

# Canada Tribe calms

Why don't you take that little knot in the pit of your stomach and unwind it a bit, loosen it up, maybe even get rid of it for a while.

How? Simple.

Go and hear Canada Tribe when they play and talk in the SUB Art Gallery this Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

I went and heard them last Thursday night at the Grant McEwan Community College where they played for about two hours. And it was truly fine in a relaxing slowed-down sort of way.

Canada Tribe consists of four "brothers of the road" who read poetry and sing folk songs and blues and a little bit of jug-band stuff and reading poetry. And the total effect created is one of quiet relaxation.

Canada Tribe was formed officially on September 25 at U.B.C. when eight hitchhikers got together and decided it would be a good way of supporting their life on the road.

"It's a legitimizing process," said Wayne Burns Thursday night. "We all dig staying on the road and moving."

The original Canada Tribe that started out at U.B.C. with 8 members and a school bus was quickly reduced to 4 members and a '60 Chevy. They have since played at S.F.U., University of Lethbridge and Grant McEwan.

"We're trying to go right across Canada," said Wayne. "We haven't received any confirmation from Saskatchewan or Manitoba yet, but we want to hit the East by February."

"When we get into Ontario, we want to slow down. All of us have writing to do."

Joe Hall is the lead singer and guitarist. His writing is definitely blues oriented and he has done a couple of shows with Russell Thornbury. Joe comes originally from somewhere around Toronto and has spent any where from the last 2 to 6 years hitchhiking all over Canada.

Tim Lander is the flute-playing poet. In between readings he controls and extends the moods of his poems by very skillfully playing snatches and bits on his wooden flute producing a most effective presentation. Tim hails originally from somewhere in Western Canada and has had two books of poetry published.

Roger Brant is the back-up guitarist and bass player for the group. He comes originally from Edmonton and has, like the others, spent a lot of time travelling.

Wayne Burns is sort of the unofficial leader of Canada Tribe. He, too, is from Edmonton although he has travelled all over Canada. Wayne reads his poetry with occasional instrumental mood assists by Joe. He has had some of his work, which is almost exclusively concerned with his life on the road, published in an anthology of Canadian Hitchhiking poetry.

"Our stuff is a synthesis of music and poetry," said Wayne. "Although either end of it can stand on its own."

"We're trying to hit people

with the fact that there's more than 5 good poets in Canada right now and we're introducing people to poetry who normally react to music-it's not a heavy reading trip.

"We've been getting a really positive reaction."

How does Canada Tribe overcome the natural centrifugal forces involved with 4 artists living and working together?

"Probably the biggest thing is we respect each other's stuff. We

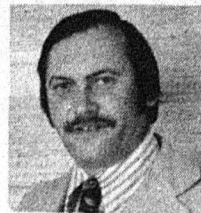
dig the space we're into--there's some kind of energy level thing happening and there's a lot of feeling between us.

"Part of it is we're all most alive when we're on stage."

"There have been hassles but so far no big hassles."

Now don'tcha think you'd like to hear some stuff by a group with no hassles who really just want to present some songs and some poems and probably have a calmly good time?

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