

The Great Depression

By GEOFF MARTIN

The Great Depression
Robert S. McElvaine
Times Books, 1984, 402 pp.

Everyone should read lots and lots about the Great Depression.

Without doubt, no other single series of events can teach us as

much about economics, politics and society as the attitudes of the 1920's, the crash of the stock market and the years preceding the second world war.

In the midst of the great depression, cooperative individualism rose up against acquisitive individualism, and more importantly, people began to realize that the *self-correcting* market was a myth. *Laissez-faire* classical economics was held up to ridicule in Canada,

the United States, Britain and elsewhere.

The Great Depression is concerned with the causes and effects of the great depression in the United States. McElvaine deals only minimally with economics—much of the book is concerned with the changes wrought in American society by the depression, and the actual social atmosphere of the time, including the many movements which gripped the country, such as Upton Sinclair and the "Production for Use" party in California and the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Party.

A fine book on the time period. Just the right mixture of history, economics and sociology. Should especially be read by anyone interested in the roots of today's society.

Farewell to Alger

By GEOFF MARTIN

Horatio Alger, Farewell: The end of the American Dream
by Celeste MacLeod
Seaview Books, New York, 1980

Horatio Alger was a nineteenth century American minister who wrote more

than 100 novels about impoverished individuals who managed to rise to the top of the heap in the land of opportunity—the United States of America.

In this book, the author describes the current social reality in the Western World, with specific concentration on the United States. As the coordinator of the Berkely Support Services, which offers aid to young and old migrants, she has identified a group of people who have been ignored—the new migrants.

The new migrants are a massive group of young people who have no opportunity to live a stable life

because of the lack of opportunity in our current society. She says the so-called Hippie Movement served to disguise the new migrants during the 1960's and early 1970's since they were simply lumped together with the many of young people who chose to "drop out" from their upper-middle class existence at that time.

Today, "hippie heaven" in the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco is now a slum, occupied by the new migrants.

While the book is very informative, it does get technical, probably being of most interest to students of sociology. □

The Dub Poets

By YVETTE WEBSTER

As the musicians prepared for their "Roots Rhythmic Experience," and listened to the poets in rehearsal, the humble origins of Reggae music over two decades ago comes to mind—a few guys in a yard in Jamaica, dressed in their "Ites Green and Gold," (referring to the colours worn by Rastafarians), with just a few instruments.

Today, Reggae with the added dimension of poetry "in Dub," is a way of life for hundreds of thousands of West Indians, as well as North Americans, many Africans and Europeans.

Poetry "in Dub" is an intriguing art form, indigenous to the Caribbean, in which the vernacular of the people is poetically recited to the pulsating rhythms of Reggae music. This medium is often used for making socio-political commentaries, and hinges on the realm of satire.

Sept. 28 a unique performance of Dub Poetry was given in the St. Mary's University Multi-Purpose Room by two talented Caribbean poets from Toronto—Clifton Joseph and Devon Haughton.

The show as presented in two segments: Part I featuring several renditions of Reggae music by the Full Force band while Part II featured the poets.

For some, the night brought forth a new experience, while for others it brought sweet nostalgia. □



Mike Mandel, self-proclaimed "mentalist," accidentally hypnotizes himself into actually believing he's popular during Crazy-ness Cabaret.

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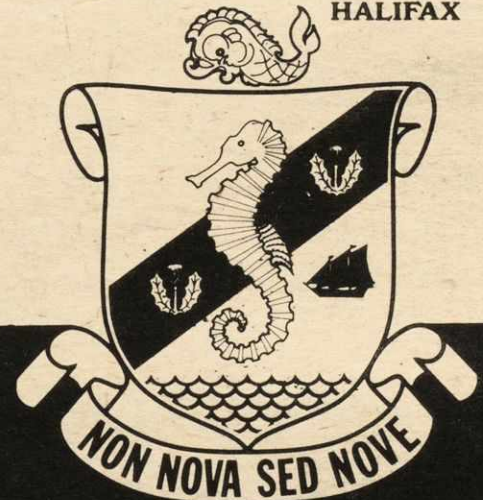
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