

The arts

Women wanted

Poet Al Purdy's search for women, poets that is, is over with gratifying results. Over a month ago, in sheer desperation, Purdy issued a press release seeking contributions from women poets for his forthcoming anthology, *Storm Warning II*.

The results have been over whelming. The manuscripts have poured in - (at last count over 1,000 contributions from all parts of Canada) - and Purdy has had his faith restored in this country's women poets.

In an anxious communique Purdy advised his publisher "My mail-box has broken down under this outburst of creativity, my postman has gone on strike from delivering so much mail, my wife has left me for a non-writer."

With the deadlines for contributions past Purdy is confident that it has all been worthwhile. Now Al Purdy requests peace and quiet at his Ameliasburg residence to make the best possible selections for his anthology of young Canadian poets.

Berton knocks Hollywood

Hollywood's treatment of Canadian Metis comes in for harsh criticism in Pierre Berton's new book *Hollywood's Canada*.

In the book - a study of all the films about Canada since 1907 - the author has this to say:

"Nobody - not the blacks, not the Indians - has suffered so badly at the hands of the film makers as have the Metis. To this day the word 'half-breed' conjures up an unpleasant picture... a nasty word, made nasty... by Hollywood."

"For half a century," Berton writes, "Canadian half-breeds were depicted as villains of the deepest dye - sneaky, untrustworthy degenerates, who coveted defenceless white women, sold bad whiskey to the Indians and let other take the rap for their crimes"

In his researches, Berton turned up more than 60 Hollywood movies in which the half-breed was cast as the heavy and found only four in which his character might be called "good."

All Hollywood half-breeds in films about Canada, he discovered, were French-Canadian. The stereotype, Berton says, was lifted by Hollywood straight out of the American dime-novels of the Nineteenth century and simply transferred to the Canadian frontier in movies which did not differentiate between Canada and the United States.

Berton adds that "the historical and anthropological truth about the Metis is almost the exact opposite of the impression conveyed by the movies."

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Recycled themes in "Modern Times"

In the late Sixties and early Seventies, three folk artists emerged from England whose works were slow in reaching us over here in North America. These three are John Martyn, Ralph McTell, and Al Stewart. Stewart's latest release *Modern Times* differs from his early albums which, along with those

of Martyn and McTell, were largely autobiographical, personal statements on various themes, accompanied by incessant strumming of acoustic guitars. Al Stewart recently moved to the U.S.A., and, as happens to most defectors from Britain, his standards have subsequently dropped. His

previous album, *Past, Present, and Future*, was a concept album which surveyed twentieth century history. The album represented a change in style to a more 'rocky' sound juxtaposed with folk rhythms. The great asset of this style was the emergence of Tim Renwick as one of the better lead guitarists around today.

Modern Times, Stewart's most recent project, carries on the transition. Attempting only somewhat successfully to portray the inherent plasticity of most relationships amongst young people, Stewart merely recycles themes he has previously dealt with. His songwriting has suffered from his living in America, and *Modern Times* is a commercial effort to incorporate pop sounds with his older folk abilities.

It's fairly good commerciality though, especially the title track, which contains some of the old poetic beauty that Al Stewart is so capable of expressing. There is food for thought for almost everyone in *Modern Times*, and Renwick feels to the marrow every note he plays on lead guitar. Excepting the title track, however, the album is fairly mundane, with little to satisfy folkies, save Stewart's previous track record. For the so-called folk-rock fans, though *Modern Times* is strongly recommended, for, despite its blatant commerciality, the album and its production is a unique blend of folk and rock.

And if you like it, you'll love his previous stuff.

Gordon Turtle



The fall arts and crafts exhibition and sale takes place all week on main floor SUB.

Drama workshop for students

Auditions for Citadel Drama Workshop's Stage 6 under the direction of Keith Digby and various guest directors will be held in the Central Library Music Rooms on Saturday, September 20th.

The workshop sessions are intended for those between the ages of 17 and 23. A full commitment, in addition to weekly training sessions and rehearsal times for productions, is essential. This company is limited to 12 persons. It gives further opportunity to those students who have reached the final stage in their training and is performance oriented.

The fee for the workshop is \$75. For additional information or an audition appointment, please call 429-5767.

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THEATRE

Cecile, held over until Sept. 19. This is Northern Light Theatres' last show of the summer season. Northern Light now performs at the Edmonton Art Gallery.
Sherlock Holmes, Sept. 13 - Oct. 18, Citadel Theatre.

MUSIC

"Bee Gees" in concert, Thurs, Sept. 11, Jubilee Auditorium.
"Tijuana Brass", Fri, Sept. 12, Jubilee Auditorium.

"The Jazz Concert of the Year", Sat, Sept. 13, featuring The Bill Evans Trio and The Jack de Johnette Quartet. Jubilee Auditorium.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

"Fall Exhibition and Sale" of the Students' Union Arts and Crafts Centre; daily until Fri, Sept. 12. Ceramics, macrame, weaving, batik, jewelry. Main floor SUB.

CINEMA

Students' Union Theatre:

Lacombe Lucien - Wed, Sept. 10.

Chinatown - Sept. 12, 13, and 14.

Jubilee Auditorium:

World Adventure Tours, *Argentina*, Tues, Sept. 9.

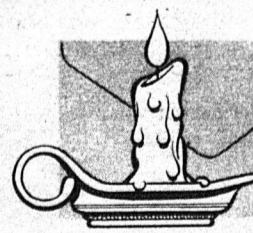
Provincial Museum of Alberta:

Ku relek (10 min.), *An Artist Looks at Churches* (15 min.),

Salute to Flight: Double Heritage (30 min), Sat, Sept. 10.

Edmonton Art Gallery:

Sambizanga - Wed, Sept. 10.



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