

Vancouver hosts symposium on humanity...

In an eight-day marathon, likened in scope and place to the UN conference on Habitat, the World Symposium on Humanity unfolded in Vancouver, B.C. last week.

Magnetizing psychologists, liberals, spiritualists, artists and communicators from all over North America, it drew a small portion of its 1,000 registration limit from the Willamette Valley. At least 35 persons from Oregon were registered participants, and

Stories by
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Of the Emerald

more might have attended had not the \$100 fee and freezing temperatures persuaded others to remain at home.

Overflowing the second floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Vancouver, a

sybiotic human stew of over a thousand distinct flavors simmered and gurgled, reappearing at each session for a new speaker to stir the pot.

The symposium showcased twelve "global minds": Buckminster Fuller, Pir Vlayat Khan, Theodore Roszak, Michio Kishi, David Spangler, Yogi Bhaijan, Stephen Gaskin, Lister Sinclair, Swami Kriyananda, Ken Keyes, Rolling Thunder, and Dr. Bernard Jensen.

And if you don't recognize all of them, neither did the paying participants. But the word was out and the spirit of adventure prevailed as demand mounted for extra workshop tickets — selling at \$9 apiece. In the beginning was the word as nobody wanted to miss it.

Donald Stowman, a University sophomore in political science, was there taking it in. "I came here to look for an alternative to the ultimate doom," he said. "This is it."

Plugging in, this ODE correspondent became part of a 100 odd "international" media corps. Although most, like myself, preferred to stay low level, the symposium was billed as a New Age media event and it wasn't long before everyone was interviewing the speakers and the speakers were interviewing each other, and...

Interlinking the multi-level continuity of it all, organizers offered an experimental "interlogue" system. Terminals with cassette recorders and video screens were located in the main hall. Promoted as a "nerve center to catalyze a unified consciousness," the screens were mostly in demand for mundane messages on rides and housing.

Opening day, elements of the stew began to boil over the lack of women speakers on the menu of "humanity." A special women's meeting was called, which turned into a general feedback critique

much to the frustration of the woman who called it. Exploding in rage, she thundered, "I want to talk to the women and the women only!" and then burst into tears.

Consoled by hugs from those around her and calls of "We're here" from others, she cried and hugged and smiled. Meanwhile, a female symposium coordinator, seeing the "ladies" gathered, raised a plea for typists to do speech transcripts.

"Get the men," hollered a woman in the group.

"We need fast typists," answered the coordinator.

By mid-week, when I left, there were as yet, no typed transcripts available, although tapes of the talks were being sold as fast as they could be copied.

Shonna Husbands of Eugene coordinated a tape-purchasing pool among participants from the Willamette Valley. Carol
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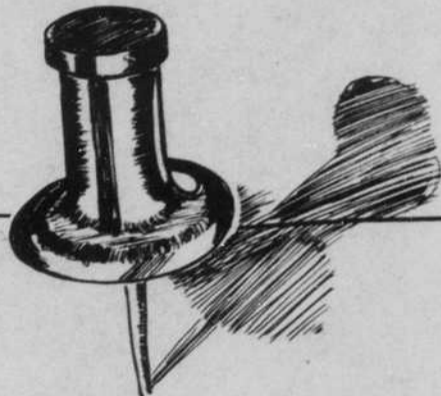


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... in which gurus greet New Age

A hint of dawn is rumored in the air. Like the "Twilight Bark" that saved Disney's 101 Dalmations, word passes mouth to ear and on into the night, this time that Dawn is coming; a new dawn. In fact, the Dawn of a New Age.

Like most rumors, the source is hard to trace. Old and New Left rhetoric, 60's turmoil, frustration and hopes for regeneration are but microscopic particles of the new, larger concept. It is not only an American phenomena, but it's surfacing around the globe. Everywhere one goes — in bookstores and theaters, in San Francisco, New York, Amsterdam, even South Africa, there are people talking of a New Age consciousness, with reverence and relief.

What is it? Is there something really happening?

The World Symposium on Humanity in Vancouver, B.C., last week was billed as a New Age event. Most of the speakers talked in New Age terminology and were familiar with its concepts.

David Spangler, known for his work with the Findhorn community in Scotland, a group of mystic gardeners who are amazing scientists with their growth results, offers a definition of the New Age.

It used to mean an era that would begin when man experienced an event, says Spangler. It was thought the event would come outside of man, either cataclysmic, spiritual or technological, and it would involve great drama.

However, a new definition is emerging, which may be a sig-
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