



- *Giant electric slinky*
- *25 MPH ride through a color spectrum*
- *Foam rubber Buddhas*
- *Wind tunnel*
- *6000 rubber balls*
- *Electric floor*

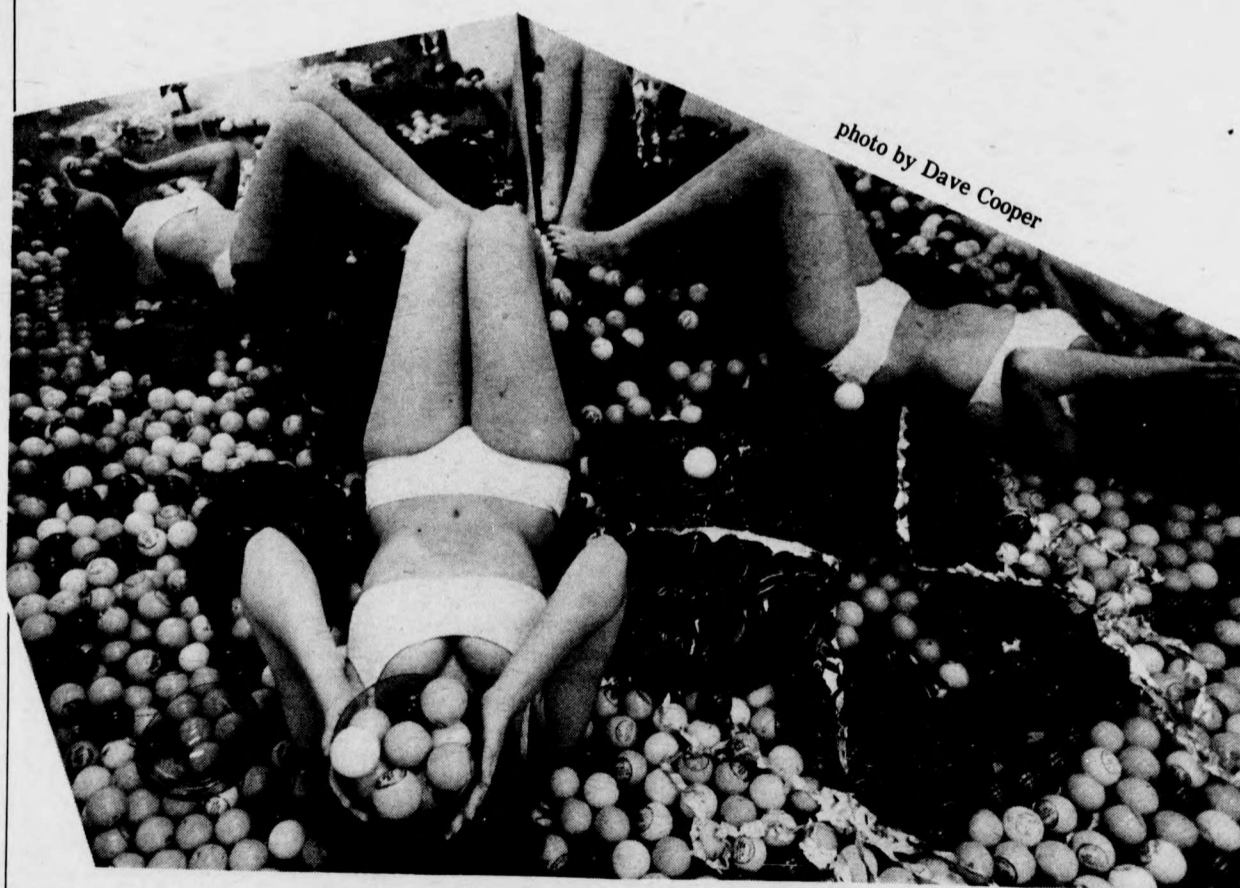


photo by Dave Cooper

The young lady lies among many rubber balls atop a mass of icky black plastic. This has no significance whatsoever. Any relation to Sanity Circus is purely coincidental. But Excalibur wouldn't be itself without graphic material like this.

## Buying a rubber ball can bounce you back to sanity

by David McCaughna

Sanity Circus is a poem.

Sanity Circus is an environment.

Sanity Circus has a ticket that bounces.

Sanity Circus is poem realized via environment.

Everything happening in Winters after Reading Week will be a reflection of the human condition. Sanity Circus is coming.

Described by its director, Peter Bunnett, as an "environment poem", Sanity Circus will weave its way through the halls, dining hall, common room, and lower rooms of Winters for over 1/6 of a mile. It has been budgeted at \$5,000 and is undoubtedly one of the largest and most ambitious undertakings ever put on at York. Already Sanity Circus is attracting attention from the CBC, which is planning to do a show on it, and other important arms of the media.

Just what is Sanity Circus? It is somewhat difficult to describe. It is being modelled on the poem "Enjoy What You Are You What You Enjoy" (sic) followed by an interrobang (the new punctuation mark combining exclamation and question mark). There will be a room to stand for each word in poem.

Peter Bunnett explains what the room ENJOY will be like: "The first door doesn't open but you can go through it to enter ENJOY, which is a large stretched white cotton box. On the floor of this room there are thirty white rabbits. An abstract geometric film is projected down on them from above. The floor is covered with sand. Hanging from the ceiling are toy music grinders with electronic pickups attached so that anyone can make electronic music. You leave this room through a cheap aluminum screen door which has a large cardboard Coca Cola carton inserted where glass should be."

From the first room to the last, the visitor will encounter a giant electric slinky, a 25 mph ride through a colour spectrum, foam rubber buddhas, a wind tunnel, 6,000 rubber balls and an electric floor. When it's all over, you will get a leaflet explaining the interrobang.

If you want to know what you're getting into, there's a model of Sanity Circus on display in 015 Winters, and if you want to be on the inside, the organizers can still use a lot of help. Think of the status!

According to Peter Bunnett, Sanity Circus is not just another place where people gather to listen to Jimi Hendrix. The ideas behind it are more solid and less hysterical than, say, the Electric Circus.

Sanity Circus will open on Tuesday Feb. 25 and will last through Sunday March 2. It will be open from 1 pm to midnight. Tickets, in the form of rubber balls, will be \$2.00.

## Impact of physical reality

Peter Bunnett has been involved with Sanity Circus for almost a year. He explains the relationship of the project to the poem mentioned in the article above.

Sanity Circus is an environment-poem that will cover 1/6 of a mile and two floors of Winters College, York University and open Feb. 25. Its function is to involve a large mass of people in the participation and understanding of the poem.

"Enjoy what you are you what you enjoy."

This shared experience should have the same immediate and positive effect within the university as Expo has had on Canada's socio-cultural situation.

Sanity Circus also reintroduces poetry as a functioning element in mass communication; it seems that the best way to achieve this end is to use the system of communication that we are most familiar with: the media, that is our language, that is our environment.

There is no doubt that Sanity Circus is a primitive and crude vehicle. It replaces the poet's physical image for the immediate impact of an absolute physical reality. But, using the multiple-electric technology as a metaphor for our human condition in the electric age, it speaks to all ages.