

# Film-maker Norman McLaren creates visual sound on celluloid

As a volley of paint blots, flying men and multi-dimensional dancers bounced off the screen in Curtis LH-L, the man behind it all, Canadian animator Norman McLaren, explained some of his secrets last Thursday night.

How, for instance, as a student of 20 at the Glasgow School of Art in Scotland he based his first film on a cross-section of a day at the art school. And how John Grierson, the founder of Canada's National Film Board, then with the pre-war British GPO film unit, called the film "technically competent, but a mess of a film".

"He asked me to join the film unit," recalled McLaren, "but made me do documentaries for two years to get disciplined, and learn about film form."

He learned well. From his 1940 Boogie Doodle, hand-drawn on film to boogie-woogie music by Albert Ammons, to his most recent film (1971), Synchronie, in which the visual characteristics of the soundtrack become the picture, McLaren has been one of the world's leading innovators in film form, specifically as it applies to animation.

The evening's programme wove from the pastel method of animation in La Poulette Grise (using continuous dissolves between the different drawings) and frame-by-frame animation of human movement (pixillation) in Neighbours, to the optical printing method of turning one human movement into many in the ballet film Pas de Deux.

McLaren mentioned that one scene

in Neighbours, in which the neighbours' wives and children are battered and sent flying off, was excised from the film for about 10 years because it offended certain sensibilities.

A print of it was retained, but the negative was destroyed. So, when McLaren decided to put the missing part back in as a statement against the Vietnam War he had to "dupe" it off a positive print, which gave the green grass a black and white contrast.

"Perhaps some day I'll fix the rest of the film to look like that," mused McLaren, "to keep the quality consistent."

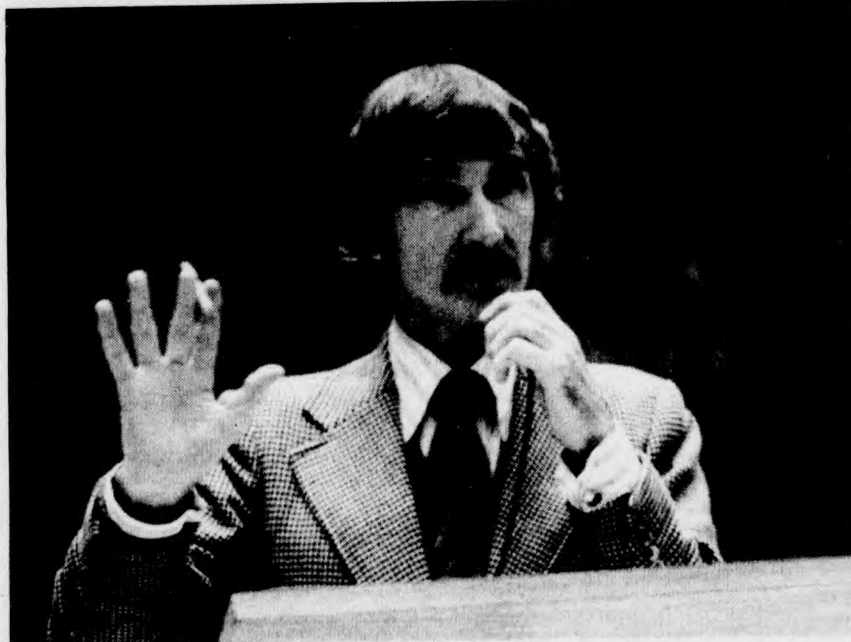
Asked afterward whether there was any form of animation he had yet to use, he replied that he had worked only briefly with computers, but had no urge to continue.

"It would require too much of my time, so I've dropped all work in the field."

For the same reason, he hoped York would be one of his only speaking engagements this year.

"It is very frustrating to be giving lectures when I should be working. I haven't been able to do much work in the last year.

"I decided to speak at York because I'm a good friend of Mr. Beveridge, and the university gave me an honorary degree last year."



The hand of the artist: animator Norman McLaren.



Ashley Deans, Peter Bos and Laurie Fyffe will be present April 3 and 5 at 9 p.m. in Vanier's Open End Cabaret theatre for a mock trial of alleged draft dodger James Ince. Those attending will be able to take advantage of the fully licensed bar, and vice-versa. The audience will be invited to throw abuse and fertilized eggs, and the outrageous \$1 admission charge (the Cabaret is usually free) will go towards a defence fund for Ince. Ince feels that "this money, together with the proceeds from sales of his plastic imitation parrot's droppings, should cover the cost of a package of cigarettes," which gives you an idea of their level of humour.

## On y dansera

York's dance department will present a spring concert of student and faculty works on April 9, 10 and 11 in Burton Auditorium, at 8 p.m. each night. Admission is free, and everyone is enthusiastically invited.

