Cheap talk for the '80s

If one thing is for certain in the 1980's, talk will be cheaper than it has ever been. We developed a way of life in the '70s which essentially found the media telling us what we were doing. It didn't specifically tell us WHAT to do, but rather, by reflecting a minority of the country, or blowing something out of proportion, it gave us a mirrored image of what only some of us were.

'PART ONE'

by George Plumley (CUP)
ROLLING SPOKE

The Future: that period of time in which our affairs prosper, our friends are true and our happiness is assured - Ambrose Bierce.

We are told for instance, that the country is 'into fitness' yet obesity and poor health continue to abound. We are told that we are austere energy users and that we are coping with "dwindling energy supplies", but this country is the highest per capita energy consumer. Real overall declines in usage are not down sufficantly. We are told that the country has come to grips with poor fiscal management, but we vote out a semi-conscious government to put in the original culprit.

The media is not always as powerful as it is made out to be. People will continue to be people...and that will be the reality of the 80's. Talk will be cheap and there will be a lot of it around; do this, do that, this is what is being done; this is what you shouldn't do etc. etc. The country will plod along continuing on a 50 year course that seems endless.

Let me begin that cheap talk with a look at what you as a student can expect, as you inherit the Canadian legacy, as you go into the 80's.

Tomorrow will be as awful as today - Aldous Huxley.

Philosophy

In abstract areas of thought we encounter the worst difficulty. On one hand we have talk and indication of conservatism. We have to tighten our belts and be realistic, yet we continue to demand many of the dream world schemes that are causing us to consider more cautious measures. We want tax cuts and deficits reduced, yet we vote in the Liberals whose philosophy is different in those respects. We have begun to move in a more realistic direction, but if we are not careful, we'll find ourselves slipping back into the Liberal thinking of the 60's and 70's.

We have to keep in mind that much of what we say about "public attitude" is merely the media's telling which accounts for the contradictions. Some measures of conservatism is prevailing. Until people realize that the thinking behind deregulation, balanced budgets and free enterprise is not high-brow intellectual jargon, but thinking that they can apply to their own lives, there won't be large movement of thought let alone action.

That is the intellectual challenge of the '80's, to re-think our previous values that have been the basis for our society, and to apply those thoughts. Will it happen? If things continue on their present course...no.

Our chief interest in the past is as a guide to the future - W.R. Inge.

Energy

Getting down to more practical topics, the energy picture is simple: Prices are going up. No matter how you wish and hope or vote for a "Canadian Price", the cost is going up and will go up big!

That said, there are several scenarios for oil (since it is still our largest source of energy, we must concentrate on it).

Of the four possible situations, the first would see us reaching a saturation point of sorts where the majority of Arab countries say "enough is enough". The west cannot afford another price increase. Don't hold your breath on this one because ten years ago, 30 dollars a barrel seemed unimaginable, yet today you'd be doing well to get that price.

The second scenario would find the west cutting back on dependancy enough to cause the Arabs hold the line on prices in order to maintain revenue. This isn't a cliffhanger either, because the Arabs have always said that they would prefer to cut back on production and raise the price. Cutting back dependency would only save money in the short run until prices were raised. The only benefit would be that disruptions of supply would have less effect than at present.

We now get into the more pleasant possibilities. The third scenario would have supplies not simply being cut back, but cut off, as in the Iranian situation. We would find ourselves suddenly without oil and no time to adjust without having severe shortages. The severity of this scenario would be diminished, as mentioned previously, by cutting down dependency on foreign oil. The other action it legitimizes, is Mr. Carter's pledge, to defend the Gulf States to the end.

The fourth and most devastating possibility comes with the Arabs demanding something other than Amercian dollars as paymenet for oil. They the U.S. government printing up more and more of this green paper and they say to themselves, "Wait a minute, we're getting ripped off, this stuff isn't worth a dime", (no pun intended). Suddenly we find ourselves with huge oil bills that make today's seem trivial. This scenario would not be as surprising as the consequences would be disastrous. After all part of the reason for raising the OPEC price every year has been to try and make up for the eroding dollar. Already some of the producers are demanding more stable currency as payment and most Arabs are at least converring their useless dollars into tangibles like gold...buildings...tanks.

The west seems to be banking on scenario number two, athough they keep in mind that any combination of these situations is possible. The east is of course banking on several of these ideas coming true and they have been making their own personal contributions to number three by internally destabilizing many Arab countries.

So while Western nations continue to pursue reliance on alternate supplies, Canada sits blissfully alone uttering such words as "Self-sufficiently" and "made in Canada" prices.

Stop and think about such talk. Our prices now are talked about as cheap incomparison to other countries. Let us assume that this is the "cheap" price the politician speak of. In order to become self-sufficient and have cheap prices, then we must be able to get all the extra oil found and developed at current prices. If that were true, then we should be self-sufficient now...or within the short term, but without raising prices.

