

Fuller up with Irving

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

Poetry readings may not seem like a very exciting way to spend an evening but Irving Layton managed to convince at least 800 people otherwise on October 21. Layton, a well known Canadian poet, read and discussed some of his work for well over an hour to an almost capacity crowd in The Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

James Gray, the new Dean of Arts and Science, introduced Mr. Layton to the audience. Resplendent in a black turtleneck and enormous medallion of some sort or another, Mr. Layton proceeded to reminisce about Dalhousie and his associations with it. The audience, composed of a large number of faculty, warmed immediately to Mr. Layton and thoroughly enjoyed his first story. The story ran along the lines of how God had applied for tenure at Dalhousie but was refused because he had only published one book!

Before he became a well known, and well published, poet Mr. Layton said he had lived and worked in Halifax for almost a year - selling Fuller Brushes in Dartmouth! One beautiful fall day while crossing the Dalhousie campus Layton decided to forego a future of fame and fortune with the Fuller Brush company and try instead to become an academic and poet of fame and fortune. The fame is now undoubtedly his and, considering the number of his books that Dalhousie

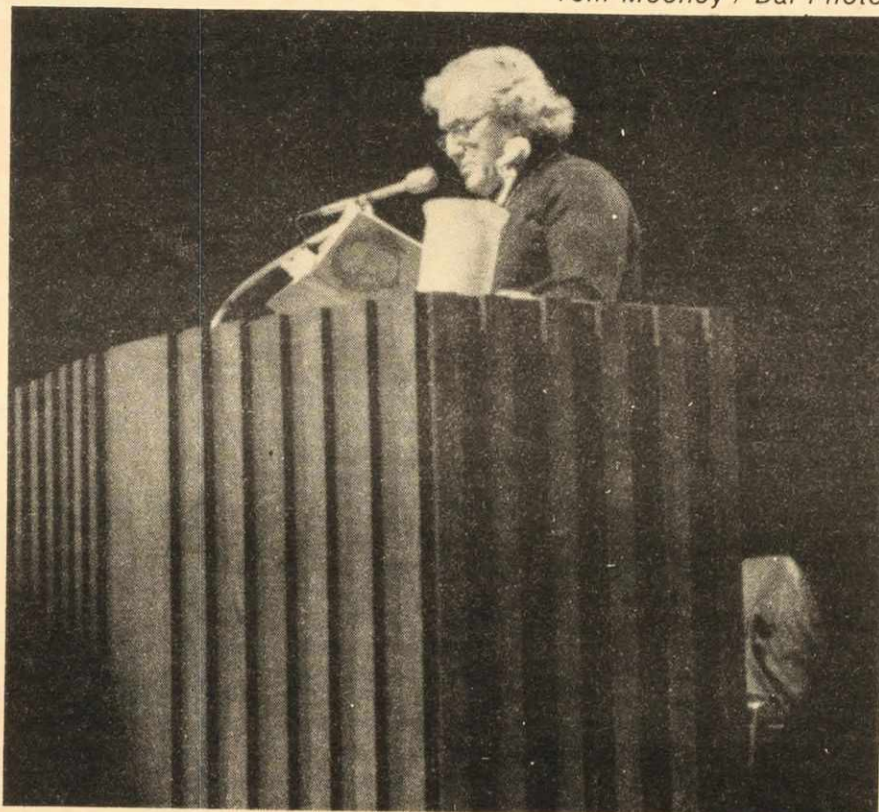
students alone must buy for Canadian literature classes, one suspects he would hardly qualify as poor.

Mr. Layton read numerous poems from his new book "The Darkening Fire". The selections are mainly taken from past publications and many were well known to the audience. Poems like "the Birth of Tragedy" and "The Cold Green Element" were among those which Mr. Layton read and which the audience seemed to know and enjoy.

Spontaneous applause broke out in the audience for several of the readings: "Family Portrait", "Shakespeare", "Elegy for Strul" and "The Graveyard". Mr. Layton introduced several of his poems with brief anecdotes about how and why he wrote the poems.

The last part of the evening was devoted to readings from Mr. Layton's newest, and as yet unpublished, book of Judeo-Christian poems. Without a doubt these poems are among the best Irving Layton has ever written. The audience had not heard any of this work before but they clearly loved it all. If the audience response at the Cohn that night can be taken as any kind of indicator Mr. Layton is sure to have a best seller on his hands next spring.

