

NAKED CAME POLONSKY: Norman

What can one say about a 42 year old prof who loves Plato and the Partridge Family, and is slowly dying from one hell of an ingrown toenail incurred while under the effects of a great deal of alcohol and caused by repeated attempts at kicking down the Humanities Building with his bare left foot?

For Norman, it had been a bad night. He had failed to make it with some woman's lib gal from Osgoode Hall. He had been drunk under the table by a couple of jocks from the third string of the football team. And to add insult to injury, during the kicking episode, a couple of first year long-hairs floated by, squinted at him, and commenced rolling on the grass hysterically, tossing off insipid comments about Ernest Hemingway and Humphrey Bogart and Norman the prof Norman kept kicking.

The next evening, Norman had to lay low a bit, so he went to his neighbourhood theatre and caught for the first time at regular prices, Patton. Well, what with George C. Scott pacing and huffing and snorting as fine as he did, old Patton came to life for Norman, and believe me, Norman was mighty inspired. "Now, there's a man," Norman kept muttering to himself. "Now there's a real man. Wow is that Patton some man."

"Will you shut up in front. Jesus Christ, you can't even watch a movie these days without some flabby old windbag making noises in the show," shouted some dame sitting directly behind poor

Norm. Norm slunk into his seat, spilling his Pepsi into his popcorn as he did so.

The next day Norm, as a good professor should, thought and thought. How can I on this peace and love campus of York University become another Patton? So, Norm sat there musing and skimming through his backlog of periodicals. There were excerpts from Correspondence between General Westmoreland, Groucho Marx and Morley Callaghan — 1966, Confessions of General Dwight Eisenhower — Why I Think My Grandson Is a Wimp, and pieces from more up to date articles like Peggy Lee's I Read Rolling Stone from Cover to Cover and My Name Was Not Mentioned Once so I Knew I was Not Making It Any More so I Cried, and a piece from McLean's entitled I Have So Smoked Grass by Anne Murray.

All of a sudden, Norm shouted "I got it! I too can be head of an outfit. I'll become Master of College G and turn it into a military college for the younger generation and hippies. It will be terrific. All the kids will have to wear jeans and t-shirts as their uniforms and Paul McCartney's latest hit on the charts — Admiral Halsey can be our marching song. Far out. After a few weeks we can challenge the straights from Founders to a gang fight. We'll show them who the real men are. And then we can fight Vanier and Winters and all the rest of the communities on the campus. Yes sir, we'll show them how

relevant college life can still be. I'll be famous. We'll be known as Norman's Maulers from George C. Scott College G... Men.

Would York University ever be the same. The clothing store ordered in 50 dozen berets. The book store stashed away its hash pipes for grenades with Smile engraved on the fuses. The bank started printing cheques with Norman's profile replacing Niagara Falls. The Radio York Talk Show started featuring debates between Norman and the Master of Founders. The newspaper devoted an entire issue to the College Manifesto... Norman's Maulers' The Prisoners of York. Yes, there was almost a carnival atmosphere in the air.

The night before orientation week was to begin, Norman had a dream. He was standing on top of the ramp of the Humanities Building under a huge waving banner on which was printed, Welcome to George C. Scott College — Scavenger Hunt to begin at Noon. But all of a sudden the banner broke loose off the building. And then, defying Western logic and sensibilities the banner actually began to take shape. Oh-God! It began to take on a familiar shape. Oh Mother Superior. It began to take on the shape of none other than Germaine Greer. And she was carrying a considerably sharp carving knife. And she was heading straight towards Norman. As a matter of fact she was heading straight for poor old Norman's Oh Jesus!

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MISCELLANEOUS

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