The reality is, that we have to have higher oil prices in order to justify getting the oil out of the ground that will be needed to make us self-sufficient. (This is barring any new discoveries about getting oil in difficult situations. Let's say that major supplies are cut off from the rest of the Free World suddenly. We would be under considerable pressure to "share the wealth". That would mean cutbacks even though we are "self-sufficient".

Let's say we become self-sufficient, how long will our own reserves last at current consumption? Not long is current prices are continued, because who is going to cut back on driving when prices are low and some politician is telling you there isn't much oil left. That leaves two options; rationing, so the government tells you how much you can have at higher prices, so your budget can keep you within your means. It is knowing our government's desire to protect people from themselves, the higher prices will come in the form of a government tax, though the Liberals will be much more tactful than our former short-term leader, they will put the tax in places you can see. Don't turn your backs for a moment.

ECONOMICS

These are areas that will touch the very soul of every one of you, so you better start thinking about what you want or what you expect, rather than being outraged later and complaining of not being aware of anything.

Wage and Price controls will be coming back . . . they have to. It's a law. As inflation begins to climb into the high teens, which no man's land for politicians, all controls will have to be put on. It is unlikely that government will recognize itself as the cause of inflation, so they must control everyone else. They may not come back in exactly the same form and they may not be called wage and price controls. Price control will probably be some form of profit control which [illegible]

Let's say we become self-sufficient, how long will our own reserves last at current consumption? Not long is current prices are continued, because who is going to cut back on driving when prices are low and some politician is telling you there isn't much oil left. That leaves two options; rationing, so the government tells you how much you can have at higher prices, so your budget can keep you within your means. It is knowing our government's desire to protect people from themselves, the higher prices will come in the form of a government tax, though the Liberals will be much more tactful than our former short-term leader, they will put the tax in places you can see. Don't turn your backs for a moment.

SUMMARY: Higher prices, either at the pump or in higher taxes to pay for "invisible subsidies". More tension in the Mid East, only less flamboyent than usual, but no less dangerous (Places to watch - Saudia Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, and Turkey). Look for nuclear power to pick up again, barring another Three Miles Island or Hane Fonda movie. Don't expect too much from the tar sands, but if something does come, remember that you've been paying for it over the last number of years, so it's more expensive than it seems. Don't hold your breath for technological breakthrougas until it becomes absolutely necessary. When it does come, hope it's fusion power, the brightest spot in alternate energy.

Trust no future, howe'er pleasant - Longfellow.

Red River Community College Student Newspaper

The Projector

Tuesday, May 27, 1980

NEWS
MAY 27 1980
PERIODICALS

Under the Cover

The lineup started early last Thursday morning when tickets for the last beer bash of the year went on sale. With special guest 'Harlequin', the tickets were gone in no time.

Red River's sports banquet was held May 15 with trophies and awards handed out left and right. Clancy Bridle of volleyball and Sharon Stewart of basketball were honored as Athletes of the Year, and to find out more 'awardees' turn to page 7.

THE WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL

The Winnipeg Folk Festival is coming up July 11-13, and it promises to be better than ever with star performers and more to see and do. For a run-down on what'll be happening, see page 6.

UPCOMING

1980 Manitoba Marathon In Aid of the Mentally Retarded

The hosting of an event which has seven to ten thousand participants rests primarily on the volunteer. For June 15, 1980, we require about 2,000 such volunteers to help in various capacities. Every committee and duty is vital to the Marathon as a whole. There is no such thing as an unimportant position.

Marathon duties range from working a few hours on race day to being on a technical committee and getting involved for 3 to 6 months.

EACH COMMITTEE REQUIRES YOUR HELP!

Some examples of areas you may want to help include:
Medical support
Handing out water and sponges
Security
'Huggers' at finish line
Setting up equipment and signs
Results center, and many others

If you have a preference, please use question #8 on the Volunteer Application Form.

Thank you for your support. Application forms are available in the Students Association Office, Room Dm-20.

Wanted: Freezer Orders

Sides of Pork cut within 3 weeks.
75 cents a pound. Approx. 60.

Fresh Canadian Sides of Carcass of Lamb
$2.15 a pound. Approx. 50.

Sides of Veal cut within 4 weeks.
$2.22 a pound. Approx. 90.

Mention it to your mother, father, sister, brother, uncle, aunt, cousin, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandmother, grandfather, friends, and enemies.

Retail Counter

The Meat Counter will be open to students and staff of RRCC Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. and Fridays, 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Open from now until June 20th.

See Mr. Marsh or Mr. Spencer in Room BB-17 or phone 632-2216.

