

Five volumes first collection

The complete writings of

Louis Riel

by Bruce Pollock

"I have nothing but my heart, and I gave it long ago to my country."

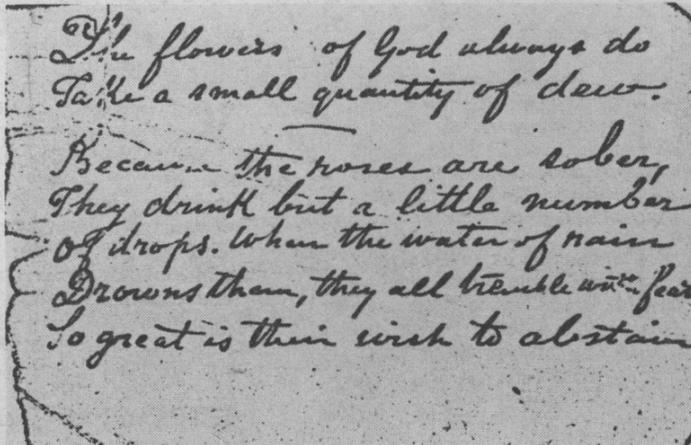
Louis Riel also gave his writings to his country, and a group of U of A-based scholars is now collecting these for publication.

The Riel Project — the first complete collection of Riel's writings — will comprise five volumes titled, *Louis Riel, Ecrits Compets: Edition critique, Collected Papers of Louis Riel, Critical edition.*

The Riel Project is "a publicity project rather than a research project," says the project's administrative officer Claude Rocan.

The project, begun in October, 1978, will end in 1983. Rocan says the five-volume work should be released in 1984 or 1985.

"We hope to have the books published in time for the Northwest Rebellion centennial," he says.



A poem Riel wrote just before his execution.

The project will be published by the U of A press and will contain four volumes of Riel's general writings, mainly correspondence and letters to newspapers, and one volume of his poetry.

The books will include historical and textual footnotes, a biographical dictionary, as well

as a brief summary of a "number of actors in the two rebellions and various stages of Riel's life," says Rocan.

The material will be published in chronological order.

The group has had some trouble collecting Riel's writings. "A lot of material has been lost

or is not accessible to the project," says Rocan. A large number of the major works have disappeared, especially the pieces Riel wrote when he was in Montana.

The group has collected manuscripts or copies of manuscripts from thirty-seven private and public collections. Major collections of Riel's works were borrowed from the public archives of Canada in Ottawa and the provincial archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

A lot of the material has been found in contemporary newspapers of Riel's time.

Riel also wrote to large numbers of people, and Rocan says its likely there are letters around that the group doesn't

know about. The group has recently uncovered the final draft of a letter Riel wrote.

The editorial board of the Riel Project is comprised of eight Riel scholars, G.F.G. Stanley, Thomas Flanagan, Glen Campbell, Gilles Martel, Ray Huel, John Foster, Roger Motut and Claude Rocan, but relies heavily on research assistants.

The project, which is funded by the Social Services and Humanities Research Council of Canada, came about as a result of a Western Canadian publicity project.

Response to a questionnaire distributed by two U of A English professors expressed support for the publication of a collection of Riel's materials.

Struggle for gay rights in Alberta long, discouraging

by Peter Michalyszyn

"It is recognized in Alberta as a fundamental principle and as a matter of policy that all persons are equal in dignity and rights without regard to race, religious beliefs, colour, sex, age, ancestry, or place of origin."

These lofty-sounding words are from the preamble of the Alberta Individual Rights Protection Act. But it doesn't include, among others, gay people.

The struggle for recognition of gay rights in Alberta has been long and discouraging, according to a spokesperson for the Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE).

In 1976 the Alberta Human Rights Commission (AHRC) proposed amendments to the Act, including gay rights, as well as rights for the mentally and physically handicapped and criminals.

But the government "utterly ignored these recommendations," according to Doug Whitfield, civil rights director of GATE.

"It is clear now," Whitfield says, "that the government was angered by the inclusion of 'sexual orientation' with the other recommendations."

And he says the former Minister of Labour Neil Crawford said no government in its right mind would introduce gay rights legislation.

Dr. Max Wyman, former chairman of the AHRC, agrees the recommendation on sexual preference was rejected out of hand.

Recently the AHRC made a new set of recommendations to the current Minister of Labour, Les Young, expecting them to be considered in the upcoming spring session of the legislature.

This time the proposals will probably go through, says Whitfield, because the gay rights recommendation is "conspicuously missing" from the act.

"It is clear the Commission ignored gay rights to get a hearing for the other recommendations," he says.

Whitfield says this exclusion violates basic principles of human rights, and gay people have been betrayed by the AHRC, which is "behaving politically." And he argues

public feelings against gay people is no excuse for ignoring them.

Last week, several gay rights groups presented a joint brief to the AHRC asking them to reconsider the exclusion of gay people from their recommendations. So far there has been no public response to the brief.

Bob Lundrigan, chairman of the ARHC, has shown "really deep ignorance about gay people," according to Whitfield, though Lundrigan has improved recently, Whitfield admits.

But Whitfield says he would only be guessing about reaction to the brief.

Gay rights representatives also talked to the Minister of

Labour. Whitfield describes this meeting as "similar to banging our heads against a brick wall."

They also plan to send resource information to MLAs and possibly meet with some of them.

