

## SUB ACTIVITIES FOR YOU

### ARTS & CRAFTS - 3rd floor

- Sale of Crafts - Main floor FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th
- Glaze Workshop by John Chalke - DECEMBER 15th, 16th, 17th
- JANUARY classes now registering - see Lesley Drewoth behind Info Desk

### MUSIC LISTENING - main floor east

- a quiet place to listen and read

### ROOM AT THE TOP - 7th floor

- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th - Free Film Night - 8:00 p.m. N.F.B. films on the architecture of Exeter Cathedral and Marek Jablonski - concert pianist
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th - Studio Albany Part Two presents Paul Hann - 8:00 p.m. Admission \$1.00 Advance 75 cents
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9th - Studio Albany Part Two presents Paul Hann - 8:00 p.m. Admission \$1.00 Advance 75 cents
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th - V.C.F. Carol Sing - 5:00 p.m. - Free
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th - Folk Music Club - 8:00 p.m. - Free

### THEATRE - 2nd floor east

- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8th, 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. - Student Cinema - "The Red Tent" \$1.00 at the door, 50 cents in advance
- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th, 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. - Student Cinema - "Taking Off" \$1.00 at the door, 50 cents in advance

### GALLERY - main floor east

- to DECEMBER 18th "Arts and Crafts of Old Quebec" a photography exhibit supplied by the National Film Board
- FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th - Arts and Crafts Staff Show

### INFO DESK TICKET WICKET - main floor

- Tickets available for: R.A.T.T.  
Student Cinema

### STUDENT CINEMA

6:30 & 9:00

Friday, December 8

Sunday, December 10



Tickets \$1.00 in advance  
\$1.00 at the door



6:30 & 9:00

## point

the

(little beat up)

pot

calls

the

(great big)

kettle

black

By now, we are so accustomed to reading absurdities under Barry Westgate's name in the *Edmonton Journal* that we're seldom even provoked to respond.

But his recent sneer at the Urban Design Group's comments on the James Macdonald Bridge really demands a formal reply—particularly because his jeers were apparently the only and certainly the most conspicuous *Journal* coverage of the Group's criticism of the bridge.

The occasion was the awarding of the second monthly Black Ribbon Award for poor city planning and it was the Group's defense of its choice which provoked Westgate's guffaw. Here's part of what they had to say:

"The James MacDonald Bridge symbolizes the take-over by the car of Edmonton's most precious and scenic natural feature—the river valley. As the kingpin of a projected ravine—destroying freeway system it has already dealt a death blow to one and possibly two pleasant and well established communities.

Look closely at the plans for future connecting roadways. What will happen to Victoria Park? Has the last battle been fought over preservation of the Millcreek and McKinnon Ravines? Will the James MacDonald Bridge reach out its tentacles and gobble up increasing chunks of the river valley and destroy other downtown communities? Look closely at the Bridge itself. It defies the pedestrian or bicycle traffic. Does it provide the motorist with splendid vistas of the valley or of the river? Is one even aware of the presence of the River? Rather it possesses some of the impersonal characteristics of a landing strip and one has a great sense of overdesign to meet the increasing demands of cars. Without doubt the congestion and frustration of the Low Level Bridge was acute and required urgent attention. The solution chosen—"The James MacDonald Bridge" appears to be a case of oversell and citizens might well ask what alternatives were considered before this giant structure took command.

A bridge should be a facilitating mechanism providing a connecting link. We submit that this structure was built without sufficient recognition of the present and future consequences to the environment."

Is this really as unmitigatedly ludicrous as Westgate would have us believe? Even if it is, is it unreasonable to expect to find somewhere in the paper enough information to consider the matter for ourselves?

No one would deny a columnist the right to comment on the news. And no one can deny an editor's right to distinguish for us between the trivial and the significant event and between the provocative and irresponsible comment. There is simply not enough room for everything.

But we know enough about the *Edmonton Journal* to suspect that its editors have few scruples about letting their personal opinions determine news priorities. Their unabashedly biased coverage of the last election is a case in point.

So is the recent experience of a *Journal* reporter who had to fight his superior for permission to print a story quoting an anthropologist's criticisms of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. The editor in question argued that since the anthropologist's alternative—a railway—didn't seem to him to be feasible, the story should not be run. (Besides, the *Journal* had recently carried an editorial page feature describing what will happen "WHEN the pipeline is built.")

The question to be asked is not whether or not it is theoretically possible for a newspaper to be impartial in its evaluation of potential news stories, but more practically what criteria should be used in the day-to-day decision of what is important and interesting enough to find space in the paper.

Surely we can agree that newspapers must take extraordinary precautions against becoming merely an organ for the prejudices and opinions of the people who write and edit the copy. And this is particularly true in the case of the *Journal* which dominates the "news flow" not only in this city but in the northern half of the province as well. We can and should demand that they adopt less personal and more intelligent criteria in their determination of what we may and may not know.

Candace Savage