Applications for Student Aid are now available at the Student Aid office, room C-116. Students should submit their applications before mid-June in order to receive their notification before the start of classes in September. Any students requiring assistance in completing their application should contact the Student Aid office, room C-116.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

North Gym
Thursday, June 26, 1980

Diploma Course Graduates
(Two-year courses)

Gowns - pick up at Orange Lecture Theater BEFORE 1 p.m.
Assemble 1 p.m., mall level, march in 1:30 p.m.

Certificate Course Graduates

(No gowns). Assemble 7 p.m., mall level. March in 7:30 p.m.

Each grad is to carry a name card. PLEASE limit your guests to TWO.

IMPORTANT: Diplomas/Certificates/Finaltranscripts will NOT be issued to grads with outstanding tuition fees/books/supplies/equipment.

Grads not attending the exercises will receive certificates or diplomas by mail - no pickups prmitted. Be sure your correct address is recorded in the registrar's office.

College Update

Vice-president Darrell Driver has plans to form a varsity athletic association for Red River.

Driver receives go-ahead for varsity athletic association

by Bill McLeod

At its final meeting of the year last Tuesday, council approved in principle the establishment of a Varsity Athletic Association.

The motion was presented by vice-president Darrell Driver, who stated that the associaton's role would be to act as a unified body for varsity athletes in Red River. This association would have representatives from each varsity team sitting as members, and at its meetings would receive concerns, greivances, and set up mechanisms for fund-raising.

Driver visualized several advantages to varsity athletes with such an association in existance. He said that the Students Association would be approached for a lump sum grant, which would be dispersed by the varsity athletic association subject to approval by the SA. The athletic association would oversee dispersing the funds to eliminate teams individually approaching the SA for grants.

One specific area in which the varsity association could assist its members in is during exam time. 4-West competitions invariably fall during the week of exams for many athletes, and the varsity association would seek to have athletes competing in 4-West arrange to write their exams at a time not conflicting with the tournament. This has proven to be a sticky problem for a number of athletes over the years.

Another sore point with varsity athletes occurs when the North Gym is used for exams twice a year. The first week falls in November, when varsity sports are well under way. The gym is closed for a week to varsity athletes while exams are being written, and practice schedules and league games are effectively disrupted as a result.

Driver has already spoken with a number of varsity coaches, all of whom are in favor of such a body being formed.

As a last point, Driver says that the varsity association could be a vehicle by which grievances are presented on behalf of varsity athletes. People from the varsity athletic association speaking on behalf of all of its members would carry more weight than individual teams airing concerns to various administrative bodies, he said.

Driver will work this summer to draw up by-laws for the association to work under.

Council also approved an expenditure of $700 to send former Sports Director Joe DiCurzio and his successor, Gord Muir, to Kelowna, B.C., to attend the Canadian College Athletic Association as observers.

DiCurzio argued in favor of the expenditure by saying that Manitoba has a good chance of being allowed back into national competitions at this meeting, and that the only Manitoba representative at the CCAA meeting would be from The Pas, Jim Goodrich of Keewatin Community College. DiCurzio felt that Red River should have representation at the CCAA meeting with himself and Gord Muir acting as observers, but he said that representatives from other colleges indicated that they would offer DiCurzio the chance to speak at the meeting if he so desired.

The CCAA conference will be held in mid-June.

Toxic chemical used by RRCC Dental Students

by Bill McLeod

Methyl methacrylate, a toxic chemical, is being used by Red River Dental Assistant students without proper safety precautions being taken. The toxicity of the chemical was first discovered here this year when one student suffered a reaction to it.

Brian Conroy, a dentist visiting the faculty of Rehabilitative Dental Science at the University of Manitoba, says that the chemical is safe if proper safety measures are taken but if the chemical comes into contact with the skin it can cause a form of dermatitis.

The chemical has been known to be hazardous since at least 1972. Information available in the Learning Resource Center says that the maximum exposure allowed in an eight-hour shift of a 40-hour week is 100 parts per million. The tolerance level for vinyl chloride under the same conditions is 500 parts per million.

Further information in the LRC states that methyl methacrylate may explode while being polymerized if it is under the influence of oxygen or peroxides. Polymerization is the process used when making dental plates, and Conroy says that it is not uncommon for the chemical to reach temperatures of 180 degrees fahrenheit during polymerization.

Conroy also said that students should wear protective clothing during the polymerization process and that chemicals used to make dental plates could be mixed in a vapour chamber. Conroy says that he has never had an accident while using the chemicals.

Dr. Trick, a polymer chemist with the Manitoba Research Council, said that after curing, the chemical becomes poly (methyl methacrylate). 'Poly(methyl methacrylate) is ordinary plexiglass, the type used in airplane windshields during World War II,' said Dr. Trick.

