

Author continued from page 7

one. It's an odd mixture of sycophancy and hostility, actually.

Anyway, the police don't trust them very much.

Throughout the book, despite the fact that they sometimes get rough treatment, the poorer people actually seem to be almost on good terms with the police.

They certainly have a lot more contact with each other, and more opportunity to see each other as people. Also the ground rules are fairly simple on that level. The police are fairly confident of their power too.

They are less confident of their power when confronted with more and more money. Money equals court time and lawyers and therefore trouble.

I never saw a policeman who wouldn't press a charge against anyone that he felt deserved one. But I know that they were braced more for a lot of court trouble from people who had the money to support it.

You wrote *The Wall* in a sort of hard-boiled style. Why was that?

It was the way I felt. The book has no pretensions to being detached; it's a very hot book. When I was writing the book, about

"The book has no pretensions to being detached; it's a very hot book."

the only people I trusted were police.

I spent so much time with them, and saw so much of the city that I didn't like, that I ultimately only felt comfortable around policemen. And I wrote the book to reflect that reality. What it's like to be a policeman.

I don't feel the same way now. You have to withdraw to a certain extent or you go crazy.

Yeh, it's a fairly hot book, but I meant it to be. And I still stand by it. I think it's a good book.

I especially like the story about Hookie-mal up in James Bay.

You like that?

Yeh, that was great.

You know, that's my favorite chapter, and nobody's mentioned it. Thank you.

When I heard that story it just captivated me. It had the quality of myth about it.

Did it actually come out as a monologue like that?

He (the policeman) told the story — just like that — and I recorded it on my Olympus S9101. He's a natural narrator and he just sat down and told the story. It was wonderful.

All I had to do was type it out.

The guy is just a natural. He had done a lot of years, and he was into the stage of his life where he didn't give a damn what I thought of the story. He just wanted to tell it. He was telling it more to himself than anything else. I just happened to be there.

Mind you, we were pretty blitzed too, which tends to make people either incoher-

ent or perfectly relaxed. In his case it made him perfectly relaxed.

Yeah, it was a wonderful story. I was hoping to get it into a film.

Do you have any further plans to write about police?

Not if I can help it. I'm in danger of being typecast. I've got a couple of other books on the line that are rather far afield from policemen.

I don't know whether I'll be able to get it or not, but I've got an opportunity to write about the Cuban KGB and their operations in the Caribbean and Central America. That's with a New York publisher. I haven't secured that — I'm still in the research stage — but that's my main thrust right now. I'm hoping to get it.

A collection of my *Toronto Life* articles is coming out with McClelland and Stewart this fall. It's a book of investigative articles on everything from heroin to the murders of sick kids.

I'm also doing a small book about undercover police on various levels, from the RCMP to private police, dealing mainly with ethical and psychological stress.

CABARETS

DINWOODIE
2nd Floor SUB

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd floor SUB) and various club members.
NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests. Absolutely no minors admitted!

Friday, September 7

Dental Class of '86 presents

DARKROOM

and guests 17 Seconds



Saturday,
September 8,
U of A Men's & Women's
Athletics presents

MODERN TALK

CASUALTY

Friday,
September 14,

Alberta
Farmhouse
Fraternity
presents

CASUALTY



Saturday, Sept. 15
C E Club presents
The
TIM FEEHAN BAND

UP & COMING:

SEPTEMBER: 14 - CASUALTY • 15 - TIM FEEHAN BAND • 21 - 20 FEET • 22 - RANK & FILE • 28 - PUKKA ORCHESTRA • 29 - NEW RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

Human work

Various private and public agencies and organizations are sponsoring the Conference on Human Work, a national employer-employee relations conference to be held September 14 to 16 at the Terrace Inn.

The theme of the conference is the Papal encyclical, *On Human Work*. The conference was scheduled to coincide with Pope John Paul II's visit to Edmonton. Although the encyclical is a Catholic document, conference organizers felt it was "universal in nature and provides an opportunity for non-denominational, non-partisan dialogue on industrial relations."

Attending the conference will be people from across Canada representing the public and private sectors, the ecumenical sector, organized labour, academia, and youth organizations.

The conference will be organized around a series of forums, speeches, and workshops addressing topical concerns in labour relations. Speakers include Edmonton mayor Laurence Decore; former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis; Charles Levinson, Secretary General of the International Federation and General Workers Union; Dick Martin, Vice-President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

For more information and registration forms, call or write to the Conference on Human Work, 11010-142 Street, T5N 2R1, 453-2411, ext. 297.



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