

Chinese cartoons cultivate culture

By MATILDA KENTRIDGE

In China, cartoons are nothing so frivolous as the "Garfield goes on a diet" genre, or so subtle and satirizing as *Doonesbury*. They serve as unofficial government guides to correct conduct and carry on a long Chinese tradition of gentle but firm self-criticism.

Presently showing at the Norman Bethune Art Gallery, *Understanding China Through Cartoons* is a huge collection of these cartoons from one of China's most widely circulated national newspapers.

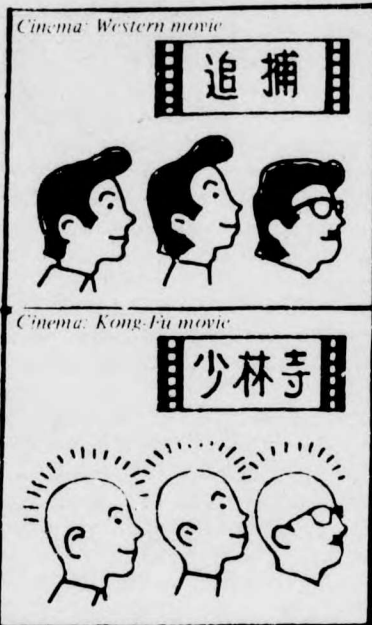
The cartoons are surprisingly simple and the messages are unexpectedly direct. In fact, they offer a wealth of unintentional humor for the Western audience as well as a revealing source of information about Chinese society. A typical cartoon illustrates the problem of foreign influences and preserving a cultural identity. Called "The Rise and Fall of Hairstyle," three self-styled Elvis Presleys are depicted glued to a

television set, presumably in the act of absorbing their Western idol. In the second frame of the cartoon, the same young men have shaved their heads, now adapting to the influence of Japanese Kung Fu films.

Norman Bethune College, as the name suggests, is actively involved with the People's Republic of China. Named after the famous Canadian surgeon who has become a Chinese hero for his work fighting the Japanese invasion in the 1930s, the college has played a major role in convincing Toronto City Council to "twin" Toronto with the Chinese city of Chongqing, which, with a population of 13.9 million, is the biggest city in the world. Bethune Master David Lumsden is leaving for Chongqing on September 25 as part of an official delegation to visit the city which will explore the opportunities and implications of the relationship.

Understanding China Through Cartoons is open from 12:00 until 7:00 on weekdays until September 26.

G.12 Rise and fall of hair style



Chinese cartoons serve as an unofficial guide to conduct.

Sculptures challenge life forces

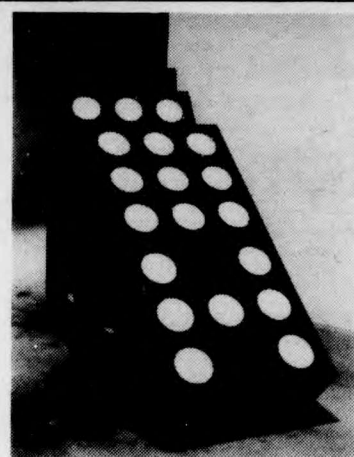
By JANICE GOLDBERG

Situated immediately east of South Ross stands that odd glass edifice known as the Fine Arts Building (FAB). The Instructional Display Area (IDA Gallery), situated in its foyer allows the York community to view work by visual arts students. The gallery provides a non-didactic environment in which to see the products of student creativity first-hand.

Tide and Time, showing at the IDA Gallery from through September 21, marks the culmination of 10 months of work and thought for fourth-year sculpture student Joel Wengle.

The forms of Wengle's sculptures are immediately captivating in their strong, yet basic, configurations.