Dr. V. Bawerman, also of the Manitoba Research Council, said that precautions should be taken but that a lethal does for a laboratory rat would be about 4 pounds of methyl methcrylate. Dr. Bawerman also said that skin disorders could be caused by methyl methacrylate and that red haired people were more susceptible to them due to pigmentation. "Just be careful, that's all" said Dr. Bawerman.

According to Ms., Iris Gold, Dental Assisting CoOrdinator for Red River, protective measures will be taken next year. Students will be required to wear organic vapour masks and rubber gloves. As well, the Workplace Safety and Health Committee had a fan installed. Ms. Gold was not informed whether it was because of the methyl methacrylate.

Ms. Gold says that in a dental office the chemical being used once or twice a day made it perfectly safe but when it is used at Red River an entire class uses it at once.

Brian Angood, college director, said, 'To keep students abreast of the latest technology, new compounds and equipment are constantly replacing the old. Sometimes these compounds can be dangerous but continuous testing under strict safety standards is being done.'

'Even turpentine, which has been around for a long time, can be dangerous if not handled properly,' said Angood.

Dental Assisting students were not available for comment as they are out of the college continuous their training.

Dental assisting students have been using a toxic chemical in the lab which was thought to be relatively harmless.

Editorials

by Patricia Myketa

Now that the Quebec referendum is settled and all of the options have been hashed and rehashed, there's one point that's really been overlooked.

Quebec is part of a country. People in Quebec had an idea that they'd like a better set-up than what they already have, so they went to their citizens to ask them what they wanted.

Situations like this are going on in several countries around the world - Protestants and Catholics are slugging it out in Northern Ireland, Basque nationalists in Spain are fighting to give their region a voice, the new nation of Zimbabwe came into being not without violence, Egypt and Israel managed to quell the lengthy warfare that was going on between them over Palestine, and so on and so on.

These situations are all similar to Quebec's struggle, but with a major exception. All of the countries listed above and even more today are finding that solving social and racial problems within their borders goes hand in hand with fighting and violence.

Quebec managed to settle its question with a simple referendum sans bloodshed.

When you stop to think about it, Canada is about the only country in the world where something like the Quebec referendum could be deall with in a peaceful, democratic means.

Now this isn't to say that Canada hasn't had its share of racial strife over the years, what with Native and Eskimo people battling oil companies and the government in the courts over land claims, prejudice and discrimination which is still exercised over minority groups, and so on.

But Canadians have cool heads on their shoulders and despite a weak threat awhile ago by prime minister Trudeau to haul troops into Quebec to settle the referendum business, violence was not considered a means to an end in this case. Every eligible voter in Quebec had a say in the future of their part of the country, and there was no one standing behind them with a gun at their heads telling them how to vote.

But do Quebeckers know what they voted for?

The referendum question was vaguely worded and basically asked if the people of Quebec would give their government the mandate it needed to negotiate sovereignty association with Canada.

Now different people have different versions of what sovereignty association means. A Goldfarb poll taken in Quebec a couple of weeks before the referendum indicated that people were unsure about what the question on the ballot really asked them to do, and still more had a wide variety of answers when it came to their idea of what sovereignty association really meant.

There were some who thought that Quebec would totally govern itself but would still remain a part of Canada.

There were some who thought that it meant complete insdependence from the country.

There were some who thought that Quebec would continue to use the Canadian dollar as its currency, while others thought that Quebec might set up its own monetary system.

There were some who thought that their Canadian passport would be valid for travel overseas, while others thought that Quebec would issue its own passport.

And on and on it went. When the final vote was taken, the No side came out on top with 3/5 of the vote, and a dejected Rene Levesque told his faithful followers at the Paul Sauve Arena after it was all over that Quebeckers had decided to give Canada a second chance. Needless to say they roundly booed.

Levesque was doubly dejected because he wasn't able to achieve what he considered a moral victory because a majority of French-speaking Quebeckers voted for the No side He's taken to blaming Pierre Trudeau for the loss, saying that Quebeckers were wooed by Trudeau's promises of reworked federalism.

Now the ball is in the federalists' court. Premier Bill Davis of Ontario is ready to meet anytime, anywhere to discuss constitutional amendments, Saskatchewan premier Bill Blakney is equally as avid, and the time would seem to be right for a reworking of the constitution.

Just what rights and powers the provinces will be given remains to be seen, and it should prove to be an interesting summer.

None of your Business but ...

Armstrong votes for sovereignty

By Bob Armstrong

The case has been made many times for sovereignty association for Transcona.

There are pros and cons to this proposal, of course, but in the long run, it is a sensible idea and one that would end much heartache.

Transcona is different from the rest of Canada, and this fact should be acknowldeged. Certainly, when Transcona was allowed into the rest of Winnipeg, more research should have been done to determine the effects this would have both on the people of Transcona and the property values for the rest of us.

