

# Discrimination on Indian status.

wife or widow of person described in section 11.

A further amendment in 1956 gave Department of Indian Affairs the automatic right to enfranchise Indian children who lived with their enfranchised mother and their non-Indian step-father.

The case of Jeanette Lavell

In 1970, an Indian woman in Ontario lost her status by marrying a non-Indian. Jeanette Lavell's attempt to regain her status demonstrates the difficulty of Indian women to have the discriminatory section repealed.

The basis of her argument was that section 12-1-B contravened the Bill of Rights. After defeat in the Ontario

Supreme Court and victory in the Ontario Court of Appeal, her presentation to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1973 was clear-cut: she had been discriminated against on the basis of race and sex.

In a five-to-four decision, the court ruled against her. First of all, the Bill of Rights could not overrule the Indian Act, since the Act enjoyed "special status as a protective legislation". Secondly, the Indian Act did not discriminate against women. Finally, the Indian Act was simply a "legislative embodiment of customary social economic patterns."

In a strongly-worded statement prepared by the Native Women's Association during the constitutional talks last year, Indian women criticised the hollowness of the Canadian Bill of Rights.

"When the Canadian Human Rights Act was enacted," the statement reads, "the Lavell case was before the courts. The Minister of Justice agreed to exclude the Indian Act from the body of federal legislation subject to the provisions of the Human Rights Act."

"Native women have found no protection of their rights either under Canadian Bill of Rights or the Canadian Human Rights Act."

The latest in a long series of defeats for Indian women took place last year during the constitutional negotiations. A clause which would have allowed 15,700 women and 57,000 children to return to reserves was dropped at the last moment. Groups like the Native Women's Association and the National Association of

Indian Rights for Indian Women have criticised their brothers, saying that Indian men are so embroiled in their own political struggles that they continually put Indian women's concerns on the back burner.


Canada's treatment of Indian women has often been a source of international embarrassment. Studies have shown that when women are forced to leave their reserves the result is increased dependence on alcohol, welfare and even suicide.

The domestic possibilities of change seem to be exhausted. Perhaps only an international movement condemning Canada's discriminatory practices will succeed in changing the situation of "the least members of our society."

**OCTOBER**

**7**  
thurs.

"ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST."



**Breaker Morant**

(CANNES FESTIVAL AWARD WINNER)  
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

8:00 pm. - BREAKER MORANT - 1980, Australia, 108 min. Dir. Bruce Beresford. Cast: Edward Woodward, Jack Thompson, John Waters, Brian Brown. **Parental Guidance.**

**13**  
wed

"THE BEST GANGSTER MOVIE TO COME ALONG SINCE 'THE GODFATHER'"  
Judith Crist

**THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY**

8:00 pm. - THE LONG GOOD FRIDAY - 1982, Great Britain, 113 min. Dir. John Mackenzie. Cast: Bob Hoskins, Helen Mirren, Eddie Constantine, Dave King, Bryan Marshall. **Restricted Adult.**

**CINEMA ADMISSION**


Regular Admission: \$3.50/\$2.50 with U of A ID  
Double Features: \$4.50/\$3.50 with U of A ID

SUB Theatre is located on the 2nd floor of the Students' Union Building, University of Alberta campus. For more information call 432-4764.

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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

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**October 15 (2 shows)**

SUB Theatre

**MOE KOFFMAN**



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Tickets: \$9.50, \$8.00 Available at all Bass Outlets.

**ckxm FM-100.3**  
presents



**Liona Boyd**  
Canadian Classical Guitar Virtuosa

Jubilee Auditorium  
**Wednesday, Nov 3-8 p.m.**

Tickets: SUB Box Office and all BASS outlets.

**ckxm FM-100.3**  
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**Canadian Brass**  
'Marx Brothers of Brass'

Jubilee Auditorium  
**November 6**

Tickets: BASS

S.U. Entertainment & CKRA FM 96 present

**The Powder Blues Band**  
Thursday October 21  
7:00 pm.  
SUB Theatre

Reserved tickets: SUB Box Office and all Bass outlets. Charge by phone 488-4826. Info: 432-2048

The Double Bill - "Dead Men Don't Wear Glad" and "The Blues Brothers" will be shown October 22, 1982 ONLY.

**The Simple Minds**  
with guests: Visible Targets

8 pm.  
Wednesday October 27  
SUB Theatre

Reserved tickets: SUB Box Office and all BASS outlets. Charge by phone 488-4826. Info: 432-2048