

# Livelihood of Native people hangs on gov't

DRYDEN (CUP) - The livelihoods of 12,000 Native people in 30 communities may be wiped out if the Ontario government allows the Reed Paper Company to log 26,000 square miles of timber on Indian land in Northwestern Ontario.

Confidential documents show the government and Reed are preparing to sign an agreement approving logging operations in

the Treaty Nine area, adjacent to the town of Dryden.

Dryden Paper, a wholly-owned Reed subsidiary, is responsible for dumping 31,000 pounds of mercury into the English-Wabigoon river system causing the nerve-crippling Minimata disease among the population of the White Dog and Grassy Narrows Indian reserves. The closure of the river system has

virtually destroyed their livelihoods. And while the company has stopped the pollution under government order it has not paid compensation to the victims.

Under Treaty Nine, signed by the federal government and Native people in 1905, the land is guaranteed to the Cree and Ojibway nations who use it to hunt, fish and trap.

While Reed executives claim the company won't log the entire area to run at capacity.

Native spokespeople reject Reed's proposed reforestation program pointing out the soils in the area are either sandy or shallow or clay-like. Logging in the clay soil area will result in a rise in the water table turning the area into a swamp where seedlings would be drowned. Once the sandy soil is stripped of trees, erosion will leave nothing but bare rock, according to Native researchers.

While Treaty Nine leaders had been seeking assurances from the government that it was not involved in negotiations with Reed, an August letter from the Ontario minister of natural resources to the Canadian Association in Support of Native Peoples stated Indians will have "every opportunity to make their views known".

Leo Bernier said in the letter that agreement with Reed is still in the negotiating stage.

"The intent of the agreement is to provide for a period of two or three years during which time both the company and the Government could carry out detailed inventories, investigations and studies to determine whether in fact a pulp mill should be built," Bernier said in the letter. "Part of the process would involve the holding of public meetings and each interested parties (sic) could make presentation (sic) or raise questions."

Meanwhile organized labour has thrown its support behind the

natives. The Canadian Paperworkers Union said in July it is opposed to any extension of cutting rights for Reed until there is full disclosure of further planned development in the area. And in a letter to the provincial government Ontario Federation of Labour president David Archer said he was appalled to learn the government would allow such development.

Reed Paper is owned by Reed International Ltd., a British-based company with holdings in 88 countries, including Rhodesia and South Africa. In 1974 sales were over \$300 million and the company hopes to reach the \$1 billion mark by 1980, when it expects its giant new mill to be in operation. Reed Paper's profits have exceeded \$77 million over the last five years, ranking it in the top eight forest companies in Canada.

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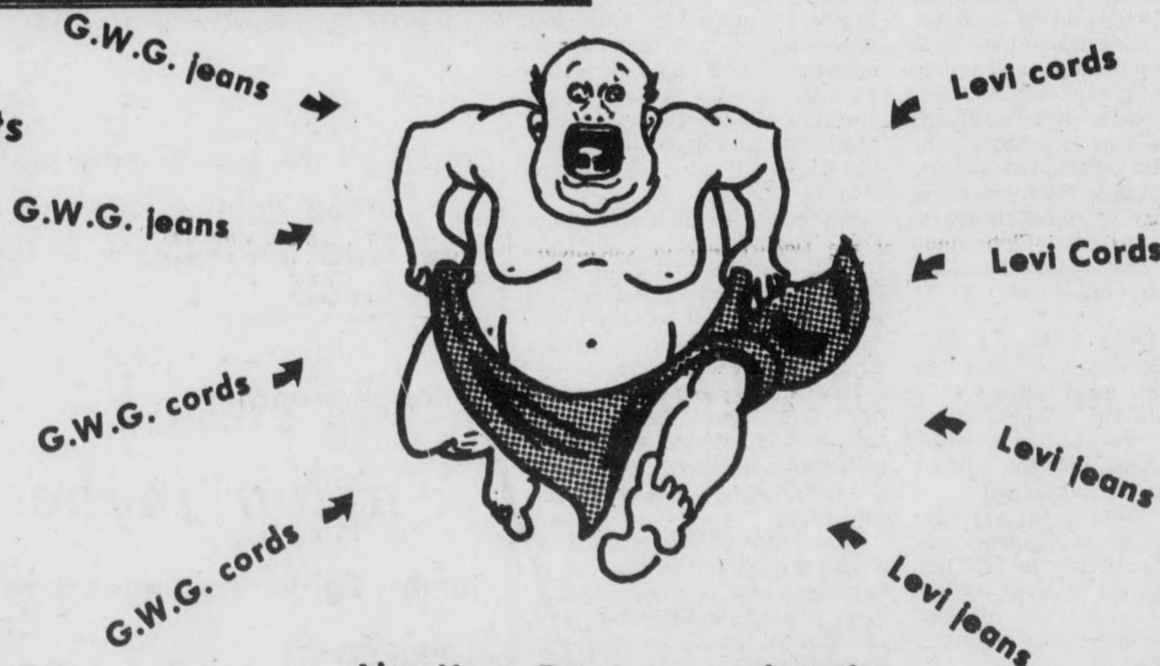
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## The m... from gro...

Once again the motion picture industry has perpetrated a fraud upon the movie going public of this continent. Unlike most Hollywood frauds, this is a pleasant one. The Sailor Who Fell From Grace is a perfect example of what Pauline Kael refers to as a "media movie" - a perfect example, that is, until you see it.

## UNB Drama

The Drama Society of UNB has bigger and better plans for this year according to Wilson Gonzalez, this year's Drama Society president. The other member of the executive is Bonnie Sherman, vice-president. The secretary will be selected at the first meeting. The set designer for the society is Patrick Clark.

The executive is hoping that the group will agree to revive the Stephen Leacock reading hour, perhaps once a month. The first performance, "A Light Hearted Look at Love", a

## Chess any

The University of New Brunswick Chess Club meets every Monday evening at 7 p.m. in Room 26, Student Union Building. New members are very welcome.

The club organizes two annual tournaments, the UNB Fall Open and the UNB Winter Open for the third weekend of the respective terms, holds interclub matches with St. John Chess Club, and competes in the Atlantic Intercollegiate Chess Tournament annual-

## Committee off

The Creative Arts Committee of UNB is now open for requests from student groups for grants in aid of various projects in the Arts, such as music, photography, modern dance, etc. Any requests should be made through the treasurer, Professor Edward J. Mullaly, Department of English.

All students are very welcome to become members of the Creative Arts Committee. All applications

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