Allowing Transcona to call itself part of Winnipeg was a rash decision indeed, one that was pushed through city council by the polyester cartel.

Tariffs on polyester were reduced when Transcona was let into the civilized world. This in turn increased polyester sales, and as we all know, made millionaires of at least 23 polyester merchants.

Obviously, these polyester industry executives had no thoughts for the cultural and social implications of the change.

Transcona has never felt that it belongs in Canada, and with good reason: it doesn't.

The major industries, aside from polyester farming, are child pornography and heroin manufacturing and distribution, neither of which are considered acceptable by Canadian standards.

As a result, Winnipeg has had increased problems with heroin addiction and leisure suits.

Of course, Transcona has also had some harm done to it by Winnipeg.

Young Transconans, lured by the bright lights of the big city, are leaving Transcona in droves. Many of them are unqualified for even the most simple employment and are totally unskilled.

In a migration similar to that of the Okies leaving for California in the Great Depression, entire families are now packing up the family Studebaker for the long and hazardous trek to St. Boniface or East Kildonan.

The result is that Transcona is quickly becoming a ghost town and, worse still, Winnipeg is now being overwhelmed by Transconans who are turning vast areas of the city into Transcona ghettos.

Windsor Park, a few miles down Highway 59 from Transcona, is one of the most obvious ghettos. Windsor Park citizens, fearful of the crowds of Transconans coming into their community, have formed the Keep Windsor Park for Windsorians Committee, dedicated to "preserving the dignity of our community."

Edna Zuk, chairperson of the committee, says the group is not bigoted, but is "just a group of good citizens trying to keep our community decent."

"We're not prejudiced against people from Transcona," she said. "We'd just like them to stay where they are, or if they have to come, couldn't they leave their little flamingos back in Transcona?"

Zuk says the presence of Transconans "with all their little flamingos and spray painted rocks and ceramic elks on their front lawns" is devaluing property in the community.

"Give us Boat People, Chileans, South Africans, anybody, but not these Transconans," Zuk said.

The Manitoba government has asked the federal cabinet for emergency funding to handle the influx of Transconan refugees, but were refused by the immigration department on the grounds that "they're your damn problem."

Unexpectedly, the Vietnamese government has offered to take an unspecified number of the Transconans, who, sources reveal, look really cute in black pyjamas. In return, the Manitoba government has offered to exchange Transconans for Boat people.

All this presents a frightening choice for the average Manitoban, who neither wants to be overrun by thousands of slopes or Transconans.

However, the third choice, sovereignty association, is easily the lesser of three evils.

If Transcona were allowed sovereign status within its borders, the small city-state could revert to its own unique culture and folklore. The Druid church, the official religion of Transcona, has suffered financially and spiritually since the community joined the Western World a decade ago.

Sovereignty would bring church attendance back, and allow the human sacrifices to be legalized.

For that matter, let's throw out the association part. In fact, let's not even let Transcona into the Western World. They won't be in NATO, and they won't be allowed into the Warsaw Pact, and Fidel Castro won't even let them into the non-aligned nations.

And so, fellow Manitobans, it is for that reason that I must endorse a "yeah" vote in the upcoming provincial referendum for sovereignty for Transcona.

Inside Jokes Department: If you read the above column this far, you probably are a Projector editor, and so in this silly little blurb I can write just about anything I want because I know only five people at the most are going to read it. That's why I always write those childish sophormic 'inside' jokes at the bottom here. In fact, I wonder why this newspaper even exists. Nobody reads the damn thing, or at least nobody ever responds to what they read. In all the columns I've done, I've only received two responses, and one was from my mother telling me I forgot my lunch.

Staff Box

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Contributors	Alan Mickey Dan Tervoort Bob Armstrong Frain O'Cory Leslie Carey Rick Myers

It's all a media hoax. Actually, it's more than that, it's a massive euphemistic conspiracy thought up by the government. There is no volcano. Furthermore, all this alleged volcanic ash is really nuclear fallout. The War is over, that is, W.W. III. Half the planet has been melted down and the rest of us survivors in North America are going to fall prey to radiation sickness within the next 24 hours. And after all the horrible visions I'd concocted as to what W.W. III would be like — what an anti-climax. Remember, you read it first in The Projector. See you in the afterworld.

Comment

CENSORSHIP: Hitler did it too

by Dan Tervoort

You've got to have an open mind or else your brain will suffocate.

The latest news from Coles Book Stores in Winnipeg relates to this thesis. Two recent sex manuals, ***The Joy of Gay Sex*** and ***The Joy of Lesbian Sex*** have pulled from the shelves due to the efforts of Winnipeg's fearless Bluenose Brigade.

The Bluenose Brigade, a staunch group of "moral purists" representing the "Concerned Community" have gone crying to the local police to censor these vile books of decadence and debauchery.

