



ARTS
FESTIVAL
CLIMAXES
WINTER
TERM

IT WAS physically, emotionally and intellectually exhausting . . . a tremendous success." Sophomore Fred Cosgrove seemed to sum up the feelings of most of the student body in describing the intensity and excitement generated by Deerfield's first Festival of the Arts. For three days last March the daily routine of classes, athletics, and meetings was set aside for a full schedule of seminars, readings and recitals. Over thirty visiting artists, representing disciplines from classical music to cinematography, came to Deerfield to share their experience and knowledge and help create what many students regarded as the most memorable experience of the school year.

Much of the excitement and appeal of the festival was derived from the fact that it encouraged almost total involvement. Although the festival format consisted of lecture and discussion groups during the morning and early afternoon followed by concerts, readings and media shows in the late afternoon and evening, the enthusiasm and sense of participation carried over into coffee breaks, meals, and after-hour dormitory talk sessions. The dialogue was seemingly non-stop. The festival was a portable feast which moved through the halls, from building to building and up and down the street in faculty homes and apartments. "It showed," said one student, "that everything is not in the classroom."

The vitality of the festival was evident from the very beginning as the opening night panel discussion on "The Future of the Arts in the 70's" was enlivened by a running controversy between media expert Harley Parker of the University of Toronto and Irish critic and author Ulick O'Connor. The fast pace was maintained throughout the subsequent afternoon and evening presentations which included a multi-media dance and light performance entitled "Fission," a showing and discussion by avant-garde filmmaker Jonas Mekas, a recital by members of the Marlboro String Quartet, and a smashing jazz finale by the Herbie Hancock Quintet.

It seemed as though there was never an empty moment from beginning to end. While some thought the festival tried to accomplish too much in too little time, others felt that the "cultural immersion" approach was most beneficial. However, most students and faculty did agree that the festival created a genuine intellectual excitement at Deerfield. As the Headmaster remarked, "Everyone's scope of life and humanistic understanding of it greatly expanded, and that is what education is all about."



TOP: Anne Sexton discusses her poetry with students after a reading in the auditorium. ABOVE: During the morning and early afternoon hours, students participated in discussion groups with the visiting artists. Here sculptor Mortimer Borne speaks to a group of students in the art studio. BELOW: Witty and articulate, Irish author-critic Ulick O'Connor was among the festival favorites.



ARTS FESTIVAL



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1. Sculptor Stephen Antonakos gave a slide presentation of some of his recent work with neon tubes. 2. Rolla Reider was among the several poets who participated in the festival. 3. Playwright Melvin Dixon of Wesleyan University discusses black theater in a morning seminar. A modern jazz concert by the Herbie Hancock Quintet closed out the festival.



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FALL 1970