"Bird Bath" plays on natural forms for its communication. One component of this piece is a wood carving, the shape and texture of which suggest both a bird's nest and a bird bath. The carving is perched on a long vertical rod, the base of

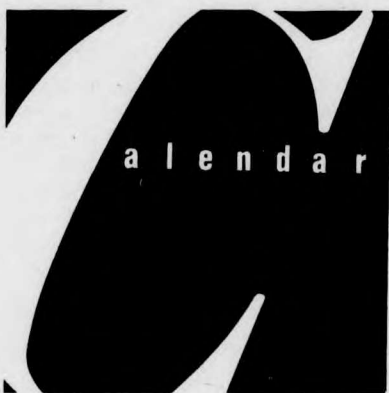


which suggests a menacing talon gripping the floor. Perched atop the wood carving sits a genuine ostrich egg, symbolizing the perfection of nature's forms. Through its juxtaposition of elements, "Bird Bath" fulfills the artist's intent that his works communicate meaning in themselves. Wengle explains that the connection of materials is as important as the underlying meaning in his pieces. The sculptures do not have a narrative basis; rather they challenge the viewer to question traditional ideas of time, energy, life forces, and natural forms. The artist is inviting the viewer to make his own judgement, to create a personal meaning.

In "Wave," Wengle grapples with the concept of a moment—what is a moment? how long does a moment last? The viewer beholds a sequence of monumental dominoes frozen in the transitional moment between standing and falling.

Wengle's "Metronome" reverses accepted ideas of notion, time and gravity. Here the viewer beholds a metronome portrayed as a boat, carried back and forth by the rhythm of waves as the pendulum hangs still, controlled by the perpendicular force of gravity. According to Wengle, this piece challenges "truths" about the human construct of time.

Tide and Time is accessible not only because of its strong simple forms, but also for its questioning of universal, primeval elements of the physical world.



Excalibur's weekly guide to arts events on campus

CALENDAR

GalleriesGalleriesGalleries

Brian Copping Exhibit
Founders Art Gallery
Sept. 23-29

Altered Egos: the Multimedia Work of Carl Beam
The Art Gallery of York University
Until Oct. 6

Objects in Place, featuring work of Robert Macpherson and Yves Rouselle
I.D.A. Gallery
Sept. 23-27

Hannah Sandberg Retrospective
Samuel J. Zacks Gallery, Stong College
Sept. 26-Oct. 10

CALENDAR

Tide or Time, sculpture by Joel Wengle
I.D.A. Gallery
Until Sept. 21

Riel Remembered
Winters College Gallery
Until Oct. 9

Understanding China through Cartoons
Norman Bethune College Gallery
Until Sept. 26

DanceDanceDanceDanceDance

Faculty and Alumni in Performance
Burton Auditorium, Sept. 27: 12:15,
Admission free
Toronto Dance Theatre, Sept. 27-28, 8
p.m., Students \$6

CALENDAR

MusicMusicMusicMusic

Winters College Concert Series, featuring pianist Lawrence Pitchko
Mac Hall
September 26, 8:00

ReadingsReadingsReadings

York Writers In Reading: Susan Swan, Bob Simmons, Matthew Corrigan
Calumet Common Room
Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Winters College Poetry Reading Series:
Stuart Ross, Peter Alexander
Winters Senior Common Room
Sept. 24, 4:00 p.m.



25TH ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

September 19 - Thursday FACULTY OF ARTS—PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT—LECTURE

"Berkeley", Prof. Geoffrey J. Warnock, Oxford University
4:00 p.m.—Founders College Senior Common Room

September 20 - Friday PRESIDENT'S SILVER JUBILEE SYMPOSIUM

"Excellence in a Democratic Society, The Challenge for Universities"

Prof. Derek Bok, President, Harvard University
Prof. Geoffrey J. Warnock, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University
Prof. Brigitte Berlioz-Houin, President, University of Paris IX

2:30 p.m.—Moot Court, Osgoode Hall Law School
Reception to follow

September 25 - Wednesday FACULTY OF ARTS—YORK WRITERS IN READINGS AND PERFORMANCE

Susan Swan, Bob Simmons, Matthew Corrigan
7:30 p.m.—Calumet Common Room

September 26 - Thursday WINTERS COLLEGE—MUSIC SERIES

Lawrence Pitchko, piano soloist
8:00 p.m.—Winters College Senior Common Room

September 30 - Monday GLENDON COLLEGE—SEMINAR

"Les Huguenots a Toronto", Metro Toronto **Seminaire Francophone**

10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m.—
Glendon Theatre

5:00 p.m.—La Maison de la Culture, Glendon Mansion