I have only two words for them. One is a four-letter word synonymous with 'fornication'; the other is the brand name of an insect repellent.

These self-righteous censors are totally wrong and unjust in their viewpoints. There is absolutely no justification for censorship. You would think that mankind would have learned this lesson after the Nazi book burnings and the censorship of classic novels (***Catcher in the Rye, The Bell Jar, Salughterhuose Five***) in the United States of the '50's and '60's. No good can come out of censorship.

The case of ***The Joy of Gay Sex*** complaints came in from people who had bought the book and then decided it wasn't up to their high moral standards. My only question is: What did these people think was between the covers of a book entitled ***The Joys Of Gay Sex?*** Biblical scripture? These people have absolutely no justification for their complaints. They knew exactly what kind of "Explicitly pornographic swill" they were purchasing. How could they not?

Even more repellent is the case of the calculating University instructor who, AFTER the book had already been banned, coerced Coles to sell him a copy under the table. Immediately upon purchase he filed a complaint. This could have been done for no other reason than to cash in on the publicity provided by tha ban. The narrow-mindedness and opportunism man (***a University instructor?***) is astonishing and more than a little appalling.

One thing that the Bluenose Brigade fails to realize is that there are some people who buy and enjoy books with explicitly sexual and violent content. Nobody is twisting anyone's arm to buy these books. If someone doesn't want to read a book on gay sex or lesbian sex or hetero sex he doesn't have to. People just shouldn't-feel that because they do not approve of the subject matter of a certain book or movie that they have the right to impose their morality on the rest of society. That is not the way a democracy works.

Prime justification for censorship seems to be that books and films of overtly violent or sexual nature appear to be linked to extreme anti-social behavior. Eliminate the books and movies, they believe, and violent and deviant behavior will also be eliminated. It's a nice theory but doesn't it explain the case of, for instance, Adolph Hitler? What violent television shows did he grow up with? What porno mags did Atilla the Hun subscribe to? What dirtly movies did Jesse James watch? Also it must be remembered that the violent and bloody crimes of Jack the Ripper were done in the name of decency and good Christian living.

Admittedly, some of the books on the Brigade's hate list are useless trash but it's the principle of the matter that counts. Where do you draw the line between trash and art? Should modern-day classics of word and film be banned too because of explicit sexual content? ***Portnoy's Complaint? Taxi Driver? The Godfather? The World According to Garp?***

Marijuana Legalization

by Dianne Schwartz

Over the past several years, the media has been flooded with anti-pot propaganda. For the sake of thousands of Canadians who enjoy a leisurely 'toke', it's time we set the record straight.

The main argument of the anti-pot crusader is 'marijuana is harmful, both physically and psychologically. Although thousands of papers have been written about these so-called 'harmful' effects, and as many experiments have been performed, there is still - no proof. Anything which claims that smoking pot causes brain damage, chromosome damage, birth defects, etc., is an outright lie. There is no scientific or medical concensus on the subject. For every report that claims one thing, there is another which assets the contrary and two others somewhere in between. Evidence of possible chromosome damage first arose in the early seventies, when the results of one study showed cannabis users had three times as many chromosome breaks as non-users. This set off other researchers attempting to verify the discovery. The result? A flood of confusing and contradictory data, from which no conclusions could be drawn.

The reason that many researchers report discovery of 'potential danger' from smoking, could be attributed to the nature of the experiments. Monkeys or rats given the THC equivilent to smoking 100 joints are bound to suffer ill effects. You could too. (You'd get one hell of a buzz anyway.) The point is, that the doses administered in many experiemnts are simply too high to make the results of value.

There is always a receptive anti-pot audience, eager for new evidence of a black mark against marijuana. But despite all the reports there is still no evidence that it is harmful. No scientific proof. This should say something, after all, ours is a society built on scientific truth and when scientic truth is applied, all the reports of birth damage, birth defects, etc. prove to be false.

So if you're looking for a medical report confirming conclusively that cannabis is harmful - look no further. There isn't one. Beside commonly accepted drugs such as, aspirin, alcohol, tabacco and barbituates, cannibas is virtually harmless. And unlike those drugs, which cause thousands of deaths each year, marijuana has never been the sole cause of a single death in North America. So any argument against decriminalization or legalization on the grounds that marijuana is harmful, is not an argument. Science is on our side.

Of course if you win the 'it's harmful' argument, the anti-legalization person is always ready with the second best anti-pot argument, the 'amotivations syndrome' This in layman's terms means that Mr. Average Indulger loses him ambition and drive and withdraws from society. (They're really grabbing at straws with this one.) Nice try. Again science falls to the side of the user. No proof. From all the research conducted on the subject, no conclusions could be drawn about anything and 'scientists have rejected the 'amotivational syndrome' theory.

