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why they stood on Lyell Island to support their claims.

'Don't call it land claims," says Gary Edenshaw, or Guujaaw as he prefers to be called. "It's us standing up to someone else's claim on our land."

The purpose of the Haida's protest was to save some land for future generations so that traditional ways of the Haida may be preserved, he said.

"Haida culture doesn't come from totem poles. It is a way of relating to the land. All of our art and songs are illustrations of that relationship."

Because the Haida never had a written language, they depended upon their elders to keep the culture alive. This gave the elders a venerable place in society and so it provided a unifying force when four of them were arrested on charges of criminal contempt of court on Nov. 15, 1985 for blocking the logging roads on Lyell Island.

One of those elders, Watson Price, 81, said, "If they throw me into jail for two years, I don't care. I'll just go on that road and get arrested again!"

Another, Ethel Jones, said "We see our trees cut down and our streams getting ruined. We've put up with this for too many years. When they arrested me and took my fingerprints, I felt really bad. This never happened to me before

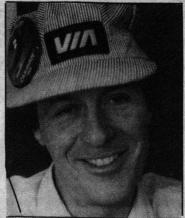
These are strong statements for a dignified, religious

GREAT! JUST GREAT!!
FIRST HAMLET AND HIS \$#00! COMPLITER CONSPIRED TO DESTROY MY LIFE AND NOW YOU'VE VAPORIZED MY HOME !

YOU DEAR .

MOM P

WHAT ARE YOU DOING



Thom Henley

people who held respect for the law as one of the highest principles of their society.

Henley speculated the reason the ruling provincial Socreds headed by Bill Bennett did not shy away from the confrontation on

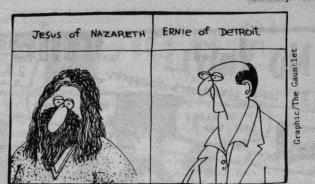
those cold grey days in November was because they thought they could gain some election milelage bullying the

"When four elders were arrested, it was like holding a mirror to society and a lot of people didn't like what they saw," he said.

Unfortunately though, the Bennett government still shows no signs of relenting, although many observers think his hand will be forced due to the upcoming Expo '86 and potential June election.

Although Henley has ruled out an Expo boycott, he says the possibility of civil disobedience on a mass scale in the Charlottes is pos-

The office of Austin Pelton, BC's minister of the environment, was reached but he was not available for comment.



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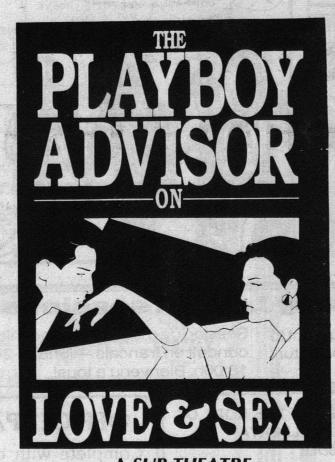
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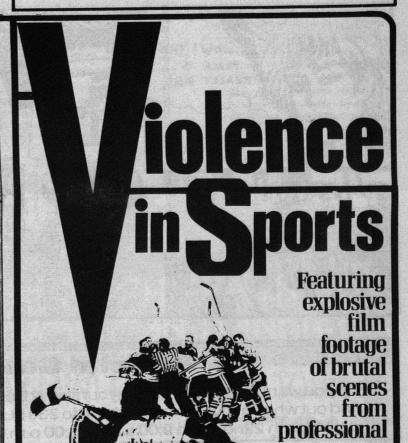
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