

FRASER TALKS ON BOOKS

by Bill Power

Cynicism and hypocrisy are the predominant evils of the modern world, says Canadian writer, Sylvia Fraser, and she has infused these themes into all her novels in unique ways.

The former Hamilton, Journalist spoke to about 14 people at the Robertson Library Lecture Theater, Tuesday evening. She spoke about her decision to be-

come a professional writer, gave readings from her books, and opened the floor for discussion.

"Working as a Journalist was a chance to explore many of my fantasies," says Fraser. She visited many interesting places and many interesting people, but always found it difficult to limit her impressions to the 3,000 word limit required by most magazines.

She found herself out of

work when the Star Weekly folded, and put writing a novel at the bottom of a long list of alternatives. However, in the end this urge won out.

The result: "Pandora," is centered on her experiences in grade school in the years following the war.

"Childhood," she insists, "is not as innocent as it is often made out to be."

Her novel deals with the politics of the playground.

"There is the same intense jockeying for position in a game of red-rover as there is in an executive board room."

The language in the novel is deceptively simple, since a child can be very intuitive and perceptive, yet lack the vocabulary to convey these impressions.

"Children will have sophisticated insights, but will not have the words to express them."

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The book, "a domestic Lord of the Flies," received enough response to encourage Fraser on her second project:

"Candy Factory," however, was not received as well. Some critics are calling it tough. Needlessly tough.

From the world of Children, who exist always at "now", Fraser decided to

deal with a grown up world that doesn't know where it is at.

The novel deals with values, or rather the lack of them in a world where good and evil are not clear. Fraser uses a contemporary setting here, to present a micro-cosm of life in the seventies as she sees it.

Fraser describes her latest book, "A Casual Affair," as an exploration of changing personal relationships in the wake of the sixties.

The plot centers on a man who believes marriage cannot work and a woman who believes it can work, and how these opposing tendencies are ironically resolved.

There are many traps for a writer trying to go professional. Fraser warns it is easy to fall into a pattern after the first book, especially if it is a success, and it is easier to make money talking about past successes than to get back to work on a future ones.

Fraser believes in putting in a good days work, rather than sitting and waiting for the mood to hit. However, this attitude presents problems.

"When you're working you're feeling guilty, because you figure you should be out living, and when you're out living you feel guilty because you're not working."

ONCE OVER EASY AND DOWN THE HOME STRETCH

Prince Edward Islanders will have a chance to show their stuff as they put their eggs on the line in the scramble for THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL EGG RACE.

The puns are practically endless...."a contest for eggcentric inventors", put leggs on your eggs," and "get crackin' for the international competition." All of these are groaners, but all are forgivable according to Dr. Moncrieff Williamson, Director of Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum in Charlottetown.

Confederation Centre Art Gallery has become the sponsoring body for Prince Edward Island preliminary competitions which will find winners travelling to the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, Ontario during August of this year, for the Great International Egg Race between Canada, Britain and the United States. The Island race will be held Saturday, March 4 in the main concourse of Confederation Centre, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The aim of the contest is to transport an ordinary uncooked chicken egg (no less than 70 grams) over a given course by means of a vehicle which is propelled only by a No. 10 Viceroy rubber band. The egg must finish the course unbroken, and the egg travelling the greatest distance will be declared the winner.

The egg's transport vehicle may be constructed of any material, and must

self-start and finish the race entirely unassisted. According to international egg racing rules, each competitor may have three attempts.

Prizes in the Great Egg Race preliminaries and finals will go to winners in three categories: Class A, for those up to and including 13 years of age; Class B, for those from 14 to 19 years of age; and Class C, which is open to all contestants.

Egg dress and decoration is optional, as is dress for competitors, says Dr. Williamson, self-declared "Chief Egghead" of the provincial competition. On a serious note, he added that it is anticipated the egg race will be a practical scientific competition, based on the varying types of transport vehicles which will be built by creative inventors.

Dr. Williamson said the race will put an end to scientific speculation about how far a raw egg can actually travel once propelled. The issue has been 'nesting' for too long he said. This is the reason Confederation Centre has 'hatched' its semi-final contest.

Additional information and competition entrance forms are available by contacting the Chief Egghead, Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum, Box 848, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 7L9, telephone number 892-2464.

MOVIE CLUB RETURNS

Once again a group of students are trying to form a Movie Club. In years past, the Movie Club has been one of the services provided by the Student Union but, due to financial difficulties, the club was closed down in the Fall of 77.

Now, two students, Don Fernald and Gerald McKenna, are trying once again to get the club started. They are planning on running the club as a business enterprise, not as a Student Union sub-committee.

The first movie they ran this semester was "Blazing Saddles" in conjunction with Winter Carnival Week. Their next movie, this Sunday, Feb. 5th, will be Woody Allen as The Front, with Zero Mostel and Herschel Bernardi at 8 p.m.

in the Duffy Amphitheatre. Admission is \$1.50.

The following Sunday, Feb. 12th, The Deep will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m. Following weeks will see such movies as All The President's Men, Dog Day Afternoon, Close Encounters and The Eagle Has Landed.

Since this is being run as a private enterprise, the success of the first film films is necessary or the Movie Club will once again be forced out of business.

All students are urged to attend and support this new club.

A number of cartoons will be shown each evening preceding the main attraction.

A refreshment stand will be available including such sundries as chips, bars, pop, apples and popcorn.