Many of the poems read that night left much to be desired



Tom Mooney / Dal Photo

artistically. One was often left with the impression that Layton churns out pap for commercial reasons only. These poems do nothing to contribute to Irving Layton's stature or reputation as a poet. The last poems read, however, were in marked contrast to this commercial

tendency in some of the earlier poetry. These poems proved that Irving Layton is a poet worthy of respect and academic acclaim. Canadians can be proud of Layton as a poet - he proved he is more than Canada's cultist answer to Norman Mailer.

Returned bottles - earns money

by Catherine Young

In recent years, the rapidly-accelerating rate of energy wastage in this consumer-oriented society has prompted renewed interest in energy-saving procedures and products. This explains the growing importance of such recyclables as

newsprint and returnable beverage containers to a concerned public.

A check of Halifax's three main papers (the Mail-Star, The Chronicle - Herald, and the Fourth Estate) indicated adequate recycling of newsprint. All three newspapers lack recycling facilities; old papers are sold to Delaney Paper Sellers Ltd., a small private company. A Company official indicated that the papers bought are sent to a paper-manufacturing plant in Hantsport, where they are made into reusable newsprint. Paper wastage is minimized; Thus, expenditure of energy from the environment is also minimized.

Attempts to foster interest in recycling beverage containers have met with differing levels of success in this province. The "Green Paper" issued by the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment this May pointed out that, although beverage containers only comprise a small proportion of domestic wastes, they make up 44.4% of all litter on Nova Scotia highways. Programs of recycling beer bottles in this province are not well-organized and little monetary incentive is offered to tempt you to bring those empties back. Furthermore, you can't bring your empties back to the Liquor Store where you bought them. However, in Ontario and Quebec, you can - and receive a nice tidy sum for doing so.

Nova Scotia does outshine Ontario and Quebec in one aspect of the recycling program, that is, in the recycling of returnable soft drink bottles. The people most involved with this campaign are those at the Ecology Action Centre. They offer a five cent deposit for a small pop bottle and ten cents for a large bottle. (the five- and ten cent deposits are the same as those proposed by the Government's Green Paper) The Green Paper also recommends that refillables and the paying of deposits be made mandatory in all stores in Nova

Scotia, and that the shape and color of the bottles be made standard for all brands, with tacit brand identification. According to the Center, 50% of all pop vendors in Halifax are co-operating with this recycling system. The Center is also interested in recycling beer bottles and is looking into methods of recycling pop and beer cans (although there are many problems in this process).

The "Green Paper" states strongly that increased use of non-returnable containers places unneeded stress on an already overworked environment for raw materials to manufacture more containers. We cannot allow ourselves

to become exponents of a "use it and throw away" ethic; it is too expensive and selfish for us to think that way with a mortally ill environment on our consciences. So, if you care (and even if you don't care) buy refillables and return them (you get a dandy deposit!). Write to the Minister of the Environment, Glen M. Bagnell, and press for stronger environmental legislation. You can promote a cleaner environment.

If you can give a helping hand or some helping bottles, call the Ecology Action Centre 422-4311. they'll answer all your questions (and appreciate your interest in their projects).

Faculty union

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neither Student Council nor the Administration is bound to act on the student judgement.

THE ISSUES AT STAKE

The problems in contract negotiations arose over two issues: money, and the power of the Faculty in academic affairs.

The Faculty Union demands salary parity with other Maritime universities; it claims that since SMU salaries are 12% behind the regional average, and since salaries at other Maritime universities rose at least 15% this year, salaries at St. Mary's must rise 27% to attain parity. The University has offered 16%.

The Faculty also desires departmental approval prior to the appointment of Deans and part-time faculty members, neither of which fell under the previous Collective Agreement. They insist that this is necessary to ensure high academic standards and co-operation among Faculties. The Administration refuses to include these matters in the contract; it claims that the Deans are members of the Administration and that professors have no right to choose or approve them, and also that part-time professors are not

members of the Union and thus should not be mentioned in a Union contract.

Finally, the Union wants the Administration to pledge itself to refuse applications for renewal, promotion, tenure, and hiring only on the basis of academic or professional criteria; the University refuses to approve this "fair and equitable treatment" clause.

Perhaps basic to all these issues is the problem of whether the President has too much power at the University. In an statement, the Union claims "The current dispute is a manifestation of the continuous struggle between the Faculty and the Employer, or chiefly, Dr. Carrigan, who constantly wishes to expand his power at the expense of traditional university practices."

If there is a strike, students fear the academic year will be lost; many claim they would leave St. Mary's, and they will definitely demand a refund of tuition in that case. Concern has been voiced over the credibility a degree from SMU will carry if time is lost from the year, although professors insist that all time lost would be made up.

Following the strike of professors at Laval University in the 1960's, the entire academic year was lost to the students.

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