But of course there are other arguments against legalization. The classic 'marijuana leads to harder drugs'. Every rational commission which studied the social and medical consequences of cannibis use (including one by our own government) agrees, this is a fallacy. So despite what you may have heard, every pot smoker is not destined to become a heroin addict.

There are valid reasons to have cannibis stiken form the criminal code. The most important one is the users themselves. Tell someone you have a criminal record and watch the expression on their face. Records make it harder to get a job, to travel out of the country, to get bonded, and to stay in the good graces of society.

The fear of 'getting busted' instilled on many users by a threat of criminal prosecution has other, repercussions on society. It leads to a general disrespect and antagonism towards our legal system by otherwise peaceloving citizens. The cost of enforcing the legislation is enormous and it is the Canadian taxpayer who absorbs the blow. In time of growing inflation this hardly seems, fair. From all points of view, it makes no sense to jail users.

It is time our governement came out of the dark ages and initiated some progessive legislation which would allow members of our society freedom of choice in matters concerning only their lifestyle. In the final analysis this is where the barrier lies - with the goverenment. Over the past decide dedicated politicians have stumbled and sputtered over the issue of decrimalization. How many times have we heard that the government would consider lesser penalties? How many times has the issue been carefully side-stepped. Most recently, Mr. Trudeau's promise in the Throne Speech that he will institute decrim laws. (Seems to me I've heard that song before.) It will be interesting to see if this ever materializes. If not, it is certainly something the pro-pot electorate can take to the polls with them in the next federal election.

It is time we started looking at the pluses of cannibis instead of the imagined negative aspects. Legalization would lead to quality control, so smokers would not have to fear 'poisoned weed'. (remember paraquat?) Under goverenment control, legalized weed could wipe out the federal deficit, if our boys in Ottawa played their carts right. Our farmers can grow excellent quality weed, thus wiping out the need for the over-priced imported stuff. And there is increasing evicence that pot (rather than being harmful) is actually beneficial in treating many common medical problems such as cancer, epilepsy, glacoma and headaches. The healing virtues of cannabis have been utilzed by civilizations throughout the history of mankind. Perhaps if more people would look through their ignorances, we could accept cannabis for what it really is, a natural, organic substance meant to be used for the benefit and betterment of mankind.

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Register by calling Joel Korsunsky at 338-7861.

BLOCK BROS.

Entertainment

Folk Festival '80

Winnipeg's 7th Folk Festival is going to be an event well worth taking in with over 60 acts already booked.

Artistic Director Mitch Podolak has scheduled favourites such as David Amram, Ryan's Fancy, Jim Post (who appeared at Red River earlier this year), Tom Paxton, U. Utah Phillips, Stan Rogers, and The Red Clay Ramblers.

Particularly notable is the booking of Pete Seeger. Seeger, a major political activist and a leader in the cause of a liveable environment, is known world wide and has been seen by millions in concerts and television performances in over 25 countries. He has recorded over 60 LP's and edited various song books, folk music magazines, and was largely responsible for the revival of folk music in the early sixties. Seger is known for his continual expression on the needs of minority groups in America and the Third World.

Some of the popular local musicians you can expect to see are Gilbert Bohemier, Dan Donahue, Jim Donahue, Foxglove (who also appeared here this year), and Dave McLean. The Festival is also bringing back Oscar Brand and Jane Vasey (pianist with the Downchild Blues Band).

Hosts for the event will be Don Cullen, Peter Gzowski, and Peter Paul Van Camp.

The Festival takes place in Birds Hill Provincial Park July 11, 12, and 13. Three evening concerts will be held and there will be a Friday afternoon concert. Six workshop stages will be held Saturday and Sunday running from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The programmes on these stages will change at the hour and half hour. Children's programming will also be an integral part of this year's Festival.

Ticket prices are the same as last year. (Applause). The weekend advance purchase ticket is $23. Individual day tickets are: Friday - $8, Saturday and Sunday $10 each. Children under the age of 12 are admitted free of charge when accompanied by an adult. Tickets for the festival are now on sale at all ATO and CBO outlets, the Folklore Centre in Osborne Village, and the Festival Office, 171 Lilac Street.

Birds Hill Park is located 19 miles northeast of Winnipeg on Highway 59. There is a daily provincial park admission charge of $1.50 per vehicle or you can purchase a season park pass for $8.

Free parking is available for 5,000 vehicles beside the main gate but no roadside parking is allowed and 'improperly parked vehicles will be towed away by the Park staff'. Beware. If you don't have transportation, there is regular bus service from downtown Winnipeg to the Festival and back. Call Winnipeg Transit for further info.

