

Katimavik building new Canada

by Sylvia Kaptein

How many of us have been torn by the decision of what to do after high school? How many really know Canada and its people from coast to coast?

Have Them Build a Tower Together by Jaques Hebert is about one group of young Canadians who decided they wanted to know more about Canada—and about life. They were participants in a program called "Katimavik", the Inuit word for "a meeting place".

Katimavik is a private corporation financed by the federal government and was created in 1977 to give young people an alternate course

besides university or a job.

The program is aimed at teaching its participants about Canada, its people and its problems, alternate technology such as solar energy and organic farming, the value of hard, physical work in rural settings, and how to relate better to people from all walks of life.

The participants, who range in age from seventeen to twenty-one, are divided into groups of thirty. Each group spends three three-month periods in three different communities in Canada doing volunteer work for the community which otherwise would

probably not get done.

Hebert, who is a co-chairman of the Katimavik Board of Directors, writes in a lively and conversational style about one of these groups, the one he followed most closely during the first year of the program (1977-1978).

In fact, Hebert writes only the first three chapters of the book. The rest is made up of interviews with twenty-four of the participants, who tell their stories with great openness and honesty.

The group Hebert writes about spent its first three months in Larouche, Quebec, where their main project was

building a solar heated greenhouse. Next, they spent the winter months in Wilcox, Saskatchewan, building a cafe, working in a daycare center, and many other activities. The final three months were spent in Grand River, Ontario, working in forestry, working in a radio station, and building picnic tables.

Almost all of the participants were very enthusiastic about the program. They described their fellow participants as "brothers and sisters" and "just like family". Most said they had learned a great deal, especially about themselves.

The book ends with a plea from Hebert to make Canada a better place in which to live. He stresses that we need a cultural revolution. "It's no longer enough to fiddle with structures, institutions, constitutions, borders: we must change the way people think, change their hearts, stir up a new art of living, create a harmonious, more humane society."

Hebert believes that this can be accomplished in part by programs such as Katimavik. For his part, he has donated all royalties from the sale of **Have Them Build a Tower Together** to the program.

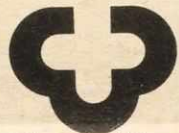
Talent Hunt!

Canadian University Press will be launching a national four-colour campus magazine (200,000 circulation) in the fall of 1980, that will be distributed through member newspapers.

Writers, photographers and illustrators are invited to submit samples of their work, sketches, ideas and outlines for consideration by the editorial board.

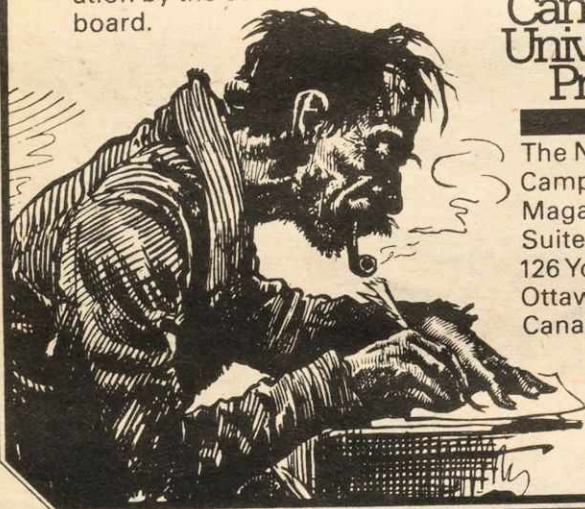
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'Idi' alive and well'

by Pam Berman

Idi Amin Dada, former dictator of Uganda, responsible for numerous atrocities in that country, is alive and well and living in a beach villa in Libya. Amin was the subject of a film and discussion presented by the International Student's Association on February 21st.

The film, while giving the audience a sense of Amin's strange personality as well as his tyrannical and military dominance within Uganda, did not convey the man's real ruthlessness. The numerous murders and the wide spread torture that went on during Amin's reign was only briefly mentioned at the beginning of the film, the rest of the time was focused on Amin's clownish behaviour.

was found dead the next week following this meeting.

Apart from that portion of the movie a person knowing nothing about Amin's dictatorship might have left thinking he was just misguided by his military em-

There was speculation on Amin's performance had he received more education. Also the idea that he perhaps really had the best interests of the country and the people in mind but just had mixed up priorities was brought up more than once.

In reply to these speculations, O'Mara said the film may have left that impression but in reality Amin just wanted to stay in power.

"I cannot try to say how he would have acted had he had more education, nor can I try to guess alternative motives



The narrator did say that most of the scenes were staged for their benefit. Even so, one scene vividly portrayed Amin's seriousness in keeping power and control. Speaking to his cabinet ministers Idi Amin stressed the need to deal with anyone suspected of spying with efficiency and speed. Amin advised his ministers to try spies before a military tribunal and not 'waste a whole day' in regular courts before executing them.

President Amin also criticized the foreign minister in this scene for not adequately communicating the nation's policies to the world and to the people. The foreign minister

phasis. In reality, Amin was not misguided, he was, as the discussion leader Rex O'Mara pointed out, intent on holding power through any means available.

There was also a real need for a more historical focus. The film left out the circumstances leading up to Amin's coup and was very vague on certain events during his rule such as the evacuation of the Asian nationals in 1975. Even though the film wanted to deal with Idi Amin the person, some historical background was definitely needed. You are, after all, what you do.

As a result of these ambiguities some people in the audience seemed confused about Amin's role in Uganda.

for his actions, I can only state what I know he has done."

Divergent opinions about the state of Uganda under Idi Amin and the conditions of the country now, expressed by several Ugandans in the audience, conveyed to a certain extent the differences prevalent within Uganda itself. As one member of the audience noted, it was interesting to see the wide range of ideas which seemed to reflect the troubled economic and political times of Uganda.

Now that Idi Amin Dada is tucked away in Libya, however, the big question and concern of all Ugandans is: What Now?

**Staff Meeting
Thursday at 7:00**