

activity day i

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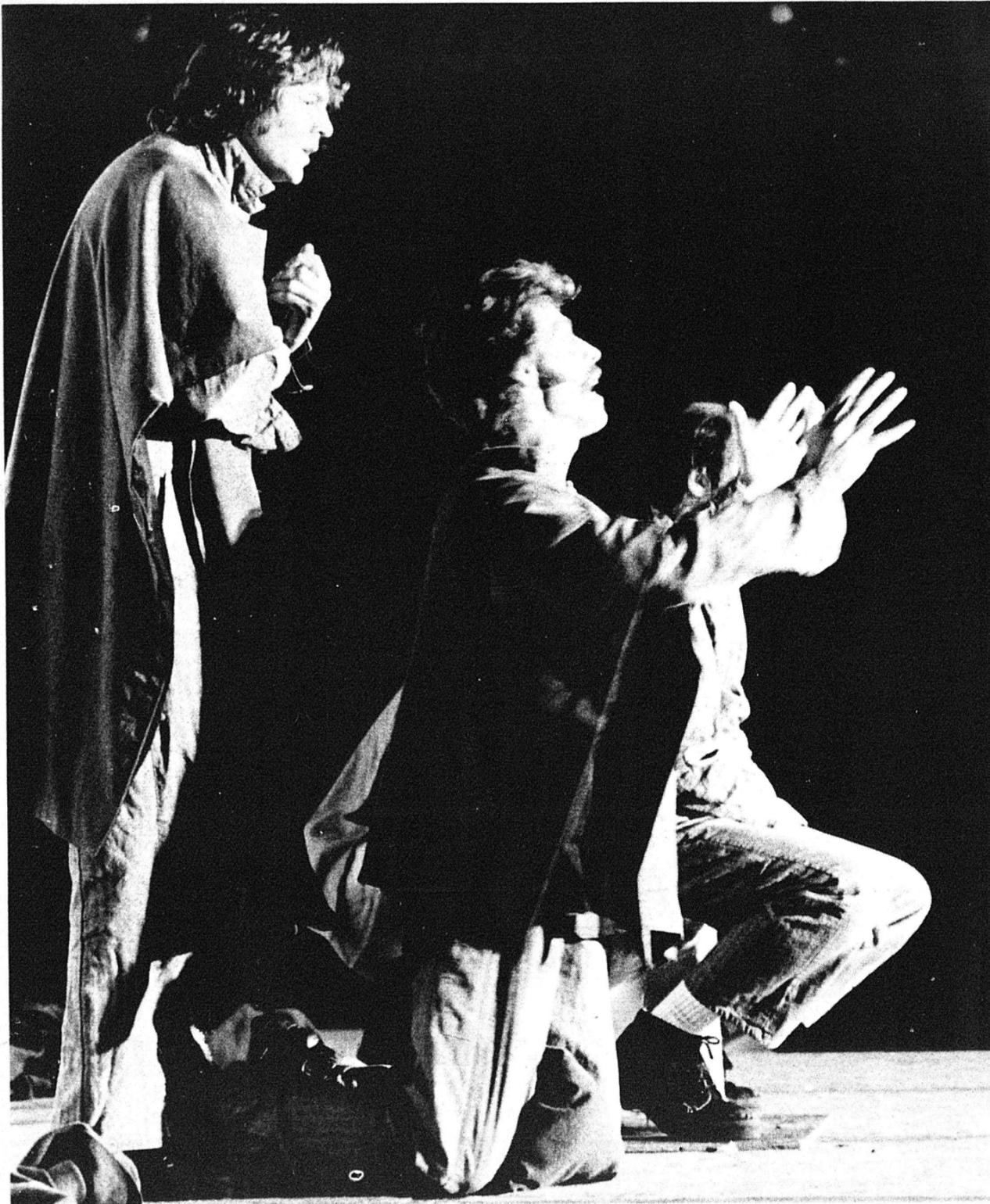


photo by Michel Ricciardi

"Indian culture is not one that has to be based on buckskin and feathers." That was the theme of the speech by William Wutunee in Dinwoodie Lounge last Tuesday. Sometimes called the "Uncle Tomahawk" of the Indian people, Wutunee, a Cree lawyer, became known for his book, *Ruffled Feathers*.

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Wutunee appeared at the activities day forum dressed in a brilliant scarlet-coloured outfit—"I have to wear a red suit to prove I'm a redman," he announced.

