

Created by arts patron Floyd S. Chalmers in 1972, the Chalmers Award has been administered by the Ontario Arts Council since 1979. It is presented annually to the writer of the most outstanding play mounted in Toronto, as selected by the Toronto Drama Bench. There were more than 40 productions to select from this year.

Other awards of \$1 000 went to David French for *Salt-Water Moon*, John Krizanc for *Prague* and Sharon Pollock for *Doc*.

The winner of the Chalmers Children's Play Award was Colin Thomas of Vancouver. He received \$2 000 for his *One Thousand Cranes*, the story of a young Japanese girl's battle against radiation sickness in post-war Hiroshima. Runner-up prizes worth \$1 500 went to Robert Bellefeuille of Ottawa and Isabelle Cauchy of Vanier, Ontario, for *Le Nez*, based on a short story by Russian author Nicolai Gogol.

Also announced was the presentation to Marion André of the Toronto Drama Bench Award for distinguished contribution to Canadian theatre. Ms. André is the founder and outgoing artistic director of Theatre Plus and former artistic director of Montreal's Saidye Bronfman Theatre.

String quartet competition

The second Banff International String Quartet Competition will be held April 13 to 19, 1986 at The Banff Centre School of Fine Arts in Alberta.

Dr. Paul Fleck, president of The Banff Centre, said the first competition, held in April 1983 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the School of Fine Arts, was such an international success that it has been decided to make the competition an ongoing event to be held every three years.

The competition, the only one of its kind in North America, was recently elected to membership in the Federation of International Music Competitions, a UNESCO organization based in Geneva.

Quartets of any nationality whose members are under 35 are eligible to audition for participation in the competition. The winners of the competition will share \$30 000 in prize money, and the first-place winner will tour major Canadian cities during the 1986-87 concert season.

The jury for the 1986 competition will consist of seven members or former members of internationally renowned string quartets: Thomas Brandis (West Germany), Andrew Dawes (Canada), Felix Galimir (US), Raphael Hillyer (US), Sidney Griller (Britain), Jiri Novak (Czechoslovakia), and Japp Schroeder (the Netherlands).

News briefs

Secretary of State for External Affairs Joe Clark and Minister of Finance Michael Wilson have accepted the invitation to co-chair this year's meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It will take place in Paris, France, on April 11 and 12. Canada was a founding member of OECD when it was created in 1961 as a forum for discussion and consultation on matters of economic, trade, and development assistance policies. Its membership has since grown to 24 and includes all of Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the US, and Canada. Its work has also spread into a number of other areas including environmental policies, energy, manpower and social affairs, education, and science and technology policy.

Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Fraser has announced that a major conference on the latest advances in fisheries technology will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, April 22-24. The Atlantic Fisheries Technology Conference is being sponsored by the federal/provincial Atlantic Fisheries Committee and will be attended by representatives in the fishing sector, including fishermen, processors and senior government officials. Its purpose is to inform key industry people about fishing technology currently available and future possibilities. It is the first conference of its kind organized by the federal and five Atlantic governments in more than 11 years.

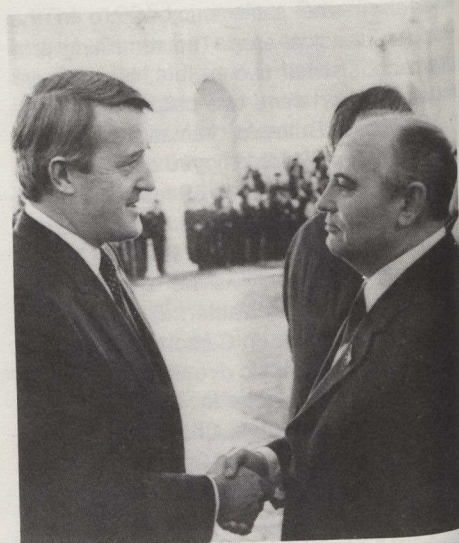
Microtel Limited of Burnaby, British Columbia has secured a \$1.3-million contract to supply a network management system to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand. The Microtel System 51 will be used to gather data from generating and distribution stations as well as the private telephone network in Bangkok and remote locations throughout Thailand. Shipments of equipment have begun and are expected to be completed by April. The system is scheduled to be in service by 1986.

The first Global Learning Symposium, sponsored by the United Nations University, the Canadian International Development Agency and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, will be held in Toronto, April 28-May 1. It is designed to create new connections among leaders in the study of learning, now known as "Mathetics". Participants from more than 20 countries will attend the symposium. Further information can be obtained from Alan Thomas, Department of Adult Education, OISE, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Canada, M5S 1V6.

Prime minister in Moscow

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney met with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' new secretary general of the Communist Party, Mikhail Gorbachev, when he attended the funeral services of former secretary general and president of the USSR Konstantin Chernenko in March. The official meeting between the prime minister and the new secretary general was held on March 14.

Mr. Mulroney said that Mr. Gorbachev referred to Canada as a neighbour and a friend and talked about his visit to Canada in 1983, his first foreign trip after becoming a member of the Politburo.



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (left) is greeted by Mikhail Gorbachev at the funeral services of Konstantin Chernenko in Moscow on March 13.

In addition to the meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in Moscow, Mr. Mulroney met with several of the leaders who will be attending the Bonn economic summit in May. They included British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, French President François Mitterrand and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

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