

# EDITORIAL

## Carnie the Big Release

By this time next week this campus will be in the midst of one of the largest Winter Carnivals ever to be held on this campus. This carnival compared to last years Carnival is highly professional and organized to last detail.

No matter seems to have escaped the planners of the Carnival who are committed to not only making this carnival a success financially but a success for those who participate.

In many ways this carnival is the last chance for the students on this campus to retain the annual winter frolic. If this carnival, which has every possible safeguard against failure built in, should not be a success in any sense of the word, then winter carnivals may well come to an end here.

Some may say that students don't need a winter carnival but we disagree because there has to be a relief valve to let off the pent up frustrations which every students knows occurs when the work load bears down heavily on a persons spirits.

Winter Carnival serves well as a let off valve for those emotions.

We have watched the development for plans for a carnival with interest this year since carnies in the past have not been terribly successful in the past either financially or otherwise. The missing element in both has been student spirit to support their school. In a sense its the corney student spirit that we are lacking. Most anyone in student affairs will point out that we need it badly in every area of student activity, not just Winter Carnival.

This year the organizers have two goals in mind. To run a financially sound carnival one that will not just break even but slide over the top. All salaries and hired personnel which the organizers have retained to guarantee the carnivals faultless operation will be paid from profits. Profits are aimed at the conservative side so as to present students the opportunity to enjoy a carnival with professional entertainment and events well within their slim entertainment budget. All plans have been centered around getting the most out of the dollar.

The second goal set by the organizers is to provide a carnival that will spark latent school spirit on this campus. They want people to come out and participate in the carnival, have a good time and keep the possibility open for further carnivals in the years to come.

The agreement between the SRC and the promoters all of which are students stipulates that the budget cannot exceed \$14,875.00 or the promoters have to pay the excess. Profits to be divided among four organizers and a host of staff members totals \$18,000.00. Any amount of profit which exceeds this amount will be returned to the SRC coffers.

In light of this information and the assurances by SRC executives who are backing this carnival with their position we recommend that all students take some part in this years carnival.



## FEEDBACKFEEDBACKFEEDBAC

Dear Sir:

Re: Riel - First Canadian Revolutionary, A Father of Confederation.

In reference to your printed account of the role of Louis Riel in the history of the Canadian West, a few errors must be corrected for the public good. The first part of this letter shall consist of corrections of the main text followed by concluding remarks.

A portion of your fourth paragraph describes the population of the Red River as consisting of "mainly French-speaking Metis, but also English and Irish people." This is an utter falsehood. At the time of the acquisition of Rupert's Land, the inhabitants of the Red River numbered about ten thousand; of which seven to eight thousand were Metis. Of this number, only four thousand were French-speaking Metis, the others being mostly Scottish Metis, who were the most educated, (it being not uncommon among the Scottish Metis to send their sons to school in England) and the most established. The rest of the populace consisted of a few Scottish farmers left from the time of Lord Selkirk, a number of Yankee whiskey merchants, a company of Hudson Bay employees plus a few Canadians. The French-speaking Metis were by no means a majority - with important consequences.

Out of fear, an unknowing fear for the loss of their lands, a provisional government was declared by the Metis when Louis Riel in an combined English and French convention that met, a resolution ask-

ing the Canadian government to guarantee lands held was passed. Yet, without the knowledge of the convention, Riel inserted a demand that all Metis' rights be guaranteed. Father Rictre who carried the message to Ottawa inserted two further demands calling for the preservation of the old Catholic parish system, which would constitute units of political, educational and religious power, and the guarantee of the French language. Note, that these inserts were completely arbitrary without any form of democratic consent, slanted in the favour of a minority within the settlement itself.

In the seventh paragraph you mention that Riel was later hung although he was "loyal to the Queen, and his people were opposing the Canadians because they had not consulted the Metis". It is odd that you neglect, at this point, on the mention of Riel's execution, to note the North-West Revolt of 1885 in his death, as a cause.

In these first few paragraphs, although you have been most emphatic on the failure of the Canadian government in informing the Metis of the transaction, you fail to note also the failure of the Hudson Bay Company and the British government in the same capacity. You rest blame entirely on the Canadian government which is most naive.

In the ninth paragraph of your history you mention that the "Red River people won some of their demands - status as a 'self-governing province' instead of a governed ter-

ritory, and French linguistic rights." There are two errors here.

The Manitoba Act that established Manitoba gave the Metis all that had been asked. Metis lands were guaranteed, the French language protected, and the power of the Catholic Church preserved. At this point the British North America Act should be mentioned. If one were to examine the Act, the section dealing with the provinces, one would detect two constitutional types. One refers to Quebec; the other, the rest of the provinces. The part dealing with Quebec is designed for a different society; two legal languages at all levels, two school systems, Protestant and Catholic. It is conservative. Clearly, the requests and the results display Riel not as a revolutionary in the hope of abruptly changing the system - maintenance is the term.

There is a second mistake. The role of Sir George Cartier is totally ignored. It was Cartier as head of the Quebec wing of the federal government who forcefully initiated the proposals brought by Father Rictre to Ottawa. Basically speaking, Mr. Editor, the Metis of the Red River, without support of Cartier and his fellow Quebecers, could not have had a 'hope in Hell' of achieving any number of their wishes.

In the tenth paragraph you state that Riel had "some of the members of the so-called Canadian party put in jail, and found it necessary to execute (after trial) one bothersome prisoner named Thomas Scott." You mention trial but you debate the fact that the trial was conducted in the French language in which Scott could not speak or comprehend one word. You also fail to note that the volley of shots fired by Scott's executioners failed to kill him, leaving him mortally wounded tearing in agony upon the earth. By the reports of witnesses he was then immediately taken and buried alive. It is this precise incident that prompted the dispatch of Colonel Wolseley's force to establish law.

In the next paragraph you say that Dr. John Schultz, head of the Canadian Party at the Red River was "later rewarded for his zeal by being named Manitoba's first Lieutenant-Governor." My dear sir, the first Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba

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