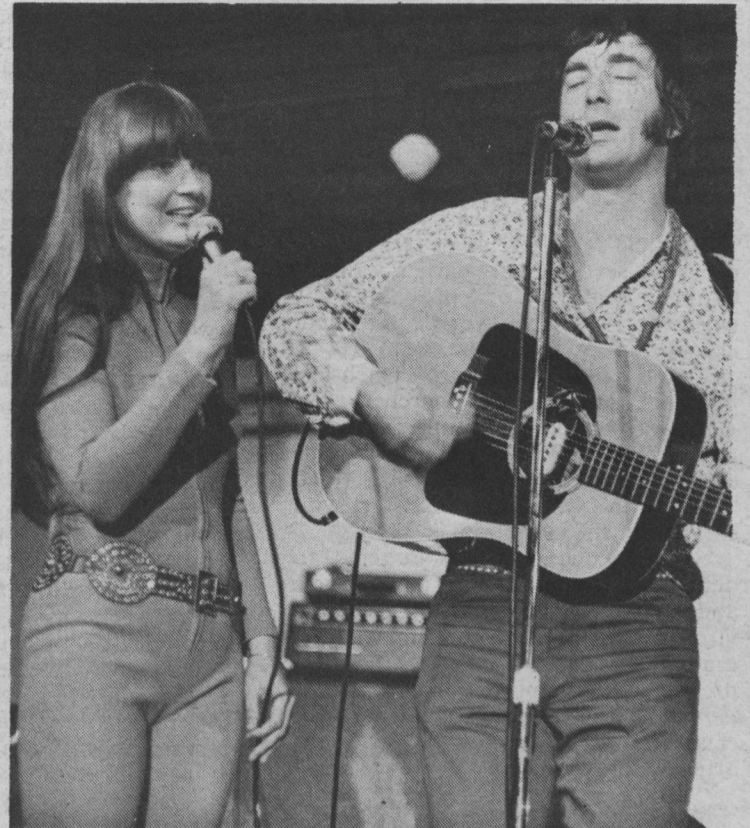


by Gordon Turtle



An Edmonton demonstration against the War Measures Act.



Canadian folksingers Ian and Sylvia, in happier times.

1970/1971 was a year when politics dominated the pages of *The Gateway*, which is hardly surprising in light of what was going on at the time.

The school term began with a big bang when co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippies) Abbie Hoffman spoke at the Kinsmen Fieldhouse.

Hoffman told a cynical Freshman Introduction Week audience that Canada was fucked: "The whole world is at war with the U.S.A. Canada is the only country in the world that has surrendered without a shot."

Hoffman, who had only a few months earlier been found guilty of conspiring to incite a riot at the famous Chicago Conspiracy Trial, faced a lot of irate audience members, who wanted to know why Hoffman charged \$1750 for his speaking engagement. Others questioned Hoffman's revolutionary tactics, a query to which Hoffman replied: "The essence of revolutionary activity is a young bourgeois kid growing up to realize that burning down a bank is the superior alternative to become a life insurance salesman. The system is making people into revolutionaries."

Hoffman's police state came to Canada about a month later with the introduction of the War Measures Act as a response to the "Quebec Crisis."

*The Gateway* devoted a special October 19, 1970 issue to the WMA question, with its editorial beginning "There are 21 million political prisoners in Canada. With the implementation of the War Measures Act, the traditional rights and freedoms of all Canadians have been suspended."

The next few issues of the newspaper were filled with stories, editorials and letters concerning the Quebec issue. One engineer wrote in to inform readers that "university students with the hassles of courses, social and economic problems, seem to be easily swayed by those people with strong, radical views. It would be nice if the students on this campus could band together as *Canadians* behind the Government of Canada to eliminate this breed of riff-raff. Those students who would support such an outfit as the FLQ, are either anarchists themselves, or simply trying to 'stand out from the herd' by hypocritically supporting the movement."

While forums and protest marches were organized against the WMA, less interested students could have, on October 30, 1970 gone to see *M.A.S.H.*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *Five Easy Pieces*, *Z*, or *Fellini Satyricon*, all playing at Edmonton theaters and all now considered amongst the great films of the decade. The price at the Varscona? All seats \$1.50.

And if you weren't into movies, you could have caught Rod Stewart and the Small Faces, along with Redbone and Everyman's Tonto at the Field house for \$3.50.

On November 6, Student Health announced that it was beginning to carry a full line of birth control information and contraceptive devices, making them available free to students suffering severe financial hardship.

Financially strapped students were offered a more satirical solution to their problems in a *Gateway* ad that read: "Join the Army — See Quebec." Obviously, the Quebec Crisis had not yet reached its conclusion.

In December, College St. Jean d'Edmonton officially joined the university, while Students' Council committed a quarter of a million dollars to a HUB mortgage scheme.

The new year began with a January 12 concert by Neil Young, recently departed from Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young and riding high on the success of his *Harvest* album.

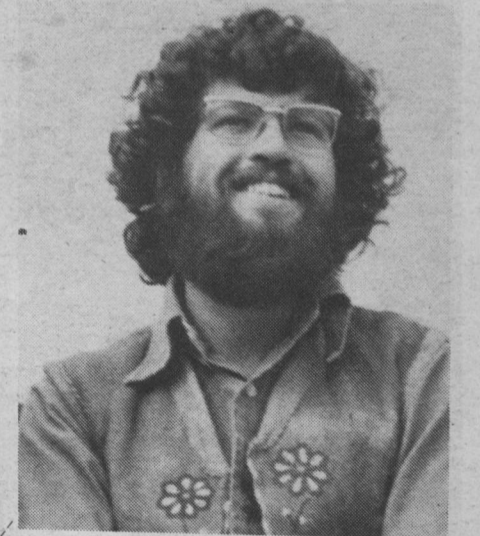
Much less appreciation was dealt out to Three Dog Night who appeared a little later in the term, prompting an anonymous *Gateway* reviewer to write that "Three Dog Night will always sell out because there are always enough plastic little teeny-boppers running around who can get daddy to spot them six bucks for a night of good clean fun." Hmm...

The year wound down with surprisingly little controversy, though the radical *Gateway* certainly wasn't pleased with the election of Don MacKenzie to the SU presidency, his third try in three years. Voter apathy was high, moving the SU to form a satirical Apathy Club, and a record 550 voters ballots were destroyed by disenchanted students.

And of course, MacKenzie had his day. In fact, he had a number of them the following year, but that's another story ...



Yippie leader Abbie Hoffman, in Edmonton.



1970/71 Students' Union president, Tim Christian.



Hippies on grass, a common sight in 1970/71.