



ARTSWEEK

ARTISTAT: Number of photographers taking part in *Photomathon*, an exhibition of works by artists from Guadalajara, Mexico, and Quebec that ties in with the lucky Québécois contingent who will go to the Guadalajara World Book Fair later this year, Oct. 24–26 at Studio Redlight (1881 St-André). 29

Keeping it Riel

Rarely is Canadian history delivered in a package as absorbing as **Chester Brown's** latest oeuvre. Originally released in 10 serialized editions, the local comic artist/historian's *Louis Riel: A Comic Biography* has been fused into a tight unit by also-local publisher *Drawn and Quarterly*.

One of Canada's most controversial historical figures, Riel led the Métis in a 19th-century rebellion against the government, vexing anti-Catholic and anti-French Ontarians while garnering enough support elsewhere to get him elected three times to the House of Commons. He never took his seat though, rather spending his time in exile with a bounty on his head and a growing conviction that he had a religious mission to save his people, causing many to question his sanity.

Brown brings Riel's figure to life in ink in a heavily researched (complete with handwritten footnotes), quick-paced graphic novel. He uses the form adeptly to balance his take on Riel's character with the history of the time, conveying Riel's isolation through image-only frames while using text to reveal elements of plot and politics.

Chester Brown talks about his book with a slide lecture at the TMR library (1967 Graham) on Oct. 25, 6 p.m., followed by a signing at Paragraphe Books (2220 McGill College).

—MATTHEW WOODLEY



HEADHUNTED: A sample from Chester Brown's *Louis Riel: A Comic Biography*