Events for On Campus should be sent to Dawn Cotton, Department of Information and Publications, N817 Ross. Deadline is Monday, 12 noon.

## On Campus

### SPECIAL LECTURES

**Thursday 12:00 noon** - Guest Speaker (English) an entertainment by Michael Horowitz, English Poet and minstrel - 218, Bethune

**12:00 noon** - Spanish Poetry Reading (Latin American Studies) with York Professors Claudio Duran and Margarita Stein and Manuel Gofre from Carleton University - M, Curtis

**1:15 p.m.** - Poetry Reading - with York Professors Adrienne Harris, Penelope Doob and Cindy Fothergill - Art Gallery, York Hall, Glendon

**7:30 p.m.** - E.G.O. Program (Continuing Education) "Planned Personal Change" with Glen Hamilton - general admission \$6.00; \$4.00 for students - 107, Stedman

**Friday 3:00 p.m.** - Faculty of Science Forum - "Canada's Energy Resources, Needs, Options and Policies" by Dr. Gordon Patterson, Chairman, Energy Study Group, Science Council of Canada, and, Director, Institute of Aerospace Studies, University of Toronto - S915, Ross

**Monday 3:00 p.m.** - Guest Speaker (Graduate Studies, Economics) "Work Technology and Social Change" by Professor S.A. Marglin, Harvard University - K, Curtis

**4:30 p.m.** - Biology Seminar Series - "Some Aspects of the Ecology of Sarracenia purpurea and their Pitcher Contents" by Mr. L. Creig, York graduate student - 320, Farquharson

**Wednesday 4:30 p.m.** - Chemistry Seminar Series - "The Cis-effect in Tetragonal Metal Complexes" by York Professor A.B.P. Lever - 320, Farquharson

### FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

**Thursday 2:00 p.m.** - Film (French Language Training 341) "Z" - L, Curtis

**4:00 p.m.** - 4:30 p.m. - Film (Humanities 283) "The Vision of William Blake" - I, Curtis

**4:35 p.m.** - 8:10 p.m. - Film (Humanities 390) "Exodus" - I, Curtis

**7:00 p.m.** - Cine-Participation (French) "Je chante pour..." et "Le Corbeau et le renard" - une discussion suit les films - 129, York Hall, Glendon

**7:30 p.m.** - Film (Film) "The Noah"; director Daniel Bourla will be present for a question/answer period - L, Curtis

**8:00 p.m.** - Concert (Music) "Vibrations," first of a threeday electronic music festival with electronic media and music composition classes participating as well as interdisciplinary students in Fine Arts - JCR, McLaughlin

**8:00 p.m.** - Play (English 253) "Jack or the Submission" - admission 50¢ - Pipe Room, Glendon

**8:30 p.m.** - Play - "The Whipping Boy" - performed by Creation II - general admission \$2.50; \$2.00 for students - Moot Court, Osgoode

**Friday 10:00 a.m.** - Film (Humanities 379) "Chloe in the Afternoon" - 107, Stedman

**7:00 p.m.** - Film (Film) "Earth" (1930; by Douzhenko) - L, Curtis

**8:00 p.m.** - Latin American & Spanish Folklore Festival and Party (Language Studies, Foreign Literature, Latin American

and Caribbean Studies) an evening of songs, dances and music performed by representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Spain - Vanier Dining Hall

**8:00 p.m.** - Film (Winters) "Dr. Zhivago" (Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Geraldine Chaplin) - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

**8:00 p.m.** - Concert (Music) "Vibrations" see Thursday's listing at 8:00 p.m.

**8:30 p.m.** - Play - "The Whipping Boy" see Thursday's listing at 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday 8:30 p.m.** - Play - "The Whipping Boy" see Thursday's listing at 8:30 p.m.

**8:30 p.m.** - Film (Bethune) "Blume in Love" (Kris Kristofferson, George Segal) - admission \$1.25 - L, Curtis

**Sunday 8:00 p.m.** - Film (Winters) see Friday's listing at 8:00 p.m.

**8:30 p.m.** - Film (Bethune) see Saturday's listing at 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday 3:30 p.m.** - Chorale Reading (Theatre 209) from T. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" - Faculty Common Room, Fine Arts Phase II

**4:00 p.m.** - 5:55 p.m. - Film (Humanities 180, 283) "Marat/Sade" - I, Curtis

**Wednesday 3:00 p.m.** - Film (Humanities 173) "Sounder" B. Stedman

**7:30 p.m.** - Student Workshop in Dance (Dance) Studio 3, Fine Arts Phase II

**8:00 p.m.** - Films (Vanier Film Club) "The Sterile Cuckoo" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" - no admission; licenced - JCR, Vanier

