

Urban natives face problems

by Angela Mah, for *The Native People*

A census taken in Edmonton during the early 1940s showed a native (Indian and metis) population of about 4,000 people.

Today that figure has jumped 800 per cent, to an estimated 20,000 or more in 1971.

With this rise in population, reports Muriel Venne, coordinator of Native Outreach in Edmonton, has come increased failure of natives to adopt to urban life.

Venne made representation to city council last March regarding this problem, as outlined in a report prepared by herself. Her appeal resulted in a

motion by Alderman Ron Hayter that copies of her report be given to federal and provincial governments, and Edmonton's social services department.

Three of her recommendations were approved by the public affairs committee that heard the brief outlining the problems.

These three recommendations were that: the city's housing registry make human rights information permanently available in its office; the housing registry refer applicants seeking "intervention" in human rights matters to The Human Rights Commission; and that the three reports on native housing and licensing of

landlords be received as information.

The "slum housing" that many natives families are living in was a major area of concern expressed in the brief.

Mrs. Venne wants stringent controls of licensing of landlords to help stop the discrimination that native people encounter when seeking living accommodations.

She suggested that if standards were violated, licenses could then be revoked.

Urban drift has created many social problems, says the report, and some of them relate directly to the size of native families, which are usually larger than their non-native urban counterparts.

The report says that few natives arrive in the city without knowing anyone, and as a result, urban natives often have large numbers of relatives turning up on their doorstep.

Since the greatest influencing factor appears to be the prior move of a friend or relative to the city, for many natives the problem has become a major one.

Coming from the comparative security of the reserve or Colony into the almost alien environment of the city, most are unprepared for the "prejudice and bureaucratic indifference," they find.

Some families move frequently between residences in rural and urban centres and this results in considerable disruption of family life and the children's education.

Children reared in such an environment often become the problem parent of tomorrow.

Natives migrating to the city fare a little better, though not much, when seeking employment, and large numbers end up on welfare.

These were some of the findings of the report which Ms. Venne hopes will receive some constructive attention from City Council.

A male monthly cycle

DENVER (ZNS-CUP) - The Yellow Cab Company in Denver has ordered Biorhythm charts drawn up for every one of its 950 drivers in efforts to cut down on the number of cab accidents there.

According to the biorhythm theory, all individuals go through both physical and mental life cycles which fluctuate from positive to negative every 23 days; their emotions allegedly run a complete cycle every 28 days; and their intellectual cycles reportedly fluctuate every 33 days.

Yellow Cab says it will keep track of all its employees biorhythms and will warn them whenever a critical negative period - when they might be accident prone - is coming up.

The Cab company says it "strongly advises" that drivers take their critical days off.

Yellow Cab spokesman Roy Collins says that since the biorhythm program has been in effect, there has been a 54 percent correlation between the dates of accidents and the negative biorhythm cycles of their drivers.

Hohol looks at housing

Advanced education minister Bert Hohol, told the Legislature Friday that he is reading and editing a report on the state of student housing in Alberta before he releases it for public examination.

But he said there is little hope for a major building program this year by the provincial government.

A preliminary report on student housing was released by the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) early last week in an attempt to force the Alberta government to take action on what the Federation

considers a critical situation.

Hohol was queried in the Legislature by NDP leader Grant Notley about the "leaded" preliminary report and the status of the completed report under the minister's scrutiny. Hohol said the report would be released as soon as possible but that there was nothing unusual contained in the report.

"The report simply states," said Hohol, "the condition regarding student housing at all the institutions of advanced education in the province and indicates what solutions to problems might be possible."



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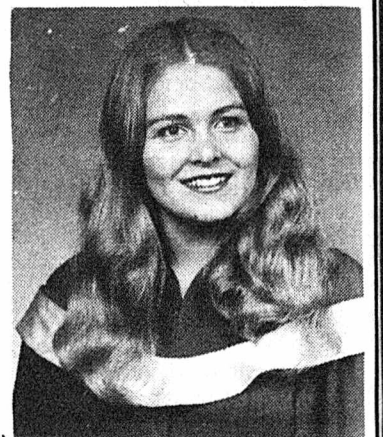
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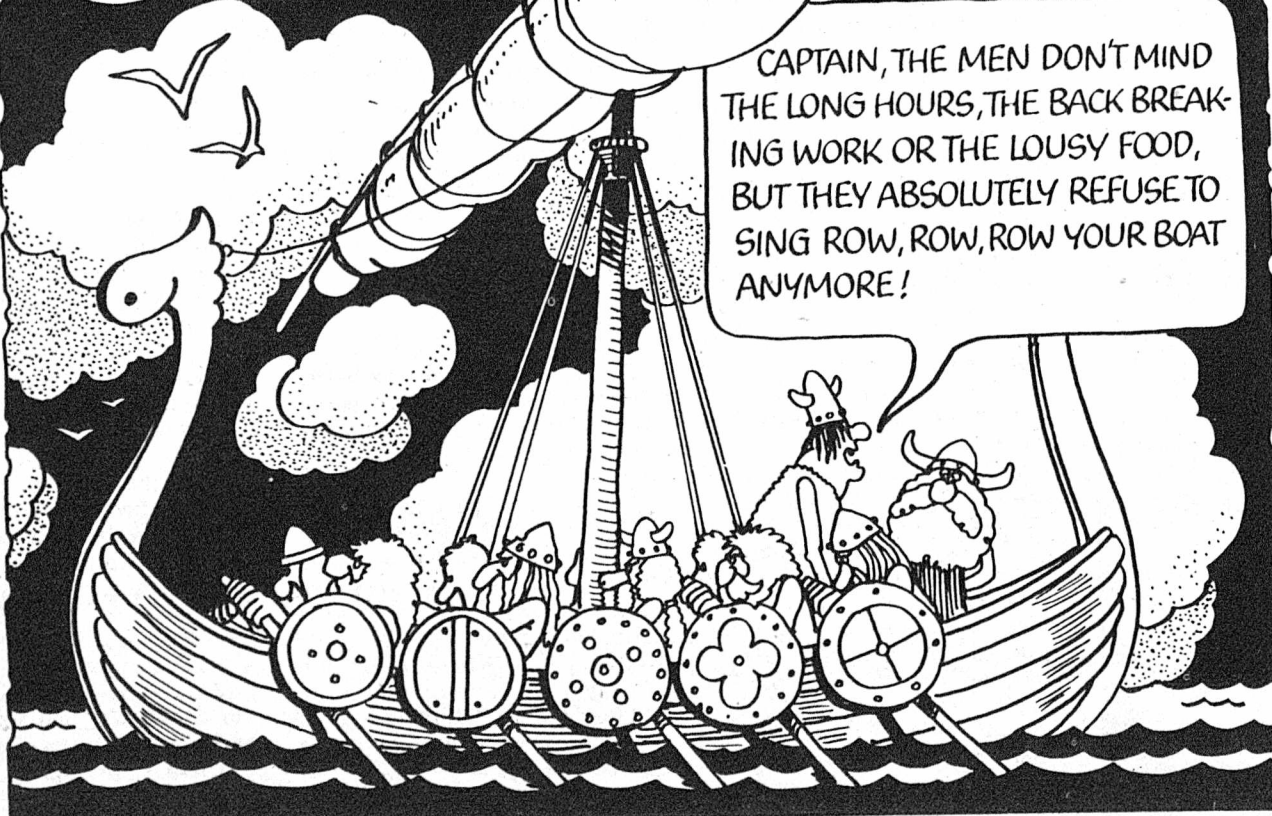
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