Power or need

International Night dramatizes inequality

by Donalee Moulton

Stroganoff or vegetable curry? Service or help your-self? Power or need? Western civilization or third world underdevelopment? These were only some of the items presented to the large crowd gathered in the McInnis Room for International Night.

The object of International Night was to bring home to the participants first hand the differences which exist between our culture and the third world countries. Everyone drew a piece of paper which designated them as either a member of a rich country or a poor country. Your membership in a particular country determined what you ate, where you sat, the service you received, and the prestige you were accorded. Rich country citizens ate beef stroganoff, sat at checkered tablecloth tables laden with waiters and waitresses, rolls, sugar, cream, and had strawberries and ice-cream for desert. Poor country citizens ate vegetable curry at bare tables with no desert. Intermediary citizens ate either chili con carne or pork chop

The reason for the divisions and distinctions was to emphasize the disparities between the "have" and "have not" countries. As the International Night planners have written, "The aim of this dinner is to dramatize the fact of unequal distribution of basic necessities throughout the world." Participants were asked to play fair, (i.e.). they were not to share their meals, exchange tickets, or "attempt any other unrealistic solutions to the problem of distribution."

The dinner was followed by a three part film from Oxfam, entitled "Feel No Shame." The first part dealt with youth views towards the problem while the second section showed a family's lifestyle in a rural African village. The film ended by reverting back to youth

There were two solutions stressed repeatedly throughout the film-long term development and education. A teenage member of the African family specified even further the role of education, "More

than academic study we need to learn engineering and agriculture so we can help our country". To effect these solutions the young people of the film suggested such money raising schemes as street theatre, balloon races, and any other crowd attracting stunt. It was, however the juxtaposition of pedigree dogs with rotting cattle, fashion models with defective child

bodies in conjunction with actual riots which occured because of the problem, that gave the film its impact.

International Night finished off with a dance featuring Arnie Benson's band- an international group. In all a highly entertaining, informative, and thought provoking evening.

Banff Fine Arts auditions

Canadian citizens or residents applying to the 1976 Banff Centre. School of Fine Arts programs in Dance/ballet, drama, musical theatre, voice/opera, Canadian chamber orchestra and music performance programs will be expected to audition. Auditions will be held at the Dalhousie Arts Centre on February 13, 1976.

Only Canadians who audition personally are eligible for scholarships. Canadian chamber orchestra successful candidates automatically receive full scholarship. Final deadline for all scholarship material to be at the Banff Centre no later than the Halifax audition date of February 13. There will be no dance auditions held in Halifax.

Audition requirements for Musical Theatre are: one three-minute scene - reading from any dramatic play or musical comedy, two short vocal selections of the candidate's choice, an audition dance number (jazz, song and dance, etc.) of the candidate's choice.

Audition requirements for the voice/opera program are: one operatic selection, one lied, one art song, for a total of three numbers, of which two must be in two different foreign languages. Candidates are also asked to prepare one aria from either Rossini's "Cinderella'' or Aaron Copeland's "Tender Ladd" (the 1976 opera works for festival).

Candidates wishing to audition for the Banff Centre 1976 program should contact Erik Perth, housie Arts Centre 424-2267

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order to avoid the inevitable.

Even the 'Canadian' National News is a rewritten version of that from the United States. Forty per cent of the footage comes directly from the American network. Grady believes that it would be in the national interest to have our own broadcasting industry. He feels we must also individually generate a perspective on our own history, and institute publications about our own lives. Community television networks should also be extended.

Don Grady feels that the Canadian media is in a disasterous state, the recent action concerning Time and Readers' Digest being a good example. He finds that there is an enormous task ahead in informing the public exactly what is going on.

Grady also mentioned that a study on the economic organization of cable television in Canada was done by a Canadian in Michigan. The study was excellent but in order to get it we must write to the United States. It is unavailable in Canada!

Another document which Grady has found to be startling is included in Telethon, a research journal on communications. It is written by Rick Butler of Memorial University in Newfoundland, and is called "From AP to CP to You." The article includes general statistics and states that sixty per cent of what appears in Canadian newspapers under CP is actually UPI, AP, or Independent, being sub-contracted to the CP.

Both conferences were found to be informative by the very small crowds which attended. Professor Don Grady appeared to be extremely concerned on the fate of the media in Canada.

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