

Cohen is coming!!



AUTHOR, AUTHOR?—Yup, at least half of this picture consists of Great Canadian Writer Leonard Cohen, who will be appearing in Edmonton this coming Tuesday.

Interdenominational universities

from page C-4

University of Alberta which is at present forming a department of religious studies.

Religion, whether it be Christianity, Islam, Hindi, or Judaism, is primarily a way of life. There is a body of knowledge accidentally associated with it.

RELIGIOUS DEPARTMENT

It is this body of knowledge that a department of religious studies on the secular campus endeavours to explore—without preaching or proselytizing. Such a department tries to study religion in its philosophical, cultural, historical, and classical context.

Would a religious university be able to present religion in any better way without doing away with objectivity? To leave out objectivity would, in fact, be to promote second rate scholarship.

Yet, to know all the fine points of Christianity does not make a man a Christian. Not many people have been converted to Greek paganism by the study of the mythology of the Ancients.

There are other campuses in Canada which do have departments of religious studies and these departments are enjoying increasing

popularity and success. McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has a department of religion which grew out of the old Divinity College of the years when the school was devoted to the training of Baptist ministers.

NATURE OF RELIGION

The University of British Columbia has a new department of religious studies established only three years ago. These departments do not limit their studies to Christianity alone, but try to explore the nature of religion as it is practiced and studied throughout the world. UBC's department is presently leaning toward the eastern religions in an attempt to expand the horizons of the knowledge of man.

It would appear, then, religion is a valid study when approached without bigotry. It is, however, difficult to conceive of a religious university in Alberta (especially one established by the present government) approaching the subject of religion in a purely academic manner. To mention a topic of current interest: the death of God theology could bring howls of anger and swift condemnation from the seat of all knowledge beneath the Great Dome across the river.

There is an alternative which could insure the safety of academic freedom in Alberta as well as preserve high standards of post-secondary education. If the new campus were to be built as a satellite to the University of Alberta with an eventual aim at autonomy, it would develop into a true university.

The University of Calgary, in spite of the comments made in rivalry on this campus, has become an institution worthy of the name 'university'. It developed under the Edmonton campus, and finally gained its autonomy last year. It is successful because it grew from a satellite structure.

Alberta's fourth university should be built soon because there is a demand for it. There is an equal demand for the maintenance of high standards of education in this province. Any institution that would promote second rate scholarship, deprive students and faculty of academic freedom, or destroy the concept of a university as independent of government influence (such as the Lethbridge fiasco) would make it a liability to the province.

We need a new university, but we need a good one.

BEAT THE DRUM SLOWLY

Leonard Cohen is coming to town!

ALL THINGS ARE HOLY

Leonard Cohen is coming to town!

(Psst, buddy, who is Leonard Cohen?)

You don't know?

That's right.

Leonard Cohen is coming to town!

Oh.)

Poor man he is who had "the misfortune to be born and raised in Westmount" according to Irving Layton who had the benefit of being raised in east Montreal.

Present darling of the campus cognoscenti, the bohemian in-groups, English 384, the Toronto morality squad and lots of lovers of language.

Bad boy, perhaps the worst, or would you prefer the best of the bad, for he is, perhaps more to the point, probably the most exciting and likely the best writer in Canada right now.

That's who Leonard Cohen is, now do you want to fight?

LEONARD COHEN IS COMING. Clap your hands and sound the trumpets. **NOVEMBER 29.** And the kettle drums shall resound to the skies bearing the message to the faithful and to the less faithful. **SEE LEONARD COHEN FACE TIGERS AND THROW OUT NEW LINES.** Let the tambourines of the Salvation Army rejoice in his coming. **LEONARD COHEN IS COMING TO TOWN!**

(Why is he coming? Because he didn't have any place else to go?)

No. Because he wanted to.)