Whitfield, a professor at the U of A, says the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has a model clause on non-discrimination, including gay rights, which has been instituted by several academic associations across Canada.

But he says the clause is not in effect at the U of A and that the Association of Academic Staff at the U of A wouldn't invoke protection for gays.

Fumes not hazardous

Although a silkscreening course at a Calgary college has been cancelled because of students' health problems, a similar course in the U of A's Fine Arts department course is "basically safe".

Fine Arts silkscreening technician John Roberts says although other colleges have experienced problems with ventilation in silkscreening workrooms, no such problems have been reported at the U of A.

Students in the silkscreening program at the Alberta College of Art in Calgary complained of chest irritation, eye and throat dryness, nausea, dizziness and skin outbreaks because of toxic fumes and poor ventilation in their workroom.

Alberta College of Art, which is located on the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology

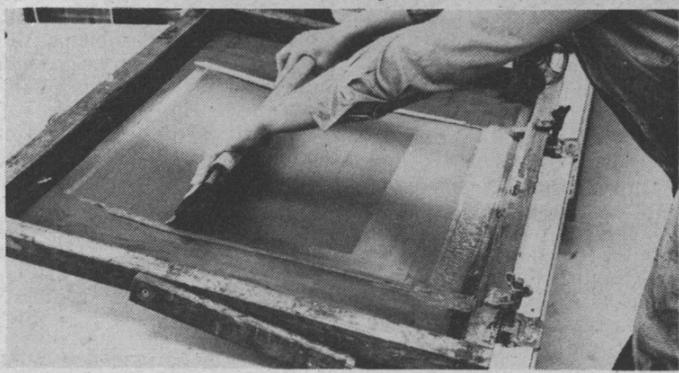
department has done a lot of research into the composition of the chemicals used at the U of A, and has published the results of their investigations.

"There are a vast number of combinations being used in inks and solvents," Roberts said, "and we're trying to identify the potentially dangerous blends and find out what makes them dangerous."

(SAIT) campus, was forced to cancel the course after newspapers publicized students' complaints.

While the U of A's silkscreening facilities are considered safe by campus officials, the department is taking precautions to ensure student safety, Roberts says.

"At present, we are installing a new ventilating system," he says.



An artist at work on one of the U of A's silkscreens.

Job equality delay

A proposal to facilitate affirmative action for female non-academic staff met with further delays at a Board of Governors' monthly meeting last Friday.

The proposal, which called for the establishment of a Career Development Unit, was based on a recommendation of the 1975 Senate Task Force on Women which revealed that women were discriminated against at the U of A.

The career unit would be responsible for the development of affirmative action programs and would assist the university in the determination of management objectives to enhance career opportunities for women.

Chairman of the Board finance committee Ted Allan expressed distress at having to spend \$100,000, to pay for three staff members and supplies, when the university is making cutbacks in other areas.

And Board member Dorothy Richardson said she was "not completely convinced" that there is a need for such a unit, and recommended more information be gathered.

The Board passed a motion requiring the administration to provide some basic data relating to the numbers and salary differences between men and women in various personnel classifications of non-academic staff.

Kirk

Kirkwood

Screw you, screw you all. Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!
Well you son-of-a-bitches I won the lottery. I'm rich; filthy freakin' rich! And I don't gotta take nuthin' from nobody.

Ya hear that? "Nuttin' from nobody!" Take that, lousy stupid editors. I write as I please from now on and nobody changes nuttin'. If you don't like it I'll buy the whole damn paper and print those pictures from the last staff party. Hahahahaha!

Whoopie! Since my number rolled up last Sunday I've spent the whole week directing the flow of human life. Telling people where to go that is. My brother the supercool law student, the success of the family, the one who always says, "It's not really a disgrace still to be in school at your age." . . . well, my brother can take his advice, his LSAT score and his projected earnings for the next 500 years, put them in his leather briefcase and shove them up the tail pipe of his Trans-Am.

I'm not going to law school; I'm not going to any school. All my boring, senile professors can sit in their offices and wait for my papers until the moss on their 20-year-old suits spreads over their ugly faces, works its way into their ears, and flourishes in all that mental deadwood. On, and by the way, all your great philosophers had sexual problems and Shakespeare couldn't write his way out of a pay toilet.

Of course all my friends are real happy about my success. "You're not going to forget us now, are you?" they joke. Really, how could I forget my friends? How could I forget the people who've called me "shrimpy" all these years? How could I forget the Crazy Glue they put on the seat of my desk? How could I forget the time they fixed me up on a blind date with an 86-year-old woman? How could I forget the people who were too considerate to ask me to their New Year's Eve party because they thought I'd rather catch up on my studying? I've selected presents for all my friends, from little things like exploding cigars to larger things like '72 Pintos.

There are so many other people I don't have to bother with anymore. So long half-wit relatives. Bye-bye bozo bus drivers. I guess the cafeteria servers will have to learn to tell the mashed potatoes from the fish sticks without my help. Sigh. Hahahahahaha!

Well, good-bye everybody. It's been real nice knowing you but ticket number QX39769 is taking me out of Edmonton (this zit on the face of the earth) as fast as I can go. If you like you can have that number to remember me by, it's right here in the paper: QX39766. Wait a minute....

Er....there's been a slight mistake here folks, uh, friends. No harm done, right? Just the same, I may not be around much this week. There are a couple of small misunderstandings I have to clear up.