
Alcohol given dramatic treatment

This summer, a group of students from the University of Alberta used their dramatic skills to present a graphic encounter with a major social problem — alcoholism. After conducting extensive interviews with victims of the disease, the actors, members of the Intimate Theatre of Alcohol Awareness, toured Alberta, offering social workers, youth groups, nurses and prisoners a theatrical treatment of common situations involving alcohol.

The students, enrolled in a senior improvisational theatre class, were challenged to dramatize any social problem. They chose alcoholism because many of them have close ties with people suffering from the addiction. Their tour was sponsored by the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

Winnipeg solar heat trial

Former Manitoba Public Works Minister Russell Doern recently opened a solar demonstration project mounted on the roof of the Legislative Building in Winnipeg.

The minister noted in his opening remarks, "It is a fact of life that new technologies require long induction periods before they start to make significant impact. It is for this reason that we have exercised leadership in the development of solar energy in our country."

Twenty-four flat plate collectors are mounted on the south side of the roof and the heat absorbed by them is conducted to two 5,000-gallon storage tanks in the attic. Heat from the tanks is used to heat an area inside the lower dome.

Among the problems to be investigated are the effect of wind velocity, low

surrounding temperatures, morning frost, dirt and snow on the collector plates, moisture between collector surfaces, the performance of sealants, the durability of materials, and the selection of a transfer

fluid to prevent freeze-up.

Monitoring will be carried out over 18 months to two years, but the system will continue to operate after that time to assess breakdown problems.

News briefs

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore arrived in Ottawa October 3 to talk with Prime Minister Trudeau and External Affairs Minister Don Jamieson. He visited Montreal briefly before coming to Ottawa.

The Export Development Corporation has signed a \$1.8-million loan agreement, raising its support to \$3.3 million for sales of Canadian goods and services for a pulp and paper mill under construction in Peru.

The Federal Government has promised help to Canada's small businessmen through simplified statistical and tax reporting procedures, consolidation of existing assistance programs and expanded business opportunities under a ten-point policy paper. Anthony Abbott, the federal minister responsible for small business, says Ottawa also plans to increase its procurement of goods and services from small businesses. His Department will also set up a new nation-wide information system to guide small businessmen through the red tape, along with a chain of "venture-development centres" designed to bring together investors, entrepreneurs, technological and management experts.

Total farm cash receipts for 1976 are estimated at \$9.975 million, one half of one per cent below the revised 1975 value of \$10.028 million, Statistics Canada has announced. The 1976 figure has been brought up to date from the preliminary estimate released in December of last year. Current projections are for a further drop this year, due in large part to falling world grain prices. Receipts declined in Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and rose in all other provinces.

The official film of the 1976 Olympics, Games of the XXI Olympiad, in Montreal, which is being distributed internationally by the National Film Board of Canada, is now ready for distribution in the United States by Macmillan Films of New York. Negotiations are also taking place with the three major U.S. television

networks for a national telecast of the film in the next few months. Over 125,000 16-mm prints of NFB films are in U.S. distribution through sales to public and educational film libraries. Last year, the NFB sold 6,500 prints of its films to these libraries.

Air Canada has placed orders for new aircraft with an estimated value of \$100-million. The additional capacity will allow an increase in the number of seats available for its charter class fares within Canada. The airline will take delivery of a *Boeing 747* combination passenger-cargo aircraft and three *Boeing 727-200* medium range aircraft in 1979.

General Motors of Canada Ltd. is reducing the prices of its 1978 model Chevrolet Chevette and Pontiac Acadian cars by as much as 8.4 per cent.

Canada spent \$973 million on foreign aid in 1976-77, representing 0.50 per cent of the GNP (a reduction of 0.05 per cent from the figure of a year before). Spending restraints and a concentration of long-term rural development projects account for the slight decline in spending.

The Federal Government has ordered a formal inquiry into possible violations of the Combines Investigation Act by members of a government-approved cartel in the marketing of uranium. Consumer Affairs Minister Warren Allmand says that all government departments had agreed to co-operate with the investigation and the results will be made public.

The French Minister of Industry, Commerce and Handicraft, René Monory, will visit Canada from October 22 to 26, at the invitation of Finance Minister Jean Chrétien. Discussions will be a continuation of those held in Paris on June 8 and 9, when Mr. Chrétien was Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Transport Minister Otto Lang has announced a \$100-million program to improve 2,100 miles of prairie rail lines during the next 18 months. The total program includes bank widening, drainage improvements, ballasting and replacement of ties.

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