"Dances" more than just a movie

by Gurn Blansten

LAST year, an important film was released that told of a relatively ignored part of American history. That movie was "Glory", and it was the true story of the first black regiment in the Union Army during the Civil War.

This year another new and important film that takes place during the Civil War period has just been released. It is entitled Dances With Wolves, and although it is not based on a true story, the subject matter is just as important. Like Glory, it also is a powerful evocation of the injustices perpetrated on a proud people.

Directed by and starring Kevin Costner, the film follows the story of Lt. John Dunbar, a Union soldier who in 1863, finally realizes his dream to see the frontier only to be caught between the cultures who share its territory.

With its stunning photography and sweeping spectacle, this is a movie for the senses. It is at once both a profoundly honest and breathtaking epic that treats its characters and their environment with equal respect. Not since the days of director John Ford, have figures and landscape interacted so effortlessly.

Costner deserves much credit for this handling of the characters, particularly in his treatment of native Americans. Against all conventional box office wisdom, Costner cast authentic native Americans and Canadians in the leading roles, as well as allowing for the full usage of Native dialects with accompanying subtitles. This attention to the cultural detail is unprecedented in the history of Hollywood. The credit must therefore go to Costner, for it was his courage and reputation that allowed for this daring film to be made.

Perhaps it was inevitable that "Glory" was the first of these stories to be filmed. After all the culture of Native People of North America has long since started to dwindle away. It should therefore come as no surprise that these disenfranchised people are the last to be recognized as victims in the Americans zealous pursuit of their "Manifest Destiny". Hopefully, emotions will be stirred by this film, and in some small way a new generation will be educated about the grave injustices committed on a once vast and civilized culture.

"Dances with Wolves" has been credited with portraying native Americans in a positive light.

Jazz... Roy style

by Gurn Blasten

THIS past Sunday Jazzeast presented the final concert of its 1990 fall season. The Roy Patterson Trio were the performers and this vibrant group was greeted with much enthusiasm from the crowd at the Casino Theatre.

All hailing from Atlantic Canada, the trio, led by talented guitarist Patterson, tore up the house with such breezy numbers as, "I saw a nightengale sing in Barclay Square", and the lively original composition, "The Release".

Ably assisted by Mike Billard on drums and Jim Vivian on bass, this hot combo seemed a fitting way to end the successful season for jazzeast. The venue also proved particularly complimentary to this tight group's sonorous musings.

Fortunately, for those who missed this great night of jazz, it will be broadcast in the near future on the CBC, so listen for it, you will not be disappointed!

Warm up those word processors kids... we need writers not walruses or wallabies

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December 2: 10:30 am. Advent I; Holy Communion
8:00 pm. Gloria in Excelcis
(Concert: Choir, Organ and brass)

December 9: 10:30 am. Advent II

December 16: 10:30 am. Advent III

December 23: 10:30 am. Advent IV
7:00 pm. Carols by Candle Light
(Organ, Harp And Choir)

December 24: 11:00 pm. Christmas Eve Holy Communion

December 30: 10:30 am. Christmas I

Ministers: Rev. John E. Boyd, Rev. Adele Crowell
Director of Music: David MacDonald

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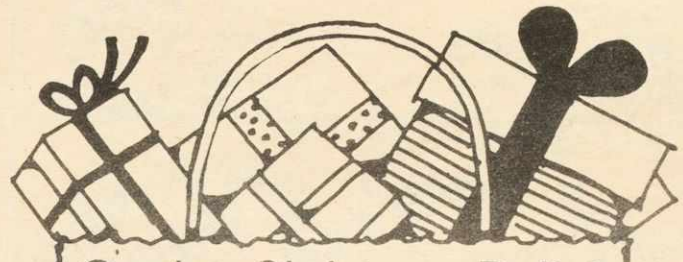
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