

Vanier Institute proposes family court

"If all courts were human, a family court probably would not be needed," Mrs. Mozah Zemans, president of The Vanier Institute of the Family, told the Law Reform Commission of Canada Aug. 28. Mrs. Zemans added that while family courts may become an example for other courts to follow, if poorly handled they could also become an excuse for other kinds of courts not to change when they need to change too.

The Law Reform Commission of Canada has accepted family law into its research program in response to strong public concerns. Working Paper I published earlier this year is primarily intended to provide an understanding of existing problems and to stimulate debate on possible solutions. It is this working paper that has drawn response detailed in a memorandum from the Vanier Institute.

Mrs. Zemans said that the

institute questions the capacity of the proposed courts to understand and deal well explicitly with the variety of actual and developing family lifestyles current in Canada, whether old or new. She added that the Institute is concerned that the urban nuclear family is the implicit single model.

The Institute's executive director, William A. Dyson questions the assumption expressed in the working paper that if the urban nuclear family is "in trouble" then all that we need to do is to create and develop a new and further costly service system to deal with and remedy the trouble. He said that the Institute asks whether a new service system, in this case a Canada-wide network of unified family courts, will only prolong the favored continuance and the agonies of the average nuclearized urban working family.

The Institute's response states that the basic problem it sees in regard to the family itself

in the working paper is the narrowness of the kind of family that the courts implicitly can handle and also whether the new system will reinforce the difficulties of many family situations over the long run rather than assist in resolving them.

Dr. Alan Thomas, chairman of the Institute's Social Critique Committee said that legal issues faced by families go far beyond the terms of reference proposed by family courts. He said that the Institute asks that if the emphasis to revise procedures is placed solely in family courts, will such a narrow application delay consideration of the reduction of such procedures in other courts, where such a reduction can also be viewed as desirable.

While the Vanier Institute welcomes a reduction of the adversary procedures proposed, it feels that a number of points need to be considered. Laws that are employed to resolve human issues force the use of an

adversarial approach either nullifying or greatly hindering a reduction of adversarial procedures. An example is given in the Federal Divorce Act which make it difficult for those families who wish to avoid a battle to do so. The Institute points out that a number of our fundamental laws will need to be rewritten in order that the legal procedures can be improved and in fact implemented.

The Institute's memorandum also states that the assumption in our society and in the Working Paper, that professional counselling really does work, raises a number of questions. It wonders whether auxiliary services now seen as needed by the courts, should be integrated into the courts. The

Institute feels that people need to come first, not social institutions and that we need more emphasis on people efficiency and less on organizational efficiency.

The Institute is also not convinced that the ideal answer

for improving family courts is to make them a division of the Supreme Court in their respective provinces. This proposal by the Commission is seen as a short-term solution, while, says the Institute, it is in fact a very long-term one.

Mrs. Zemans said that the Institute believes that the law, where needed, needs to be taken back to the community and to people, not further away. Much more emphasis needs to be placed on making the family court a neighborhood court.

The Working Paper proposes that there be a variety of experiments to test and develop improved family courts. While the Institute would agree with this diverse and richer approach to learning, it recommends in each case that an evaluation method be designed and brought in from the beginning.

The Vanier Institute has long had an interest in coming to understand the law better and its place in our society with both its direct and indirect impact upon family life.

Who's Moon's album

(Earth News) - The Who's drummer Keith Moon, having finished his role in the film version of "Tommy", is busy with another film project and his first solo album.

Moon decided to cut the album only two days before he headed into the Los Angeles Record Plant to begin recording. Into the studios he brought the likes of Harry Nilsson, Ringo Starr, Fanny, John Sebastian, and Johnny Rivers. All will appear on the L.P.

Ringo, who just completed his own album, joined Keith for a new rendition of the old Beach

Boys classic, "Don't Worry Baby". Ringo then returned home to England, leaving Moon with a couple new songs he had written. At least one of them is expected to be included on the album.

Others who have penned songs for Moon's record include John Lennon and Nilsson. In addition, Mick Jagger is expected to drop by to help out with a cut or two.

Once the all-star album is completed, Moon is set to begin work on another film, "The Two Clowns", with Oliver Read.

Student Cinema plans 50 features

CINEMA SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Students' Union Theatre, University of Alberta, 89th Ave. East of 116th St. with parking next door.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.

Stereo - Cartoon - Serial - Feature

Tickets: Advance/Students' Union Members - \$1.00 (Available at SUB information desk). Door - \$1.50.

All listings subject to change - watch for weekly listings in Gateway.

