A Spectrum of Speakers Attract Campus Audiences

Several nationally or internationally known people, including two Nobel Prize winners, a leading author, a psychic and a former Yippie leader all came to the SU campus during the fall semester to speak to students, faculty and staff, and interested members of the community. In addition, SU professors presented lectures on many subjects, adding to the enrichment of University life.

- Environmentalist Barry Freed, alias Abbie Hoffman, spoke on campus one month after turning himself in to police, ending six and a half years as a fugitive. The former Yippie leader told students his biggest crusade now was to help Save the River, a citizens group promoting environmental protection of the St. Lawrence River. SU is one of only three universities nationwide where Hoffman has given speeches since coming out of hiding.
- Little more than two weeks later, Irish Mairead Corrigan called for world peace, pulling out her gold Nobel Peace Prize medallion to punctuate her talk. Corrigan won the prize in 1976 for her role in founding the Community of Peace People of Northern Ireland.

The Nobel laureate told the audience that conflicts between Catholics and Protestants in Ireland represent a microcosm of cultural clashes around the world.

- Nobel Prize winner in physics Sheldon L. Glashow, in his campus talk, discussed the most recent research nationwide on the structure of atoms. "We have to understand the nucleus, before we understand anything else," Glashow told the SU audience. Now the Higgins Professor of Physics at Harvard University, Glashow shared the 1970 Nobel Prize with two other scientists for their work developing a theory regarding electromagnetism and weak interactions, two of the four fundamental forces of nature.
- The Amazing Kreskin, did, in fact amaze his SU audience by successfully locating the check for his lecture fee, which had been hidden by students in Hendricks Chapel prior to his talk. The psychic apparently used the "power of suggestion" by making people from the audience feel alternately cold, then warm, to the point of taking off their jackets and unbuttoning their shirts.
- The author of Catch-22, Joseph Heller, read and commented on sections from that and his other novels. He told SU students that his latest book, Good As Gold is a satirical attack on government as was his famous Catch-22, an attack on the military. He said he often writes only a page a day and has taken years to finish a work.
- Harold J. Berman, a Harvard University law professor, said on campus that the Western legal system is based on a "creative, purposeful legality that proceeds from a sense of justice." His talk was designed to refute charges against the American system made by exiled Soviet dissident Alexandr Solzhenitsyn.
- Others speaking on esoteric and popular subjects were campus experts, including two faculty members from the College for Human Development. Harlan London, an assistant professor, told a group at Hendricks Chapel that the prevailing myth that black families are unstable is inaccurate. He did warn, however, that many young black men may have to remain single, as black women outnumber black men.
- Professor Margaret Charters told a lunchtime group of SU staff members that they could "beat the consumer price index." The way to do that, she said, is to buy less of items that have contributed the most to increases in the index, such as gasoline.
- At a post-election program for business and community leaders, political science chairman Thomas E. Patterson said that the victory of Ronald Reagan is not evidence of a new era in American politics. "It is an exaggeration," he said, "to compare that to the political realignment that occurred in 1932 when Franklin Roosevelt defeated incumbent president Herbert Hoover. The Democratic Party is still the party of the majority of Americans." His book, The Mass Media Election: How Americans Choose Their President, was published in 1980.

Packed audiences greeted the speakers who reflected a range of interests among the campus community.

A wooden model of Palladio's chapel for the Villa Barbaro in Maser, Italy, which 350 years later influenced the design of Hendricks Chapel.

An Architect For All Seasons

SU's Hendricks Chapel and Thomas Jefferson's Virginia home, Monticello, are among the hundreds of buildings around the world influenced by 16th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio.

James S. Ackerman, professor of fine arts at Harvard University, has called Palladio "the most imitated architect in history."

Michael Dennis, professor of architecture at Cornell University, termed Palladio "an architect for all times."

Ackerman and Dennis were two of 8 scholars and architects who visited campus last fall to pay homage to Palladio during a month-long observance of the 400th anniversary of his death.

More than any other Renaissance architect, Palladio has been "a continuous source
of inspiration,” said Leon G. Satkowski, SU assistant professor of architecture and an organizer of the celebration.

Five SU schools and departments commemorated that inspiration during a series of lectures, exhibitions and presentations from Oct. 22 and through mid-November.

Original books by Palladio and some of his followers in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries from the collections of SU’s George Arents Research Library were displayed in Slocum Hall. A slide show of buildings and design plans by Palladio was shown continuously.

