



— Photo by Dave Bellin

Life-size puppet Montgomery, and his three handlers, are part of the Festival of Life, Feb. 22-25 at the University of Manitoba. Festival theme is integration of self, nature and society in the modern age.

U of M's annual Festival of Life to feature 185 events this year

Creative integration of nature, self and society in the modern age is the theme of the 10th annual Festival of Life and Learning, at the University of Manitoba.

Entitled "Living In The New Age," the Feb. 22-25 festival is one day longer than it's ever been and will feature 185 events.

There will be two venues for the festival, the main one being at the U of M's Fort Garry campus, the other being a mini-festival in holistic health or health for the whole person Feb. 22 and 23 at the Nursing Auditorium, 700 McDermot Avenue.

Sponsorship of the \$40,000 event is mainly by the University of Manitoba Students' Union, which festival organizer Paul Chorney says will contribute about \$17,000.

Other sponsors are the university board of governors (\$10,000), the alumni association (\$2,500) and a number of other agencies, including the federal secretary of state department, the Canadian International Development Agency, various organizations and private companies.

During the past three months the organizers have put together a schedule of speakers and events around seven festival subthemes and a number of special programs.

The seven subthemes include: holistic health; alternative agriculture (organic agriculture, natural farming); spirituality (the harmony of mind, heart and moving centre as spiritual goal); family in community (the various family models available today and types of communities);

politics of the environment (modern environmental problems and alternative solutions); astrology and astronomy; and festival of the arts, a program of music, drama and art, mostly featuring Manitoba artists.

Special festival features include a conference on The Third World In The New Age, sponsored by the St. John's College Student Association, and Unity, Sovereignty, Nationhood and Liberation, a conference sponsored by the Indian, Metis and Inuit Student Association.

Short films on aspects of the subthemes, a film festival, displays by various organizations and several special events outside the subthemes are also planned during the four days.

Plan to close home for battered women called 'a real catastrophe for this city'

A Winnipeg social worker said Thursday closing Osborne House, a refuge for battered women, would be "a real catastrophe for this city."

Judy Andrich, chairman of the Battered Women Committee, said no other resource in Winnipeg is able to provide counselling for battered women as well as a place to stay for a few days.

Committee member Gayle Couch added that between October, 1976 and October, 1978 about 500 women with an average of two children each took refuge there. In the last 48 hours, she

said Thursday, the house has been so crowded that three women with eight children among them have been turned away.

"The question we'd ask is: Where will these women go if Osborne House is closed?" she said, noting the Winnipeg police and other groups refer women to Osborne House.

Andrich said she doesn't know how the committee can prevent Osborne House closing since a large amount of money is needed to keep it in operation. She added that it will meet to see if there is anything it can do to help.

Ideally, she said, Osborne House should be recognized with an ongoing budget. In addition to money for operating costs, the current facility needs \$20,000 to bring it up to fire safety standards.

The YWCA, which operates Osborne House, announced last week that the program was one of four being cut to help avoid a \$200,000 deficit. The Y hopes to keep the house open until April when the lease expires.

Couch said the committee would like to get public support to oppose the closing.

School tax change wanted

Province faces request to lift levies for elderly

The city's official delegation will ask the provincial government to excuse 12 senior citizen residences from school levies for the first time this year by amending the Municipal Assessment Act.

Council's executive committee Thursday also directed the delegation to seek school tax exemption for senior citizens who live in their own homes provided they pass a means test.

But the 12 residences, owned and operated by Winnipeg service clubs and charitable organizations, were sent reassessment notices in December revealing they will no longer enjoy complete exemption from school levies.

Under the act, as amended 12 years ago, the exemption should have been limited to only two acres of property and the buildings.

Since the residences all have more than two acres, they face increases in tax bills depending on the amount of property they own, assessed value, and respective school division requirements.

Coun. Pearl McGonigal (ICEC—Stevenson) said the seven affected school divisions could "cope" without the estimated \$19,912 the levies would have raised under last year's mill rate.

He said the exemption should be limited to houses the seniors are living in and only after they pass a means test.

Mrs. McGonigal added, however, taxes to raise the seemingly small amount of revenue could "cause hardship" on senior citizen tenants residing in the low-rent apartment projects affected.

She said the St. James Kiwanis Club, which operates the 88-unit Sinawik Bay low rent housing for pensioners, could have built a high rise on two acres or less and avoided the assessment recently handed them.

"We've been encouraging the owners to build with plenty of green space but now it seems we're penalizing them," Mrs. McGonigal said.

Coun. Abe Yanofsky said the city's move "runs contrary to the (Manitoba Association of Urban Municipalities) philosophy" of taxing all housing subsidized under Manitoba housing renewal corporation programs in the province.

"It's a matter of being fair to all of them," Yanofsky (ICEC—Jefferson) said of similar projects throughout the province.

Council's executive committee also directed the city's official delegation to raise an old issue by asking for school tax exemptions for all senior citizen homeowners.