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Thursday 10:00 a.m.** - IRISH STUDIES SEMINAR - cont'd.; today's events include: 10:00 a.m. "Poetry in Ireland Today" by Professor Sean Lucy, Chairman - Professor Lester Conner;

11:30 a.m. - "The Northern Crisis" by Professor John White, Chairman - Professor Lewis Hertzman; 3:00 p.m. Poetry Panel with Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Chairman - Professor Eli Mandel; 5:00 p.m. Opening of Book Exhibition, Staff Lounge, Scott Library; 6:30 p.m. Graphic Tribute to Yeats and Joyce by Canadian artists: Jean Townsend and Saul Field; 8:00 p.m. "W.B. Yeats: Plays and Views" an entertainment by the Departments of Drama, York and U. of T. - for locations and registration information call Dr. D.E.S. Maxwell at 2202

**Friday 10:00 a.m.** - IRISH STUDIES SEMINAR - cont'd.; 10:00 a.m. "Distant Kinsmen: Quentin Compton and Stephen Daedalus" by Professor Joseph Ronsley, Chairman - Professor Janet Lewis; 11:30 a.m. "The Novels of Aiden Higgins" by Professor Robin Slepton, Chairman - Professor David Clark; 1:45 p.m. Films - "Dusty Bluebells" and "T.P. Flanagan" introduced by David Hammond, Chairman - Dr. D.E.S. Maxwell; 3:00 p.m. Poetry Panel with Derek Mahon, John Montague, Chairman - Professor Eugene Benson; 8:00 p.m. - Niall Toibin: "An Evening with Brendan Behan" - for further information call D.E.S. Maxwell

**Saturday 9:30 a.m.** - IRISH STUDIES SEMINAR - cont'd.; 9:30 a.m. "Singular Voices: Mologue and Melodrama in the

Plays of Yeats and Beckett" by Professor Andrew Parkin, Chairman - Professor Christopher Innes; 11:30 a.m. "The Irish Short Story" by Professor Walter Allen, Chairman - Professor D.E.S. Maxwell; 3:30 p.m. Poetry Panel with Tom MacIntyre, James Simmons, Chairman - Professor Miriam Waddington; 8:00 p.m. entertainment by Jean Carignan (fiddler) of Montreal - for further information call D.E.S. Maxwell at 2202

**Sunday 7:30 p.m.** - Roman Catholic Mass - 107, Stedman

**Tuesday 9:30 a.m.** - 3:00 p.m. - Christian Counselling & Religious Consultation - call Chaplain Judt at 661-3738 or 633-2158

**9:00 a.m.** - Christian Science College Organization - S737, Ross

### CLUBS, MEETINGS

**Thursday 12:00 noon - 2:00 p.m.** - Y.U.S.A. - general meeting - N102, Ross

**4:30 p.m.** - Monthly Meeting of the Senate - S915, Ross

**Friday 2:00 p.m.** - Information Meeting - for all prospective major students in the department of Computer Science - N624, Ross

**Monday 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.** - Yoga Classes - second session; fee for nine classes is \$14.00 - for further information call Dawn James at 667-3325

**7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.** - Hatha Yoga - JCR, McLaughlin

**7:30 p.m.** - York Bridge Club - Vanier Dining Hall

**Tuesday 7:30 p.m.** - Ontology Club - 118, Founders

### ATHLETICS, RECREATION

**Sunday 1:00 p.m.** - Recreational Soccer - Tait McKenzie

**2:00 p.m.** - Indoor Tennis - Tait McKenzie

**Monday 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.** - Conditioning for Men & Women - each Mon., Wed., Fri. - Tait McKenzie.

**Tuesday 7:30 p.m.** - Scuba Diving Class - S203, Ross

### COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call the individual coffee houses:

Absinthe Coffee House - 013, Winters (2439)

Ainger Coffee Shop - Atkinson College (3544)

Argh Coffee Shop - 051, McLaughlin (3606)

Buttery - Founders (3550)

Cock & Bull Coffee Shop - 023, Founders (3667)

Green Bush Inn - T.B.A. (3019)

Just Another Coffee Shop - 112, Bethune (3579)

Open End Coffee Shop - 004, Vanier (6386)

Orange Snail Coffee Shop - 107, Stong (3587)

Osgoode Pub - JCR, Osgoode (3019)

Pizza Pit - 124, Central Square, Ross (3286)

Tap'n Keg Pub - JCR, Bethune (6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m., Wed.)

Beer Lunch - JCR, Stong (12 noon - 2 p.m., Thurs.)