



This comedy troupe isn't bored by history

Photo Clive Chapman

## A frantic journey through history

The Frantics  
SUB Theatre

review by L. Robertson

Sir John A. McDonald is struggling to get the country together. He is pacing back and forth in his office, phone in hand, chatting with leaders East and West in an attempt to unite Canada.

"Hey Karl! Baby!" he says, "How's the scene on the east coast? Say, listen, this confederation thing is going through with or without you. Now are you in or what?"

His secretary bursts in: "Hey, Louis Riel is on line two and he sounds real mad!"

"Better put him on hold," says the budding P.M., — or at least that's how The Frantics envision it.

All four members of the comedy troupe were in town on the weekend to give their version of world history in the stage show, "The Frantics Walk Upright: A Journey Through History." Paul Chato, Rick Green, Dan Redican and Peter Wildman began by describing "the Real reason the dinosaurs died out" and ended with a look at the Twentieth Century and beyond.

Highlights of the show included the Human (horse) Race, a Roman auction, the invention of condoms, Joan of Ark as defendant on "The Peoples Court," a parody of Monarchs, the woes of a trapper, and getting shot on St. Valentines day by gang-

sters (don't you just hate it when that happens!).

Judging by audience's size and reaction, the show was a big success. Well-scripted material, along with proper presentation and inventive use of lighting and sound effects, elicited guffaws of laughter. One of the more memorable moments occurred when the long suffering trapper (Paul Chato) was told by the trading post proprietor (Dan Redican) that his squirrel tail was worth nothing.

"But you've got to give him something!" shouted an eager woman in the crowd.

"Oh really?" ad-libbed Redican to the woman, "Well maybe you'd like to give him something!" The audience erupted.

The group also made use of its considerable musical talents to enhance their material and add variety. Most notable were Peter Wildman on piano and guitar, and Paul Chato on saxophone, as Redican belted out "I'm a Monarch."

If there was a flaw in the performance, it lay in the fact that some of the humour was dependant on knowledge of historical detail. In other words, if you were foggy on certain specific historical events you would miss the subtle humour. However, this probably stems from the desire to be historically accurate to at least some degree and thereby making the jokes all that much funnier to those "in the know." In any case, there isn't much of this and most of the skits involved humour that could be appreciated by all.



Junior Gone Wild at the Ritz Diner

Photo Bruce Ferman

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