space hardware/I wish, I wish, I wish you'd care" in the classic "A New England".

In addition to his lyrical brilliance, Bragg is also a phenomenal guitarist. He plays everything from searing rockabilly thrash in "From a Vauxhall Velox" to the near silent swing in "Milkman of Human Kindness" both flawlessly and effortlessly. This is the kind of stuff that makes everybody want to play the guitar just so they can make sounds like this guy.

There are so many great songs on this double album, of such variance in tempo and style, that I can't imagine anyone not liking at least some of it. In my opinion, Billy Bragg is probably the best songwriter in the world — and this album reflects that fact like a mirror. *Back to Basics* is one of the best albums I have ever heard. Bar none.