book review

A legend is born

By FORREST ORSER

"Shardik" by Richard Adams, Penquin Books Ltd.; 526 pages, \$1.95. Thanks to the Campus Bookstore for supplying a copy of the novel for this review.

If you like maps and drawings in novels, "Shardik" might be an enjoyable book for you to read, but if you don't like novels that begin with a full page of description, you might never get past the first page.

Adams sets his story in an imaginary land here on earth. Animals, ranging from gibbons to porcupines, are plentiful in this and men in a roughly Iron Age civilization. And one of the most important characters is Shardik, a

Shardik is driven from its home far back in Wild Land by a jungle fire. Its life is saved only because it falls into River Telthearna and manages to reach the island of

Shardik is a big bear. "Huge it was - gigantic - standing on its hind legs more than twice as high as a man . . . It was a bear - such a bear as is not in a thousand years - more powerful than a rhinoceros and heavy as eight strong men.'

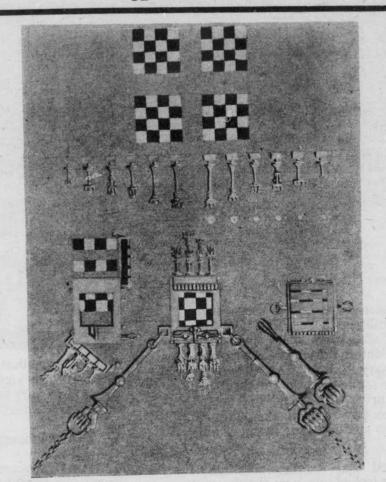
On Ortelga the bear is discovered by Kelderek, a hunter. The bear inadvertantly saves Kelderek's life, and he escapes to defy civil authorities and tell only the leader, about what he has seen. religion of this civilization

teaches that God can be imbodied in a bear, and that this has happened many times in the past. The Tuginda, and Kelderek, are convinced that Shardik is God, and a party sets out in search of the

Adam tells a good story, and the imaginary civilization in which it takes place is believable without seeming to be a copy of any known civilization. But he can't seem to resist over using his ability to write good description. He is particularfond of stopping the story to describe the jungle. At other times, land. The characters are women maybe to convince us this fantasy world is real, Adams spends so much space describing the details of his imaginary civilization that the plot slows to a snail's pace.

But despite its faults, "Shardik" is a long complex novel which has the feel of a legend from a real land somewhere on earth, sometime in our history. The "Saturday Review" (May 31, 1975) says: "In reading "Shardik", we seem to hear again the old stories that were told to us by old people remembering them from past years, knowing we must be made to hear them, that our survival depends upon them. This is a new story but it has the satisfying wholeness of the great ones it dares

feel like a legend if it were as fast and attaches magnetically to the designers and apprentices to Suite 920, 920 Yonge Street, paced as a detective thriller?



Diamond pendant wins award

designed by David Reid of Toronto any place. was a winner in the inaugural Perhaps it's unfair to expect a novel such as "Shardik" to be held -1974. Each diamond studded Consolidated Mines, Ltd., is

This diamond chess set pendant, wearer to play a game any time, Canada.

Tuginda, the highest religious effortless reading. Would it still chessman moves independently organized for students, young Diamond Information Centre, onyx and ivory board, allowing the

Closing date for this year's This Competition, run alternate Competition is May 31, 1976. Entry

encourage the jewellery arts in Toronto. Telephone (416) 961-9511.

Newf.'s Mummers perform with humor and insight

The Mummers -- a group acclaimed by the Resource Foundation for the Arts for their humor, critical insight and original songs will perform in Fredericton April

The Newfoundland group will present their resource development documentary "Whats That Got To Do With The Price Of Fish" at the Wilmot United Church Hall beginning at 8 p.m. as part of their cross-Canada tour.

The Mummers will attempt to focus Canadians' attention on issues arising out of the United Nations call for a New International Economic Order, said Lawrence Cumming, a member of the local Ten Days For Development committee which is sponsoring the

With increased tension in the world between rich and poor nations, he said, the Mummers attempt to dramatize the fundamental problems which separate the "haves from the have nots."

The play deals with resource development in the Atlantic region using the example of fish prices which, like the prices of oil, sugar or any valuable commodity traded on world markets, "have a good deal to do with the economic standing of a nation in the world economy," said Prof. Cumming.

"The play places the problems of



the rich and poor nations within the tices. perspective of regional disparity in Research for the play began in Canada. It's a bit of the Third September, 1975, when two of the World right in Canada's own troupe attended the Seventh backyard.'

The professor said the play Assembly in New York. hopefully will generate Canadian The group revived the Newinterest in the United Nations foundland tradition of mummery --Conference on Trade and Develop- wearing masks and dressing in ment due to be held in Nairobi, fantastic costumes to join revellers Kenya this year. Fearing that the during festive times of the year -conference will result in "only from the back pages of folklore speeches, platitudes and words," magazines and the memories of he said, the Mummers have older Newfoundland residents by composed "a piece of well- arriving unannounced and unexresearched documentary theatre pected at private parties and designed to make the issues of Christmas gatherings in and UNCTAD of personal challenge to around St. John's in 1972. Canadians.

tions by drawing its roots from Punch and Judy show.

into an examination of the The Ten Days For Development projects and world trade injus- Catholic and United Churches.

Special Session of the UN General

This is the first play which the Mummers have presented to cover drama, the Mummers have written development topics outside the and produced historical documen-Atlantic region. The play will tary plays, a children's show with resemble their previous produc- giant puppets and a traditional

Newfoundland culture using music Tickets, which cost \$2 for language, humor and pathos. This students and \$2.50 for adults, can provides the basis of social be purchased from Wilmot United scrutiny and exploration how Church deaconess Joyce Matheson technology, transnational compan- at 455-8184 or Prof. Cumming at ies and foreign intervention effect 453-4646. These will be sold as well traditional economies and cul- at the Student Union Building on the University of New Brunswick The theme will be carried over campus March 31, April 2, 7 and 9.

problems of developing countries, Committee is sponsored at the said Prof. Cumming, and take a national level by the Anglican, satiric look at overseas aid Luthern, Presbyterian, Roman MARCH 26, 1976

Quebec, the

depictedtownof Canada, is the Archives of which opened o the Beaverbroom Entitled "Qu

rons", the exhi water-colours cuted about 18 officer and am Pattison Cockb

By JOHN

Men have lo interest in their Over the past to this has been popularity of th ter" films. Of man's interest effects on men category can be

novel (and film Western Front

books published Since the er World War and Hiroshima ar collections of interest has fighting of futur happens afterw achieved throu various science have built up v vision of pos existence.

This is the sul film The War C shown next Mo Tilley Auditori in the 1960's Broadcasting (black and white minutes long) s

Film

The Film S selecting film season. The choose films v see at commer primary intere the film as a made by va various times are shown by