Ackerman, who has written a biography of Palladio, gave one of the first showings of his movie, “Palladio and His Influence in America” and lectured on the architect’s role in site planning. Felix Gilbert, professor emeritus of Princeton University’s institute for advanced study, spoke on 16th-century life. A panel of four practicing architects, including Dennis and Werner Seligmann, dean of SU’s School of Architecture, spoke on the relevance of Palladio’s designs today.

SU’s Oratorio Society gave a concert of music composed by Andrea Gabrieli, an organist and contemporary of Palladio’s, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Syracuse.

Palladio (1508-1580) lived and studied most of his life in Vicenza, a town between Verona and Padua. His studies of the designs and ruins of ancient Rome helped develop his classically-influenced style. Most of Palladio’s constructed designs were for villas and palaces, but he also designed some public buildings, including three churches in Venice and a theater in Vicenza.

The architect is known for his rotundas, reflected in Jefferson’s home, and in the University of Virginia’s rotunda. His style is reflected in SU’s Hendricks Chapel, designed by John Russell Pope and Dwight James Baum. Long, multi-columned facades are other Palladio features.

SU’s celebration of Palladio was sponsored by the schools of architecture and music and the departments of fine arts, history, and foreign languages and literature.

Campus Buildings
Designated
As Historic

Fifteen University buildings on and around the main quadrangle have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings, which were constructed between 1873 and 1937, are on the tract of land given to the University by George Comstock, an early trustee.

Two of the buildings, the Hall of Languages, which was built in 1873 as the first structure on campus, and Crouse Hall, built in 1887, were named to the national register in the early 1970s. Last summer, the remaining historic buildings on the Comstock Tract were added to that list, largely through the efforts of Harvey H. Kaiser, vice president for facilities administration. The 13 additional historic buildings and the date they were constructed are: Holden Observatory, 1887; Steele Hall, 1898; the Administration Building, 1889; Smith Hall, 1902; Lyman Hall, 1905; Machinery Hall, Sims Hall, Bowne Hall and Carnegie Library, 1907; Archbold Gymnasium, 1908; Slocum Hall, 1919; Hendricks Chapel, 1930; and Maxwell Hall, 1937.

Kaiser applied to the New York State Parks and Recreation Department last February to include these buildings on the national register. The U.S. Department of the Interior, the overseer of the national register, requires a state-level review of all nominations to the register. An earlier application by Kaiser to have all of the Comstock Tract listed on the register was rejected because of newer construction in that area.

H.B. Crouse, Hinds, Link, White and Grant Halls; Lowe Art Gallery; the Physics Building; the Biological Research Laboratory and the Heroy Geology Laboratory are the modern buildings on the Comstock Tract.

Properties are listed on the register in recognition of their historic and architectural values. Owners of listed properties are eligible to apply for preservation grants through the parks and recreation department. A project that could have a negative effect on a listed historic building must be carefully reviewed and justified before it can be licensed or funded by a federal agency.

Film Forum
Merges with SU

In a move to better coordinate the use of films for classes and campus entertainment, Syracuse Film Forum Foundation Inc. merged with the University last October.

Film Forum had been operating as an independent corporation since 1970, when a board of directors was formed under Film Forum director the Rev. Norman O. Keim. Keim, an SU chaplain-at-large, had founded Film Forum as part of the United Campus Christian Fellowship in 1967, when he was its chaplain.

Under the new arrangement, Film Forum has been made a part of SU’s student affairs office. Keim remains as coordinator of Film Forum’s programming and assumes responsibility for all the activities of five other groups on campus that present films. The Film Forum series will operate as another University Union cinema series, but will keep its name. Film Forum movies are now being shown on two nights a week instead of three, as it used to.

The merger is “long overdue,” Keim said. The different film groups “have grown haphazardly” over the past decade and needed closer coordination, he added.

Keim hopes that coordinating the various programs will mean fewer duplications among the campus film series and more opportunity to show silent, avant-garde and other non-commercial films. In addition, Keim said, he hopes to cut down film rental costs by coordinating the showing of films that are used by more than one class.

Prior to the merger with the University, Film Forum moved from its cramped quarters in the basement of Hendricks Chapel to Room 251 Newhouse II, in the median between the two Newhouse Communications Center buildings. Film Forum’s film studies center, used by faculty members and students in several SU schools