



Writer Levine is internationally recognised.

Levine manuscripts on display in Scott Archives

Reception honours Canadian author

Ian Bailey
Norman Levine calls writing "an obsession about life". His own life, an obsession with writing, has been stored away with the donation of his private papers to the York archives.

A small reception held at Scott Library last week marked the storage of papers received so far, and gave meaning to the old cliché that time heals old wounds.

In 1958, Levine's critical examination of Canadian spirit, *Canada Made Me*, created a controversy that forced him into exile. Although he has become a writer of international stature in the last two and a half decades, the writing that sustained this reputation came out of his home in St. Ives, England, rather than out of the Canada that inspired it.

Since 1971, after an invita-

tion from first Director of Libraries, Thomas O'Connell, Levine has been donating his personal papers to the York archives.

The negative reaction to *Canada Made Me* (it initially sold 500 copies) made the original manuscript so unwanted by Canadian universities that it was relegated to the University of Texas in Austin. The manuscript for another work, *A Seaside Town*, is stored in the York archives.

Four cases of material organized for display at the reception and now on display in the archives (105 Scott) represent a summary of Levine's career. The collection includes letters to and from contemporary Mordecai Richler and CBC honchos Robert Weaver and Howard Engel. Also included in the intimate retrospective are school notebooks bursting with notes and

rough drafts that represent the gestation of several short stories including "Gifts", a Christmas story due for publication in the December issue of *Quest* magazine.

Levine says that he feels detached from the mass of material. "Once published, novels and short stories have their own existence. I feel detached from them. All these pieces of paper are life support systems for books. It was a shame they should be thrown out." He notes that when he now reads *Canada Made Me*, he feels distanced. "I'm reading it as a reader."

Levine says he was so impressed with the care taken by the York archival staff that he offered his material on a continuing basis. "I don't think they could have a better home."

Levine's material, which will be stored in the tradition-

al acid-free cardboard boxes used in the archive, will take up seventeen and a half linear feet.

But Levine is not the only Canadian literary figure represented. The papers of Margaret Laurence, Mavor Moore and Bill Bissett are also stored in the archives. And aside from storing such York-related material as M.A. theses, Ph.D. dissertations and publications such as *Excalibur*, the Archive stores material from other institutions. All scripts for the CBC's English television network that have been produced since 1952 and their corresponding production records and financial papers are stored in the archive. Recently, the archive also acquired a photograph collection representing shots and negatives used by the *Toronto Telegram* between the years 1925 and 1971.

Conservative M.P. outlines problems in Armed Forces

David Spiro

Last Thursday a group of thirty people heard Progressive Conservative M.P. and defense critic, Alan McKinnon, attack the government's national defense policy, which he argued, has led to a marked deterioration in both Canada's

contribution to N.A.T.O. and the country's ability to defend its borders.

The focus of the two hour presentation, sponsored by the Young York P.C.'s, was a C.T.V. production entitled "Paper Warriors".

In an effort to convince the

viewers that Canada lacks military preparedness, the slickly produced video package utilized various statistics. Per capita, the film asserted, Canadians spend more money on alcohol than on military needs. In fact, the only western nation which spends proportionately less of its gross national product on defense is the tiny grand duchy of Luxemburg. The film points out, that only once during the last five years has Canada met the N.A.T.O. requirement of raising its defense budget by three per-cent per year.

It was argued that the Liberal budget cuts of the early 1970's are responsible for much of the decline in our defense capabilities. As a result of these cuts, which relegated defense needs to low priority status, we, for example, have not one minesweeper in our entire navy, leaving our vitally important harbours vulnerable to overnight blockade. Only a handful of aging destroyers are available to

patrol our lengthy coastline, and even these are in chronic need of hard to obtain spare parts. Cargo trucks, are nearing their thirtieth birthday. The Armed Forces are still using World War II technology in the age of microcomputers and the silicon chip. To complete the gloomy scenario, one survey indicated that one quarter of our junior officers would refuse to fight.

McKinnon contrasted the pathetic state of our armed forces with the Israeli Army's successful mission in Lebanon. He envied the Israeli Air Force's success in destroying the Syrian missile emplacements in the Bekaa Valley, and the downing of scores of enemy jets, without a single loss in aircraft. He doubts whether

the Royal Canadian Air Force would have enjoyed the same degree of success if placed in a similar situation.

Perhaps McKinnon's most interesting words came out of the question and answer session which followed the presentation. When asked if he regarded the new peace movement as a dangerous one, he told the audience that these flower children of the eighties are "well meaning people" but

are "looking for simple answers to a complex problem".

However, he expressed his support of nuclear disarmament, ideally in the form of the establishment of a number of nuclear-free zones. He labelled Pierre Trudeau as a "terrible Prime Minister" and speculated that it would take many years for Canadians to realize the amount of damage he has done to the country.

CYSF meeting postponed

John P. Schmieid

A meeting of the CYSF called to consider the '82-'83 budget failed to reach quorum Tuesday night, and the discussion had to be postponed once again.

Only 10 voting council members were present to discuss the budget for this year which involves projected expenditures of \$224,500 and a deficit of \$19,500. Quorum was 14 voting Council members. The original budget date of October 26 was also an unsuccessful one as the issue regarding social and cultural affairs director (Bipin Lahka-

ni) arose at that time, and council postponed the budget in order to deal with that matter.

When deputy speaker Greg Gaudet announced to council that quorum had not been met, council member Ellen Liebman was heard to exclaim, "Sounds like old times." Gaudet closed by saying, "I think it would be a good idea to have a budget meeting before 1983." The Council member agreed, setting December 7 as the budget date--the final Tuesday before winter exams begin for the Faculty of Arts.

Ellen
&
John

Have you worked for *Excalibur* this year? You have? You made coffee? You made a photocopy? You held the door for one of our writers? Great. You qualify for a Holiday Surprise. Seriously. Come to Room 111, Central Square, Ross Bldg. on Monday Dec. 6 at 3:00 p.m. It's really, really, really important. Really!

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