

# Identifications

## Ethnicity and writers in Canada



The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies located at the University of Alberta and the University's departments of English and comparative literature have joined forces to organize a national conference on Canadian literature.

The conference is entitled *Identifications: Ethnicity and the Writer in Canada* and will take place September 13-15 in the audio-visual wing of the Humanities Centre on campus.

Among the writers who will appear at the conference are Maria Campbell, Giorgio Di Cicco, Myrna Kostash, George Ryga, Andrew Suknaski and Rudy Wiebe.

A number of university professors including Drs. Yar Slavutych, Milan Dimic, Stephen Scobie and Douglas Barbour of the University of Alberta will also participate.

The organizing committee, headed by W.R. Petryshyn of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, believes the speakers will offer "a stimulating discussion on the minority group themes and images developed in English-Canadian literature."

The conference will feature paper presentations, panel discussions, and public readings. These activities will be complemented by a series of Canadian and Alberta films on the theme of ethnic identity and by an exhibition of Ukrainian books published in Edmonton prior to the First World War.

The films are free and will be shown Thursday, Friday and Saturday from noon until 1 p.m. in AVL-3 of the Humanities Building. The films are all produced by the National Film Board. *Woodmountain Poems*,

*Autobiographical*, and *The Street* will be screened on Thursday; *Teach Me to Dance*, and *The Red Dress* will be shown on Friday. The last two films, *Our Street Was Paved With Gold* and *Indian Dialogue* will be on Saturday.

Dr. Roland Anderson, chairman of the university's department of English, and Dr. Henry Kreisel of the department of comparative literature and the author of the novels *The Rich Man* and *The Betrayal*, will officially open the conference Thursday, September 13, at 8 p.m. in AVL 1, Humanities Centre.

An evening of poetry and prose will be presented the following evening at 8 p.m. in the same location. Maria Campbell, George Ryga, and Rudy Wiebe will participate and Ruth Fraser will host the event.

At the same time, Myrna Kostash, Maara Haas, and Andrew Suknaski will be reading in the Vegreville Composite High School. Jars Balan will be the host.

There will also be readings by writers Giorgio Di Cicco, Joy Kogawa, and Dr. Slavutych on Saturday, September 15, at 8 p.m. in AVL 1, Humanities Centre.

The conference, which is funded by the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, Alberta Culture, and the Government of Canada, will be officially closed that night by Dr. Manoly Lupul, director of the institute.

The participants will take a guided tour of northeast Edmonton and the Ukrainian Heritage Village on Sunday.

Persons interested in the conference can contact the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at 432-292 for complete information.

## Davies still dealing with today's issues

by Harvey King

Twentieth Century humanity's existence is fraught with societal and personal problems. We live in an age when increasingly stronger economic, political and societal pressures weigh upon people, and where people try to escape by turning to introspective and insular pastimes. Ray Davies uses his special twist to deal with some of these problems and pressures in The Kinks' new album *Low Budget*.

As is usual for The Kinks' albums, the lyrics play the largest role, with the music usually serving only to highlight the themes Ray Davies is discussing. However, it's when the music takes on a separate identity of its own to provide a more complete song that we get some of the really good tracks on the album, (such as *Attitude*, *Superman* or *A Gallon of Gas*).

Ray Davies is discussing personal and societal problems we all have to face; yet, by using his own problems as a starting place, he gives his songs a semblance of real emotion few rock writers can achieve without appearing self-centered. Although none of the issues are as serious as those he has previously dealt with in such classic songs as *Lola*, (homosexuality), or *20th Century Man* (total alienation), Davies is dealing face-to-face with the problems of our times — personal isolation, the decline of the West as a power, tension/pressure, the recession, the need for privacy, the lack of real emotion in most people, the gas shortage, and the use of escapism as an answer to everything.

As usual, the key word in Davies' writing is ambivalence. Davies usually presents more than one side of a story, and it is often hard to decide which side he is backing, if indeed he is backing any side. Perhaps Ray Davies' writing could be best categorized as a loving parody — of himself.



Harvey King uses his special twist to deal with *Low Budget*.

## John Wayne and the Germans

The Edmonton Public Library will be presenting two feature-length film series in September and October.

The first series, "John Wayne in the Movies", will be shown on Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. in the Centennial Library Theatre from September 8 to October 14. There is no admission charge for the six films which are: *True Grit*, *The Shootist*, *Stagecoach*, *Sands of Iwo Jima*, *Long Voyage Home*, and *The Quiet Man*.

The library will also be showing a series entitled "German Cinema of the 70's". This series is presented by the Edmonton Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany, in co-operation with the National Film Theatre/Edmonton, and the Edmonton Public Library. The films will be screened in the Centennial Library Theatre every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. from September 18 to October 23. All the films will be in German with English subtitles, and admission to the films is free.

There will be more information in upcoming *Gateways* regarding the dates of individual films.

## International Year of the Child

The University Art Gallery and Museum, in celebration of The International Year of the Child, is presenting an exhibition entitled "Childhood: Eight Canadian Artists", from August 19 - September 30, 1979. The show will include painting, printmaking and sculpture by eight contemporary artists from across Canada, some of whom have not exhibited in Edmonton before.

The aim of the exhibition is to present the particular sensitivities of individual artists who have recalled and creatively documented some of the fears, the joys, and the despairs of childhood that have remained as part of their adult consciousness. Artists include: Patricia Askren, David Barnett, Jack Chambers, Betty Davison, Joe Fafard, Alexandra Haeseker, Jane Martin and Denis Rousseau.

The show will be accompanied by a twenty-four page catalogue, *Childhood: Eight Canadian Artists*, which will be available at the gallery.

The exhibition is sponsored through the generous funding of the Clifford E. Lee Foundation.

The University Art Gallery is located just south of the Faculty Club, off Saskatchewan Drive and east of 116th Street.

Gallery hours are weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Edmonton Art Gallery

During his career, Joseph Fafard has gone through many different styles; minimal, Kinetic and Rodinesque wood work. For over a decade now, Fafard has been making ceramic personages. These small clay portraits are shaped and coloured with great skill, but what is most striking about them is the feeling of love, the care for the particular lives of the people they show. These people are Fafard's community, people he has looked at in an intimate fashion to understand them.

Joseph Fafard's ceramic sculptures reflect his environment. Born and raised in a small town in Saskatchewan and currently living in Pense, it has always been important to Fafard to have a link with the countryside. That link is quite obvious in his art; Fafard's main subjects are the people of the town, and cows — animals which connect people to the natural world. His orientation is that of the classical artist; satire, compassion, character are all used as techniques to present the Essential Man as much as clay and glaze are used as techniques to present him sharp and clean.

The twenty works selected for this Edmonton Art Gallery exhibition have been gathered from private and public collections across Canada and will be on display from September 7th through to October 21st.