

Author fights back



David Godfrey; "Canadian mythology has never been articulated"

by Beno John

David Godfrey, Canadian author of the renowned books *Death Goes Better with Coca Cola* and *The New Ancestors* (winner of the Governor General's award for the novel) gave a reading to a receptive audience last Thursday at the Humanities Centre.

Godfrey began the presentation by reading one of his contributions to James Laxer's new book on Imperial Oil's activities in Canada entitled *The Big Tough Expensive Job*. The book focuses on Imperial's impressive influence on the Canadian government's energy policies.

Godfrey's particular contribution to the book consists of two interviews with who he

termed 'serfs of the oil industry.' The one Godfrey chose to read dealt with one Dennis Barry, a delivery man, who supplies oil on a rural farm route. The interview reveals in a warm, sympathetic tone, the troubles of a small time operator being squeezed out by the big oil and gas supplier, and shows with poignant clarity the ineffectuality of the individual against the whims and fancies of an oil monopoly.

From the reading and the things he said, one gets the obvious impression that Godfrey is an ardent nationalist. This was supported by his other readings, especially from his most recent work *I Ching Kanada*.

Borrowing the structure of the work from the Chinese *I Ching*, Godfrey has written a condensed, poetic piece which captures the Canadian mythology. He achieves this effectively with strong images that are uniquely Canadian. Godfrey was motivated to attempt this work out of his belief that "Canadian mythology has never been articulated." Godfrey believes that our mythology is here, it is only waiting to be tapped. He contends that it hasn't been tapped, only because Canadians have been overwhelmed for too long by the American mythology.

Godfrey also read from his work in progress, a piece that is written from the point of view of a small town bartender. If the few pages he read is an indication of what is to come, then it can be said that David Godfrey's next novel is going to be a distinctly colorful one, and one well worth waiting for.



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- ...push some buttons...
- ...feast on pizza...
- ...sit and chat...
- ...pose for pictures...
- ...negotiate cash...
- ...gather groceries...
- ...buy a ticket...
- ...see a dentist...
- ...acquire an album...
- ...take a stroll...
- ...see a lawyer...
- ...read a comic...
- ...negotiate cash...
- ...sip some suds...
- ...print a poster...
- ...and...
- ...take a stroll...
- ...win a prize...
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