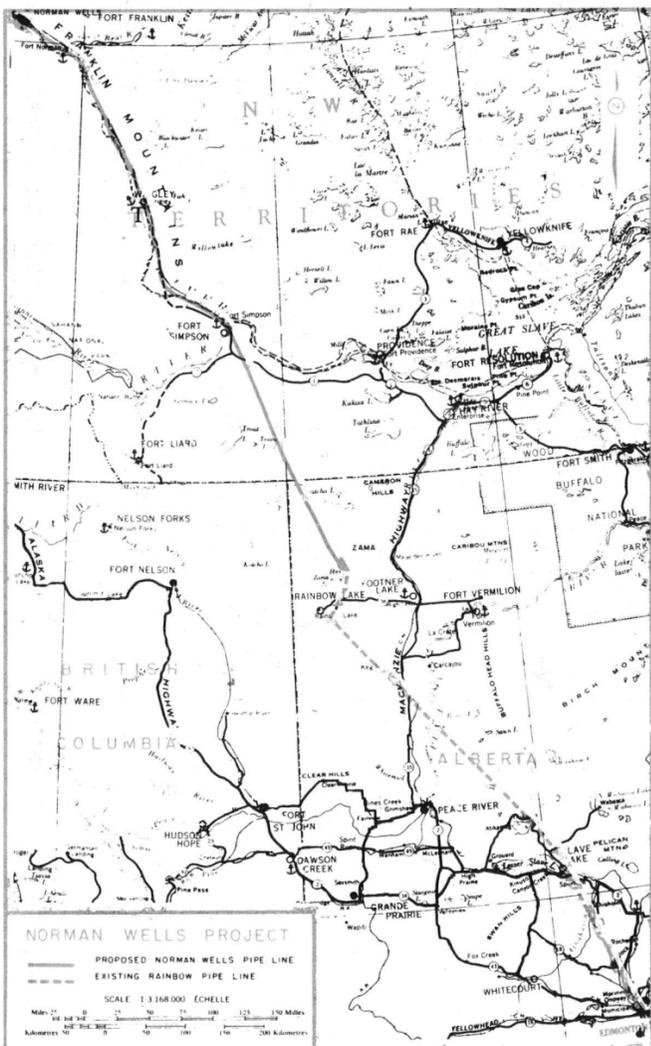


Dene fight pipeline proposal

"Other institutions have been imposed upon us and slowly what has happened to the Dene is that there are now contradictions amongst us that are not of our own doing. You will find in every community conflicting institutions; institutions that have been brought here by the European descendents and institutions that have survived from the Dene society."

"This has led to continuous breakdown. We have high alcoholism. We have high family breakdown. We have divorces amongst our people that we never had before. We have high suicide rates. And this is because there is no assurance of a Dene future of any kind. We have no control, and a very good example is this pipeline." (Dene Nation to National Energy Board, October 1980)



by Mary Amerongen and Larry Lutgendorff

Since early November, nothing has been heard concerning the proposed Norman Wells oil pipeline. The National Energy Board (NEB) hearings in Edmonton and Yellowknife are finished; it is now up to the NEB and the

federal government to make a decision. The NEB will make a recommendation to the government early in March. All current indications are that the pipeline will be approved.

Imperial Oil wants to complete the pipeline from Norman Wells, N.W.T., to Zama, Alberta

(see map) by 1984. On completion, it will carry 25,000 barrels of oil per day: the equivalent of less than one percent of Canada's energy needs.

But demands for delay are mounting. In the north, the territorial government, the Dene of the Mackenzie Valley and the N.W.T. Metis Association are united in opposing construction of the pipeline at this time.

A variety of southern organizations agree. Church, native, labor, political, environmental and farm organizations are holding a rally Saturday, February 21, to demonstrate their agreement with the northerners.

Further, the proposed pipeline directly violates Justice Thomas Berger's 1977 recommendation that no major development takes place in the Mackenzie Valley for at least ten years, so that native land claims can be settled and implemented.

Dene control over their land is a central issue in the land claims. So chances for fair negotiations on the land claims will be seriously undermined if the government allows the pipeline to be built on the land in question.

The \$800 million Imperial Oil plans to spend is the wrong kind of energy investment right now.

The pipeline is wrong at this time not only for the north, though, according to the Coalition for Responsible Northern Development, formed in the south. It isn't in Canada's national interests either, the Coalition says.

One reason is that for the majority of Canadians, the \$800 million Imperial Oil plans to spend on the pipeline and facilities at Norman Wells is the wrong kind of energy investment right now. The same amount invested in conservation (for example, home insulation) would save more oil per day than Imperial Oil could produce. It would also create two to three times as many permanent jobs as would the pipeline.

Indeed, in reference to northern native peoples, the National Energy Program 1980 said: "The need for frontier resources, given the other options that Canadians can proceed with,

is not so great that it must override our social goals and obligations."

The Coalition also believes that Canada now has the opportunity in the north to implement creative alternatives to its past relationship with native peoples.

The Norman Wells pipeline is an example of the violation of native rights that occurs when these rights are not safeguarded in the constitution. The Coalition believes aboriginal and treaty rights of all Canadian native people must be entrenched in the new constitution.

Saturday, February 21, the Coalition will sponsor a con-

ference and rally in Edmonton to promote its cause. It will begin at 1:00 at Knox Metropolitan Church, 8307 - 109 Street. Speakers will include George Erasmus, president of the Dene Nation, Bruce Willson, former president of Union Gas Ltd., Bishop Remi de Roo of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops, and representatives of Alberta labor groups and native people.

At 7:30 p.m., a rally will be held in support of the claims of the Northern people. All interested people are invited to attend and learn more about the issue, and ask questions.

PSUA
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Friday, February 20, 1981
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 Profs welcome Food available

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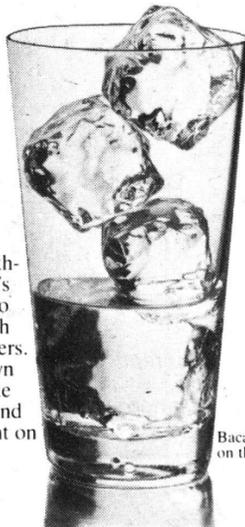
For more information, contact the Student Awards Office (252 Athabasca Hall, 432-3221) or Darrell Rankin, Students' Union Vice-President Academic (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).



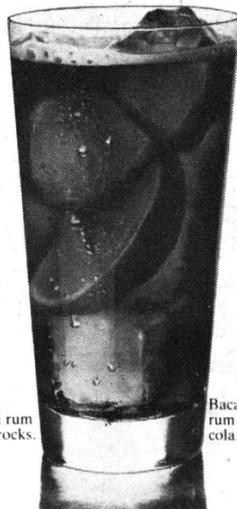
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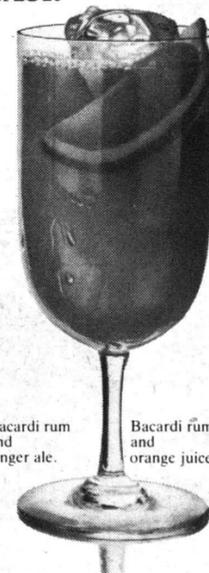
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