September:

Fri. 6, Sat. 7, Sun. 8 - 'Day of the Jackal'

Fri. 13, Sat. 14 - 'Straw Dogs'

Sun. 15 - 'The Virgin and the Gypsy'

Fri. 20, Sat. 21, Sun. 22 - 'Jesus Christ Superstar'

Fri. 27, Sat. 28 - 'Scarecrow'

Sun. 29 - 'West Side Story'

October:

Fri. 4, Sat. 5 - 'The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing'

Sun. 6 - 'Getaway'

Fri. 11, Sat. 12 - 'Box Car Bertha'

Sun. 13 - 'Pocket Money'

Fri. 18, Sat. 19 - 'Pat Garret and Billy the Kid'

Sun. 20 - 'The Last of Sheila'

Fri. 25, Sat. 26 - 'Where Does It Hurt'

Sun. 27 - 'Electra Glide in Blue'

Coming October 2 and 3 'KAMOURASKA' - Cinema Canada

Please Note: "West Side Story", booked for Sunday, September 29 and "The Last of Sheila", booked for Sunday, October 20 have both been cancelled.

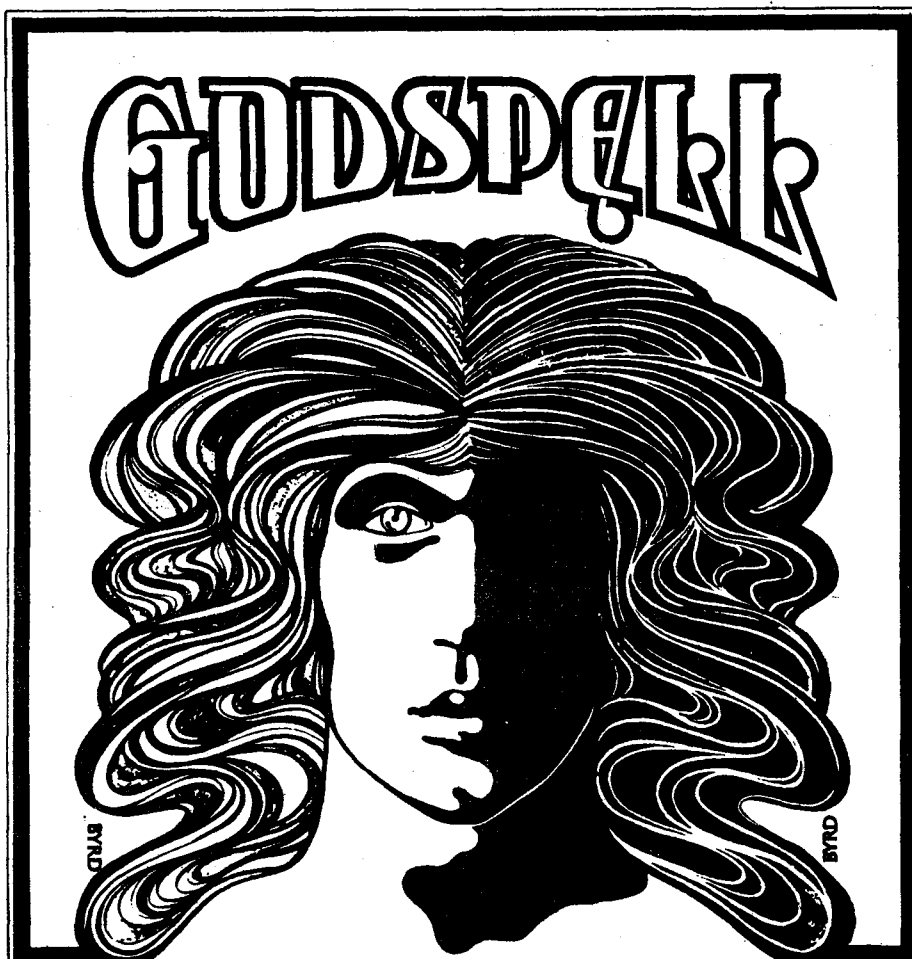
Coming to the Students' Union Theatre on Sunday, September 29 and Sunday, October 20 - 'Edmonton Jazz Society Concert'.

Advance Note: The Students' Union Theatre is now confirming arrangements for the following presentations:

Student Cinema - more than 140 showing, more than 50 features during the Sept. '74 - April '75 season.

- features on most Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Two shows each night. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and 8:45 p.m.

'Kamouraska' - Cinema Canada - 35 m.m. - color - 119 minutes. A Canada-France co-production starring Genevieve Bujold, Richard Jordan, Philippe Leotard, Marcel Cuvelier and Suzie Bailargreen. Director - Claude Jutra (Director of the celebrated 'Mon Oncle Antoine'). Students' Union Theatre - Wed. Oct. 2 and Thurs. Oct. 3 - 8:00 p.m. each night.



September 11, 12
8:30 p.m.

Jubilee Auditorium
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Reserved \$3.00, \$4.00, \$5.00

Group rate available
SUB Information Desk

Students \$2.50
on presentation of U of A I.D.

Room At The Top

3 P.M. - 11 P.M.

MONDAY - THURSDAY

3 P.M. - 12 P.M.

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

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