A school tax exemption for elderly homeowners, Coun. Jim Ragsdill said, would return to senior citizens living on limited means about half their current property taxes or more, depending on the area of the city in which they reside.

Ragsdill (Ind—Springfield

Heights) said the present property tax rebate to senior citizens from the province doesn't do enough for the senior citizens.

No plan to probe budget system, despite criticism U of M board head says

The University of Manitoba's budgeting system won't be subjected to an inquiry, university board of governors chairman W. Raymond McQuade said Thursday.

Responding to criticism and a call for an inquiry by engineering dean L.M. Wedepohl, McQuade said an inquiry "would be an unnecessary and ineffective use of time, energy and limited funds."

"The present budgetary allocation and control procedures have been in place for three years with minor modifications made in the last two years to improve their responsiveness to university needs. They have provided a mechanism that has allowed the university to operate effectively in times of restraint that is facing all universities."

McQuade also said in his six-page statement the university's financial operation is reviewed annually by the provincial auditor's department.

Wedepohl said in an interview Thursday if McQuade is so sure the budgeting system is inviolate he (McQuade) should have no objection to some other outside group looking at it.

McQuade, a professional engineer and graduate of the university's engineering department, said in the statement that Wedepohl, in his criticism of the university's budgeting, placed undue emphasis on the Canadian Accreditation

Board's decision to limit the engineering department's accreditation to three years rather than five.

The board extended accreditation "for three years extendable to five," meaning a satisfactory written report rather than a visit to the university would be sufficient to extend the period to five years, McQuade said.

Wedepohl said the engineering faculty received \$1,873 a student in 1978, compared with \$1,877 in 1973. The university's total budget almost doubled during that time, he said.

But McQuade said in his statement this calculation is misleading because it omits part-time students and the fact engineering students have to take some arts courses at the arts department's expense.

Several university deans have publicly supported the budgeting system.

Medicine dean Dr. Arnold Naimark said other institutions have used U of M's system as a model while law dean C.H.U. Edwards said the system seems fair, open and efficient. Both blamed the provincial government rather than the university for inadequate funding of their departments.

Wedepohl has been appointed dean of the University of British Columbia's engineering department, effective July 1. "I never want to see the University of Manitoba again," he said.

Two-year-old Transcona girl treated for smoke inhalation, allowed to go home

A two-year-old Transcona girl was treated for smoke inhalation Thursday after a fire broke out in her home.

A Winnipeg fire department spokesman said a fire about 6:15 p.m. caused \$1,200 damage to the kitchen and smoke damage to the rest of the

house at 357 Larche Crescent. The fire was caused by careless disposal of smoking material, the spokesman said.

He said Samantha Granger was taken to Concordia Hospital. A hospital spokesman said later Thursday the girl was treated and allowed to go home.

Thousands unaware they have it

High blood pressure — a very quiet crippler

By ALLAN WILSON

Sixty-thousand Winnipeggers have high blood pressure, "probably the single most important factor" in heart failure and strokes, yet half of them don't know it.

Ewing McDonald, executive director of the Canadian Heart Foundation, said four out of five of those who are aware they have high blood pressure drop their prescriptions or diets within a year of starting them.

As a result of these problems, he said the foundation has started to shift some of its research funding

into discovering how to motivate people to look after themselves.

"When it comes to health, the responsibility lies with the individual. But it's very difficult to get them to do anything about it," he said.

"Tobacco and drug companies are telling you to do something you like to do, and the poor heart foundation is telling you to do things you don't like to do."

Last year, 50 per cent of a total 165,000 Canadian deaths were caused by heart and heart related disease.

Some contributing factors, such as

age, sex and heredity, can't be controlled. But McDonald said the other major ones, including high blood pressure, smoking and excess weight which can be controlled.

"Yet most of us are overweight, and teenagers are still smoking as much as they did 20 years ago," he said.

He attributed the recent increase in running and jogging to some "people taking to heart" the message that they are out of shape.

He said special federal and foundation advertising campaigns only "inform the public, but I don't be-

lieve they motivate more than one or two individuals."

Televised track and field events, and a desire to be more than a sports spectator, are part of the reason for more individual exercise.

Fifteen years ago, foundation research concentrated on child heart disease. Recently, it moved more into high blood pressure and arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).

The main problem with high blood pressure now is getting people to have themselves checked for it, and

then follow medical advice. Research is also showing a relationship between salt intake and high blood pressure.

Recent research in hardened arteries is showing some progress with drugs developed to reduce deposit formation on artery walls.

The Manitoba Heart Foundation will be starting its door-to-door campaign Monday with the objective of collecting \$835,000 this year.

Across Canada, the foundation collected \$10.5 million last year, with total income from all sources of

\$15.5 million. Of this, \$10 million went to research and \$2.5 million to public education. The foundation spends 4.5 per cent of its funds on administration and 5.5 per cent running its campaigns.

While total income has increased 15 to 20 per cent a year, McDonald said there is growing pressure on the foundation to supply more research funds. This is because both federal and provincial funds have been fading with inflation and dropping student enrolment.