But facing facts, Buddy, no amount of *sturm und drang*, whether of McLelland and Stewart or Diane Woodman or the allied forces of SMUT (see Ted Mark, *The Man from ORGY*) International, could bring Cohen—author of *Beautiful Losers*—buy it over the counter at Hurtig's, borrow or steal from the Toronto police who've cornered that market, or get it under the counter at the campus bookstore—hold on, not so fast, that was last week, now it's available over the counter, that's progress—to Edmonton.

Rather—inside information—it was the honoured leader of the Barbarians—inside information **CLASSIFIED**—who got on the blower at one in the morning our time, three or four o'clock God knows Montreal time, and asked Leonard if he'd like to come to

Edmonton for a day or so and Leonard sang in response that yes, yes, indeedly, he wouldn't mind at all the trip into the mythic wasteland of the central Alberta tundra. Rather like a trip into the center of one's unconscious, if you wish, and that's always fun. And who knows, there exist the possibilities for poems everywhere—even here, Charlie—and Edmonton is a psychedelic wasteland in November. **SO.**

LEONARD COHEN IS COMING TO TOWN!

So we all sat around and we listened as he sang, he sang a song to his lady, this particular gypsy-rover who lives out his life in Montreal and a little Greek Isle

who writes dirty books (or one dirty book) which are truly beautiful

who writes "the best one-day poems of any poet in Anglo-America"

who loves to yuk it up and con the public continually but

who gives the public a fair deal always by letting them know it is a con game and that's all the difference necessary

who made Beryl Fox on Seven Days look and seem like a motherless child

who writes like the demon inside him is burning like a carbon arc

who lives, loves and sings the praises of Canada on the lute and jew's harp

WHO IS COMING TO TOWN.

He, Leonard Cohen, shall from the skybird—if they are flying—descend unto us and sing and speak and chant to beauty in Montreal, love in Toronto, harmony in Canada, and other paradoxes, and we shall be grateful.

So praise be to the barbarians and to their leader

who shall be nameless

and praise to the birdmen

(pray that their strike abate rapidly)

and we shall rejoice.

For Cohen comes—and he shall say to Irving—behold, Irving it is not entirely wrong to have been born in Westmount, for have I not travelled to Edmonton? and can I not roll craps with the best of them?

And the leader of the Barbarians said, Ernest Manning is God's mother.

And Leonard shall come.

—Jon Whyte

Big Miller swings blues

Imagine, will you please, the portliness of Jimmy Rushing somehow superimposed upon the equivalent height of Wilt Chamberlain. The result is, nathless to say, quite super-imposing.

But he has a voice too, the Big Miller which results, that has some of the mellowness of Ella Fitzgerald and some of the strength of Rushing. And he sings the blues well.

The blues is, with all deference to Rexroth and Patchen, the only successful conglomerate of jazz and poetry.

The blend of pathos and humour which the blues is and the idea of soul and expression which makes the blues a perfect vehicle for combining religious and sexual imagery come across with dignity in Big Miller's presentation.

And I've got the notion that next to Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Richard Wright's *Native Son* there is more of the American Negro's contemporary dilemma expressed in the blues. While one might wish for a rawer and more bare faced presentation, there can

be little to fault in Big Miller's somewhat citified delivery. He cleans them up a little, but the opportunity to hear them in any form is rare enough.

The quartet which backed him at the Yardbird Suite did a nearly competent job. Terry Hawkeye, group-leader, did some splendid supporting drumming and the young guitarist Gary White managed to elicit some beautiful long lines and riffs not badly at all.

Big Miller will be performing at the Suite next weekend. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, singing a melange of blues happy and blues sad, ballads and bounce tunes, and I recommend highly the opportunity which will be afforded you to get down to the Suite this weekend and hear probably the best sung poems you're going to be able to in Edmonton for some time.

If I managed to miss the point, Big Miller is quite great in his way and you'll kick yourself if you like the sound of a good voice and decide to miss him.

—Toy J. Wehn