Basically, what the Indian people should be striving for, stated Wutunee, is complete integration with the whites. This means that they should reject all kinds of discrimination—and should react strongly against any kind of favouritism shown toward the Indian people by the Canadian government. The important struggle is the struggle of the poor against the rich—whether the poor people be white or red.

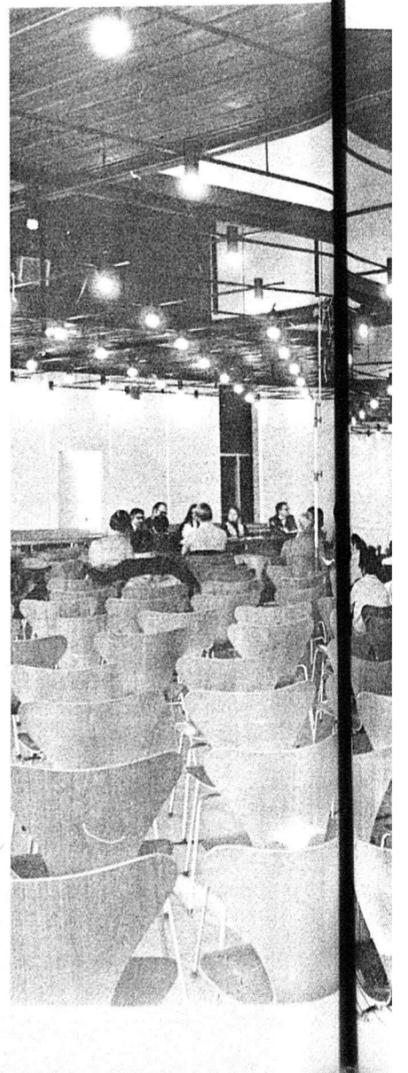
Wutunee mentioned, however, several ways in which Indians in particular were being "shafted:"

discrimination

Legal aid. There is no legal aid given for misdemeanors such as assault and impaired driving. Also, people who are not in the "clique" find it difficult to obtain legal aid.

Financial grants. The "discretionary grants" that many Indians are getting from the government are only one step from welfare. With some of the LIP projects, it is the Canadian taxpayer who is getting shafted. It is not fair for one group of people (Indians) to be getting all these grants, Wutunee protested.

For example, Canadian university students are forced to take out student loans, while a bandmaster on an Indian reserve is receiving \$800 per month. Wutunee predicted a backlash from some of the white people who are being left out of these government schemes.



The Cage: reform and revolt

A toilet, four blankets and four men. One of them a draft resister, one busted for pot, one first imprisoned for refusing to go to school. Here's what they had to say after their performance.

"People are going to wake up and realize that you can't make an abnormal person normal in an abnormal society."

"Less than 1 percent of the crimes that are committed end up with someone in prison. They're the one's that can't afford 'justice'."

"There are very few people in prison on trumped up charges. That's just what you see on T.V."

"There are Attica's brewing all over the states right now. As long as convicts must be caged, all made into the same things, cons will learn that guards are something different, and guards will think that cons are something different.

"The only changes that have been made at Attica are that inmates now have two showers a week instead of

one—and there are twice as many guards."

"Eight out of ten people sent to prison go back."

"Prison reform will only be possible after a definite attitude change. Now, most of the people in prison belong to racial and economic minorities. In 47.3 years, when there are enough middle class people in jail for grass and things like that, reform will start. Up until then, there will be no change whatsoever!"

"Right now people can work on the cause of crime which is poverty. But there's not much obvious profit in correcting that so few people are working on it. Inside the prison we have to start helping people who are mentally and physically sick, training them, reprogramming them, teaching them the values and responsibilities of being part of society."

"Each community can handle its own if it tries. Eighty-five percent of crimes are victimless—against property, but not against people. There should

be homes where these people can learn a trade if they need one, get psychological help, work and help support themselves and their families, and never be completely isolated from society.

"In weeks, through the efforts of one man, Massachusetts has abolished every juvenile facilities. He just said, 'There are no more juvenile delinquents. Now STUDENTS adopt the kids. Twenty years from now, it will show on their prison records because 65 percent of criminals start going to jail when they are 9 or 10 or 11."

"In Utah, inmates are adopted by families."

"The Barbwire Theatre hasn't lost anybody to prison. No one who is in his right mind is going to elect to go back."

"Capital punishment has ABSOLUTELY no deterrent effect. Remember, they used to hang pick pockets in England and huge crowds gathered to watch. And there were pick pockets working the crowd."