

Forum

A burning question of taste

Well, the Calgary Olympic organizing committee has done it again!

I hate to be one of those journalists who keep bad-mouthing what should be a source of pride for the city of Calgary and Alberta as a whole, but this time they've outdone themselves.

As a part of the opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympic Games in 1988, they are proposing an Indian Whoop-up. Get this, they want a wagon train to pull themselves into a circle; afterwards there would be an Indian raid and one of the wagons would be set aflame.

I say it's not only kids that watch too much television; it would seem our friends on the committee have watched one too many John Wayne movies.

It would be nice to have something in the ceremonies that reflects our Canadian heritage. But is it too much to ask to have some historical authenticity to the show?

Those old westerns do enough injustice to Natives, we don't have to propagate further these Hollywood misconceptions.

I applaud the committee for trying to include the rich Native heritage in the opening ceremonies, but what were they thinking of when they came up with this hare-brained idea?

We can only hope that this has all been a gross misunderstanding and that the committee really had no intention of defaming the Natives in this way.

They can't be serious!

Juanita Spears

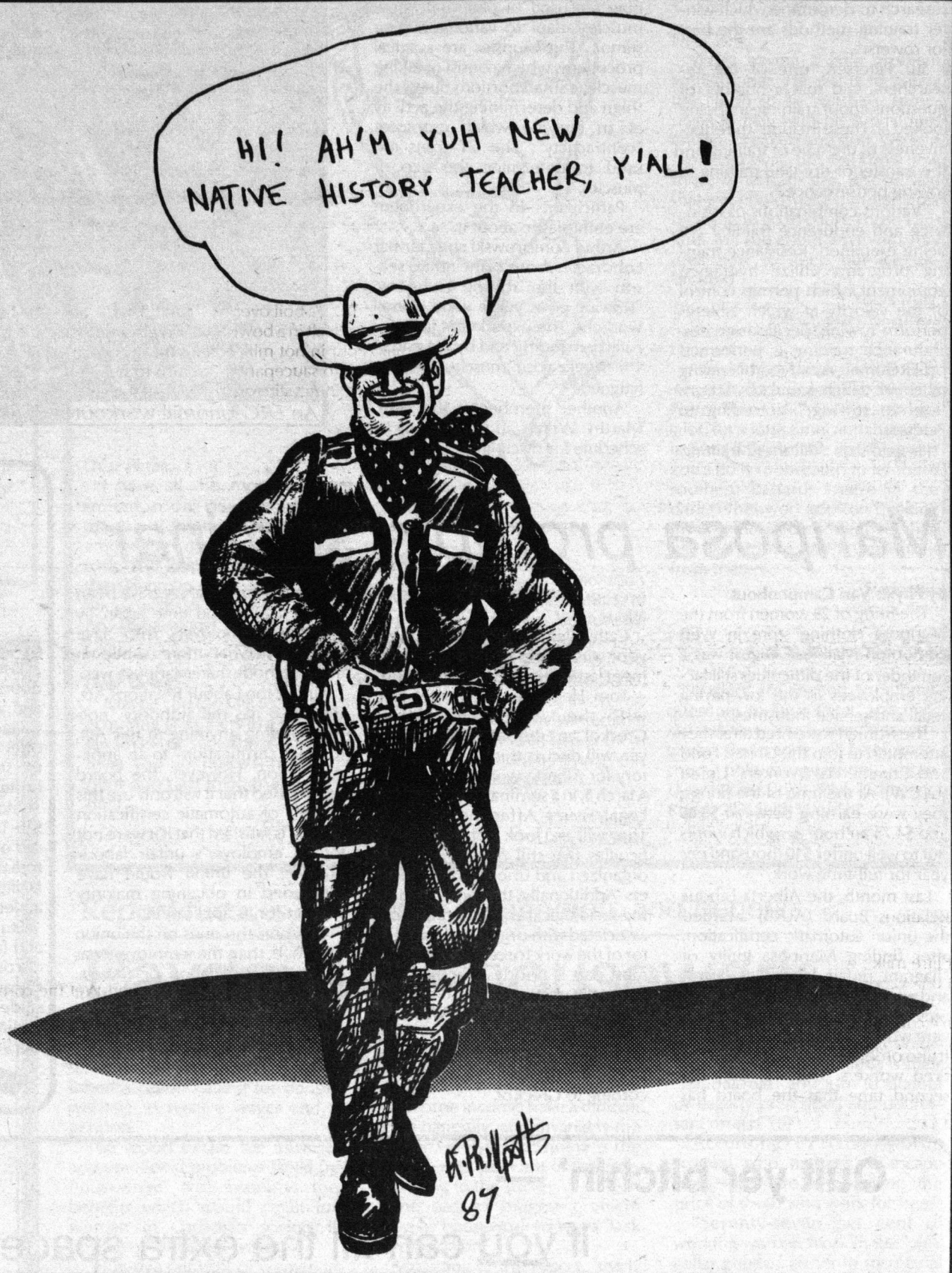
The Gateway

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also starring Apollo Creed as Laertes.



Letters...

Mike's trivial mix-up Down Under

To the Editor:

Split Enz, an answer for Mike's Music Trivia which appeared in the February 24 Gateway, is not an Australian pop group. It is, in fact, from New Zealand, another country from Down Under.

Alex Bezilny

The defense of the indefensible

To the Editor:

RE: Communists protest *Amerika*.

The TV mini-series, *Amerika*, is a stupid, boring right-wing fantasy. So, in its own way, is the line peddled by the Communist Party.

The Soviet Union and its satellites persecute and jail members of the independent peace movement, crush and outlaw independent trade unions and suppress all political dissent. Yet the Communists insist that this is socialism. They must think Canadian workers are stupid.

Such mindless faith does more harm to the socialist cause than any pathetic TV mini-series. It is a pity that Unitarians and other progressives are sucked into this apparently pro-Soviet stance — the defense of the indefensible.

Alan Rutkowski

Women: Assault is a reality

To the Editor:

I cannot stress this enough: In light of the increased numbers of women being abducted, raped, and murdered in this city, women must realize that it is at great risk to themselves to walk on the streets alone. I stand strong as a feminist in saying that we all have the basic right to be free from danger on the streets, but the *reality* is that women don't have this right to freedom. I learned a cheap lesson in this. Late last night, I caught a bus from the University of Alberta to downtown. While waiting in the foyer of a bank on Jasper Avenue for another bus, a feeble-looking, poor, old man began to pull on the locked doors to get inside. My humanitarian empathy told me to let him inside to warm up. My survival instinct told me that I had misjudged him . . . especially when he stood between me and the door, not a soul in sight. Before this drunken wretch could explain what he wanted from me, I quickly used my mind to talk my way past him and out the door. I ran onto the bus which had just arrived. *The point is this:* The woman who walks the streets alone (especially at night), in good faith of humanity or in defiance of humanity, is the vulnerable woman. And there is no telling of what may happen. As a past victim of sexual assault, I will have nightmares for weeks, but The Lesson was learned and re-learned.

A Victim

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