



Dieter Frosse, organizer of the Media Transient display, held in the Fine Arts building over the holidays. With the assistance of visual arts students, Frosse's event investigated the transference and breakdown of communication media in its seven forms, ranging from video interview to critical evaluation of sketches made from Polaroids of video images.

Liz Taylor flick is only skin shallow

By WARREN CLEMENTS

Ash Wednesday is nothing more than a trailer for a movie.

It promises to investigate the psychological after-effects of extensive cosmetic surgery, which allows a 55-year old woman to appear 35. And it promises to explore the implications of such a physical transformation with no accompanying mental adjustment.

Promises, promises.

The film opens as a 55-year old woman enters a posh European treatment centre. The doctor makes the usual incisions, slices off the skin (chicken fat make-up), and creates Elizabeth Taylor. It's a neat trick.

Taylor enters the rich, decadent world of a Swiss ski resort, meets the resident cynic (an entertaining performance by Keith Baxter) and goes to bed with decadent Helmut Berger (seen in *The Damned*). Her daughter shows up, and we learn that Taylor's marriage to Henry Fonda is on the

rocks. Henry shows up, and sparks fly. Then the film ends.

It's not as bad as it could have been. Technically the film is quite attractive, and the acting and script rise mercifully above the level of soap opera. But the film promises much and delivers nothing.

Is a 55-year old woman's heart good enough to withstand a vigorous 35-year old lifestyle? Will attitudes she has developed during those 20 years present obstacles to block her charade? The film never touches these questions.

"After all," asks the publicity material, "what movie queen, politician or rich society lady (or man) would confess that their furtive 'holiday' in Europe was actually spent in a hospital to erase years from their sagging, wrinkled faces?"

Well if that's all there is to it, who in the world cares?

More of the same

The Sting is charming fluff

By DION McGRATH

The Sting is exactly the film you think it is.

Paul Newman and Robert Redford team up with director George Roy Hill should betray Newman to protect an probably more for prestige than for added star-power, which was already plentiful—and everybody expects a rehash of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Probably no better, but, with any luck, about as good.

And that's pretty much what The Sting is. The dialogue isn't quite as good as in Butch Cassidy, but the plot is tighter and, on balance, they come out about the same.

The Sting gives us Newman and Redford as two con men in thirties' Chicago who team up to swindle Shaw, the gangland kingpin who has had their mentor killed. The rest of the film takes the scheme through a complicated series of plot-twists to its final outcome.

The style and atmosphere throughout are witty and artificial, suggesting more a comedy of manners than a gangster movie (which The Sting is only by courtesy and convention) or a film noir (which it isn't at all).

The best that can be said for the end result is that it's highly entertaining, and the worst that it's unsubstantial. (The one significant moral problem raised by the film, whether Redford should betray Newman to protect an innocent woman, is rendered meaningless by the ending).

By way of contrast, Don Siegel's film Charley Varrick started from the

same initial premise (which in The Sting soon disappears among the increasing complexities of the plots), but managed to generate a thoughtful study of the eclipse of the individual in modern America, as well as an exciting crime drama.

This kind of added dimension is completely absent from The Sting; but Charley Varrick was made, for better or worse, with at least one eye toward Art, while The Sting never attempts to be more than polished entertainment.

A closer comparison could be made

with Michael Winner's *The Mechanic*, a film which works on something closer to the same level. The Sting never achieves the mercurial unpredictability of Winner's film, but does have at least its share of surprises and an engaging charm that is far easier on the audience than the sombre cynicism of *The Mechanic*.

And there's Newman and Redford. For the ladies, as they used to say (though, if my gay friends be any guide, for some of the gentlemen too).

And you can take the whole family.



Contrary to what you may have read in the Globe, the Bob Dylan show provided a highly entertaining evening. Dylan didn't speak a word all night, but each song flowed quickly into the next, and the Band, backing and fronting Dylan, reminded us what a super-group they really are.

Ms America play parodies ideals

By ROSEMARY McCRACKEN

Ms America, playing at the Factory Lab's New Theatre at 736 Bathurst Street until January 27, is a good antidote to annual "Miss" contests.

Written by Leon Rooke, a University of Victoria professor, Ms America treats ideal womanhood with the cynicism of a Jean Genet. The tool for parody in the play is the theme of masks, a convention which has been much overused.

The dual nature of society's ideal woman as virgin-goddess and whore is tackled in an absurd tour de force between the queen of a Miss America contest and a magazine interviewer. Costumes and make-up changes by the two characters reflect the spastic, evolving facets of their personalities.

The queen is alternately a prissy society snob, a swinging freebee, a centerfold model and a stripper. The interviewer examines his relationship as interrogator, lover, son and murderer of the queen.