Additional features at the Festival include a selection of arts and crafts exhibits and demonstrations in the Handmade Village. Pickin' Under the Canvas (audience and performers get together under a tent?), Children's play area, and Public Square Dancing. Included in the Handmade Village are pottery, basketry, children's clothes and toys, lapidary, leather work, weaving, candles, wood carving, native crafts, instruments, silversmithing, portraits, and stained glass.

On-site food will be available - fast food, health food, home-made ice cream, perogies and popcorn, but there are Festival site restrictions which prohibit intoxicating beverages or drugs. Also prohibited are sound recording, flash cameras, pets, and littering.

No reservations are being accepted for accommodation in the campground - first come, first serve.

Gates open Friday at 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. Be sure to be there.

Prior to the Festival there is going to be a joint fund-raising casino by the Festival and the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. The Festival has established a schools program in Winnipeg and has given a series of concerts this year. The money raised through this casino will ensure the future of the Festival and its programmes and will be used for capital expenditures.

The MS Society needs financing for research on the crippling and debilitating disease multiple sclerosis. The casino will run for one week from Monday, May 26, to Sunday, June 1, on the third floor of the Convention Center. There will be blackjack, Nevada, wheels, etc. The Casino happens Monday to Friday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to midnight.

Admission is $2, with tickets available at the door. Both organizations are supporting worthy causes so get out and have some fun and do a good deed while you're at it.

Off The Record

Frain the new Music Critic Holstein

JUDAS PRIEST
Unleased In the East
(Columbia)

Let's get personal for a moment. The last few weeks I have maintained what I consider a fairly objective tone in writing this column. That statement should be worth a couple of nasty letters but the reason I made it is because it's a nifty transitional sentence for what is about to turn into one of the most subjective reviews ever written.

I bought "Unleased In the East" totally on impulse. I had heard "Diamonds and Rust" on FM a couple of times and was enthralled by the guitar intro. Anybody who can coax a Strat into sounding like a German Mauser gets my vote. Nevetheless, one song does not an album make.

Being the devil-may-care type, I cast my reservations to the wind, walked into Sam The Record Man and laid my eight bucks and something on the counter.

In describing Judas Priest's sound, the most appropriate assessment I can come up with is Black Sabbath on 78 rpm. That is somewhat of a demeaning metaphor, but it posesses a certain amount of validity. Lead vocalist Robert Halford sounds very much like former Sab screamer Ozzie Osbourne. The most striking similarity exists in the songs' lyrics. Light-hearted topics such as death, the occult and Jack and Ripper pervade the nine tracks on the Priesties' fifth album. For those who remember and care to be reminded, Black Sabbath's most recognized tunes include "Paranoid" "Hand of Doom", and "Sabbath Bloody Sabbath."

What prevents Judas Priest from being labelled Sabbath clones is the quickness of the right hands of Glenn Tipton and KK Downing. True, none of the cuts on the album exhibit complex chord transitions, but the rapidity of the note delivery creates an overdriven pace that turns almost every song into a speed trip.

"Unleased In The East" could be labelled a greatest hits compilation as it features cuts fom each of the preceeding albums with the exception of 1974's "Rocka Rolla". From 1977's "Sin After Sin" comes "Sinner" and a totally unrecognizable "Diamonds And Rust"--originally written by Joan Baez. 1978's "Stained Glass" is represented by "Exciter". Last year's "Hell Bent For Leather" contributes "Running Wild" and "The Green Manalishi (With The Two-Prolonged Crown)."

By this point you are probably wondering what exactly makes Judas Priest different from the host of other three-chord practitioners of heavy rockdom. Primarily, the key factor is the powerfully delivered rhythm patterns. The key result is that the quick riff presentation causes each cut to reek of urgency.

In a technical vein, the unique interplay of the two lead guitarists, Downing and Tipton gives the record another factor of originality that lesser known bands such as Rail strive to duplicate. During "Sinner" the traded licks are able to conjure up visions of titanic struggles without the aid of hallucinogenic drugs. This is attributed to the fact that Gibson and Fender guitars possess two totally different and distinct sounds. The individual tonal qualities of Tipton's Stratocaster and Downing's Flying V are easy to pick out and easy to appreciate.

"Unleased In The East" has already gone double platinum, partically compensating for the fact that the sales of the other four albums pale by comparison. The reason for the lack of success enjoyed by preceeding studio albums no doubt stems from the fact that this band is a performing band first and a recording group second--in the same mould as AC-DC, Pat Travers, and Ted Nugent--bands whose careers took off upon the release of live albums.

"Unleased In The East" is at this point the definitive live shock rock album and in the process has transformed Judas Priest from also-rans into legitimate live touring performers. My only hope is that the metamorphosis doesn't create a difficult situation for Halford and Company. They might be forced to release nothing but live albums hereafter.

Be still my shaking eardrums.

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