

Vietnamese - one people one history

By MICHAEL KULISH

"The Vietnamese people do not see themselves as North or South Vietnamese. They see themselves as one people, with one culture and one history."

This observation comes from Vinh Sinh, a Vietnamese student presently studying at the University of Toronto, who is trying to interest people in the Vietnamese New Year's celebration this Saturday at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. West.

The day long festival will also commemorate the signing of the peace accord. The day program runs from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Admission is free, but donations would be appreciated. The activities include exhibitions, films, and literature on Vietnam as well as the following speakers:

- 10 to 11 a.m. — a speech by a member of the Association of Vietnamese Patriots in Canada, which is also the organization behind the festival.
- 11 to 12:30 p.m. — a speech and discussion session led by Ann

Buttrick, a member of the International Committee to free South Vietnamese prisoners.

- 1:30 to 3 p.m. — a speech and discussion by Gabriel Kolko, professor at York university, author of Politics of War, The Limits of Power, and American foreign policy critic.

- 3 to 4:30 p.m. — Peaceful Relations between Canada and Vietnam is the subject of a speech and discussion led by Chandler Davis, professor at the University of Toronto. He has taught in both Hanoi and Peking.

- 4:30 to 6 p.m. — Irwin Sebler, editor of the New York Guardian, a left-wing weekly.

- 6 to 8 p.m. — a buffet of Vietnamese food.

- 8 p.m. — Music from Vietnam, folk songs, and dances with Barbara Dane, author of vietnam Song Book. There will also be other cultural groups who will provide their own music, dancing, and singing. Messages of peace will also be made by various groups.

Vinh Sinh hopes to return home to a peaceful country. He said if the peace terms are followed and the US leaves, the fighting will stop, and the Vietnamese will finally be able to decide their future as one country; something which the US troops and puppet governments have prevented since 1954. The US used Vietnam as a place to test their new weapons, and are now leaving behind a legacy of prostitution, drugs, and a host of other urban and social problems, Vinh Sinh explained.



Vietnamese New Years celebration takes place at OISE on Saturday. There will be songs, speeches, exhibitions and dances.

Vanier college has failed in alternate bid

By RICHARD ANDREANSKY

Vanier college's alternative to living in residence has failed through financial difficulties.

The Rivendell farm 60 miles north of here, was leased to Vanier College by Stafford Higgins, last winter and occupied by four members of Vanier two on the college council, one a student senator. They paid \$50 each for rent yet only paid for three of the five months they stayed there. Vanier college council set up a \$3,000 trust fund for the farm. It was also supposed to be a college retreat.

Since the summer, the farm has been vacant and the trust fund, now almost depleted, is still paying for the rent.

Don MacNiven, master of Vanier signed the lease along with the college council. MacNiven said he signed the lease because "it was an adult signature and that's the reason I signed it."

Last week the council unloaded the problem by accepting the first month's rent of \$250 and a deposit from four men who live in the area. However, council is not a governing body and according to one legal opinion the council cannot sign the sub-lease without the permission of the board of governors.

MacNiven explained that "contractual agreements" are being undertaken to solve the lease signing problem. He also thinks there is a possibility of transferring the farm to the new tenants.

Chris Lind, Vanier council president said this week that "all that could be done has been done so now we've left it up to the master."

MacNiven says his policy towards council has been to give it a free hand.

"If I felt that they were doing something seriously detrimental to the college or university I'd talk them out of it," MacNiven replied when asked at what point he would interfere in council affairs.

Staff meets at 1 pm today. No rest for the weary Excalibur will publish Reading Week

News Briefs

People grateful for opportunities

LONDON (CUP) — People who worked on Local Initiatives Program (LIP) projects should be grateful for the chance "to do their own thing" with no personal risk, prime minister Pierre Trudeau said last week. He was talking to protestors representing 15 co-ordinators of London-area LIP projects who have been unable to collect unemployment insurance, although they may have made contributions to the plan during their employment days. Trudeau was in London for a private meeting with Liberal party officials. LIP co-ordinators are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits once their government-sponsored projects expire, because they are supposedly "self-employed". The co-ordinators were given the chance to gain experience as entrepreneurs at taxpayers' expense, Trudeau said. He could not understand why they should seek unemployment insurance when the grants ran out. Trudeau described the co-ordinators' action as merely "beefing" and "bitching", during his 10-minute discussion with them. Trudeau said private employers cannot seek unemployment insurance if their businesses fold, even though they had to take "risks" to set up the businesses. The LIP co-ordinators are private employers, he implied. People who had LIP co-ordinator jobs last year are now being forced to return money obtained from unemployment insurance benefits.

U of T student jailed for obstruction

TORONTO (CUP) — A demonstrator in the occupation at the University of Toronto last spring has been jailed, pending sentencing, on a charge of obstructing police. Tom McLaughlin, a U of T political science student last year, was one of 18 people arrested when police broke up the occupation of an administration building. The occupiers were protesting lack of access for undergraduate students and the public to the university's new library stacks. Two other demonstrators, charged with the more serious crime of assaulting police, were set free in December after being found guilty on the charges. They received "absolute discharges", a procedure which allows a defendant who is found guilty to emerge without a criminal record or penalty. The week-long occupation began when the U of T senate approved regulations which granted graduate students and faculty more privileges than undergraduates. The day after it was broken up, about 600 students occupied the same chamber. The second occupation won substantial concessions from the university administration.

Is unemployment up or down?

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canada's unemployment rate increased by 1.2 per cent in January according to figures released by Statistics Canada Feb. 6. But, after statisticians accounted for seasonal trends in employment, the country's overall unemployment rate appeared to have dropped by half a percentage point, from 6.7 to 6.2 per cent. Even allowing for seasonal variations, the January figures offered the Liberal government little cause for comfort. The unemployment rate was as high as it was in January 1972. Women and people in the Atlantic region suffered a higher unemployment rate in January than in December. The unemployment rate for Canadian women increased from 5.5 per cent to 5.6 per cent, and the Atlantic region's unemployment rate kept that area the worst in the country at 9.5, up from 9.4 in December. In real figures, which Statistics Canada admits could be as much in error as the seasonally adjusted figures could be, the number of unemployed people was 122,000 less than the seasonally adjusted figures, but still the highest in 10 years. The actual figures also show that unemployment increased in every sector. The hardest-hit, as usual, were young people from 14 to 24 years of age. Their unemployment rate soared from 11.0 per cent in December to 13.3 per cent in January.

Student loan debt accumulates

QUEBEC CITY (CUP) — The Quebec ministry of education is planning to step up its efforts to recover student loans from those who cannot or will not repay them. Since 1966 when the student loan program began, the provincial government has had to pay banks about \$2.7 million loaned to and not repaid by 2,812 students. Included in this delinquent group are 375 people who died before paying off their loans.

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Applicants will be screened by the current Excalibur staff. The candidate of their choice is then formally accepted by C.Y.S.F. in early March.

The position is full-time; staff and salary commensurates with qualifications and experience. Some experience with a professional daily is desirable, but not absolutely necessary.

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