Despite commendable performances by Nuala Fitzgerald and David Brown and adequate direction by Timothy Bond, Ms America leaves audiences dazed with its heavy collage of "meanings" and schizoid attempts at multi-faceted character revelation.

Phone 921-5989 for times and prices.



The whimsical character pictured above, known to millions of readers as Ambrose the Apple, will kick off Excalibur's new comic page next issue. This is a chance for all budding cartoonists at York to brush up on their line drawings and submit cartoon strips with roughly the same relative dimensions as most daily strips.

All we ask is that they be intelligent, fairly well-drawn, and comprehensible. They can be any sort, either one-shots or continuing serials. Who knows? Maybe even The Humanoids will make a comeback.

On Campus

SPECIAL LECTURES

Thursday 12:00 noon - Lunch-Hour Critic (English) "Some Ideas on Structuralism and Literature" with York Professor H. Girling - S872, Ross.

4:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Philosophy) "Plato's Alleged Theory of Ideas" by Professor Francis E. Sparshott, University of Toronto - S872, Ross.

Friday 8:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Glendon Philosophy Club) "Hume on Intuitive and Demonstrative Inference" by Professor R. Imlay, University of Toronto - SCR, York Hall, Glendon

Monday 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker (Visual Arts) "The Real vs. the Ideal City of Renaissance: the urban development of Mantua" by Mr. Kurt Forster, Stanford University (California) - 312, Fine Arts Building

4:30 p.m. - Biology Seminar Series - a talk (topic to be announced later) will be given by Dr. J. Varner, Washington University (Missouri) - 320, Farquharson.

FILMS, ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday 7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. - International Film Series (Faculty of Environmental Studies) "Frenzy" plus "Sargeant Swell" - admission \$1.00 - I, Curtis.

Friday 7:00 p.m. - Films (Film Department) "Aelita" (1924; by Protazanov), "Interplanetary Revolution" (1924) and "The Peasant Women of Riazan" (1927; by Olga Preobrazhenskaya) - L, Curtis

9:30 p.m. - Orange Snail Coffee Shop - featuring David Newell; Jarman; licenced - 107, Stong.

Saturday 8:30 p.m. - Film (Bethune) Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange" - admission \$1.25 - L, Curtis.

9:30 p.m. - Orange Snail Coffee Shop - featuring David Newell; licenced - 107, Stong

Sunday 7:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. - Film (Calumet) "Sounder" - admission 69¢ - Calumet Common Room, Atkinson

8:00 p.m. - Film (Winters) Roman Polanski's "Macbeth" - admission \$1.25 - I, Curtis

8:30 p.m. - Film (Bethune) "A Clockwork Orange" - admission \$1.25 - L, Curtis

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m. - Film (Humanities 174A) "The Snake Pit" - extra seating available - I, Curtis

5:55 p.m. - 8:45 - Films (Humanities 283) "Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" and "The Golem" - extra seating available - I, Curtis

7:00 p.m. - Film (Film Department) "House of the Sleeping Virgins" (1968; by Yoshimura and Kozabura) - L, Curtis

8:30 p.m. - Performing Arts Series (Faculty of Fine Arts) featuring The Louis Falco Dance Company - tickets are \$7.00; staff - \$5.50; students - \$3.50 - Burton Auditorium

Wednesday 8:00 p.m. - Films (Vanier Film Club) "Once Upon a Time in the West" - no admission charge; licenced - JCR, Vanier

CLUBS, MEETINGS

Monday 3:30 p.m. - Food Service Committee - meeting - 114, Bethune

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

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

ATHLETICS, RECREATION

Friday 8:15 p.m. - Hockey - York vs. Carleton University - Ice Arena

Saturday 2:00 p.m. - Hockey - York vs. Brock University - Ice Arena

8:15 p.m. - Basketball - York vs. Carleton University - Tait McKenzie

Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - Recreational Indoor Soccer - Main Gym, Tait McKenzie

Monday 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Conditioning for Men & Women - Tait McKenzie

8:15 p.m. - Hockey - York vs. University of Western Ontario - Ice Arena

Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - Scuba Diving Class (British Sub Aqua) novice swimmers and qualified divers welcome; membership fee refundable - S203, Ross

COFFEE HOUSES, PUBS

For days and hours open, please call 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 - 108, 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 - e p.m., Thurs.)

MISCELLANEOUS

A display of student works in Printmaking and Design entitled "What are We Doing Here and What's That Thing Over There" will be on view in the Art Gallery of the new Fine Arts Building until Friday, January 18.

Thursday 5:45 p.m. - Comet Kahoutek - the telescope will be available for those interested in viewing the comet - Petrie Science Building Sunday 7:30 p.m. - Roman Catholic Mass - 107, Stedman

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