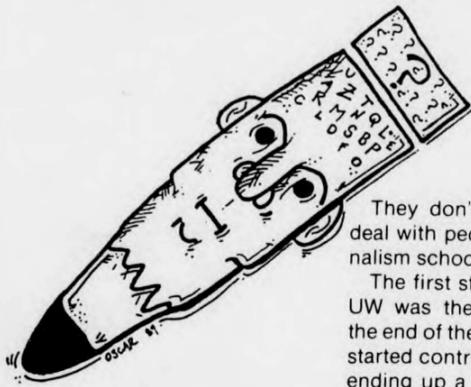


the writer's block



Ira Nayman is a York student with vast experience as a writer. Ira has written numerous newspaper columns as well as dabbling with CBC television and radio.

by Ira Nayman

THINGS THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN JOURNALISM SCHOOL,#1:

He was tall and blond, with stereotypically chiselled features. He came from a wealthy family out west (Calgary oilmen, I heard). He drove a blood red sports car. He dated a high school cheerleader.

He was an ardent member of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist).

One night I was working late at *Imprint*, the official student newspaper at the University of Waterloo, when Larry rushed in the front door. He shouted that we were all tools of imperialistic capitalists and that we were going to be buried by the historical correctness of Communism. I, being young and impressionable, freaked out. Liz, the editor, wasn't impressed — she had been through this (and worse) before.

They don't teach you how to deal with people like this in journalism school.

The first student newspaper at UW was the *Chevron*. Towards the end of the 1970s, CPC (ML)ers started contributing to the paper, ending up a substantial minority on the staff. To ensure they got their way, they would argue (under the guise of "full and free" debate) until enough of the regular staff members (mostly volunteers) lost interest and left. Only then would they allow a vote on what direction the newspaper would take. Crude, but remarkably effective.

Eventually, the Marxist-Leninists elected their own editor, effectively taking control of the *Chevron*. To this day, I do not understand why they would want it. The international struggle of class against class never seemed to turn on control of a student newspaper at an obscure university in a small town in a middle-power nation. But, then, there are a lot of things I don't understand about Marxist-Leninists.

(For that small number of you unfamiliar with the various schisms in Communist thought, Marxist-Leninists believed that both Russia and China had abandoned the true path of Communist enlightenment. The CPC (ML) ideal was that flower of the Adriatic: Albania. Yes, Albania, the poorest and least developed country in Europe. President Enver Hoxha must have choked on his cabbage rolls laughing...)

I arrived on the scene during *Imprint's* second year, after all the

excitement had died. Well, most of it, in any case. The Communists sent one of their members to keep an eye on us: Brigid made the necessary contributions and became a staff member. The silly thing was she never fooled anybody: long analyses of how the university administration was threatening the workers' revolution by charging tuition fees tended to give you away.

So, while Brigid was spying on us, we were really pumping her for information about the health of the *Chevron*. They were publishing from off campus, and we were eagerly awaiting word of their demise. When we were not doing our little bit for the Cold War, we also managed to get a newspaper out every week.

Not having learned from their experience with the *Chevron* (I guess when you have history on your side, you don't have to pay attention to your own life), the CPC (ML)ers tried to infiltrate the Waterloo student union. Each member was sure to take a course at the university, so they were eligible to run for student office because they were still technically students.

Suddenly, student union meetings went on far into the night. Yet, somehow, it just wasn't the same.

Now, some people have suggested that my opinions are extreme. While I may not hold a lot of mainstream views, I have had experience with true extremists. And (RCMP take note), I totally rejected their views.

The *Chevron* did not wait for Enver Hoxha's death in 1985 to have its own upheaval: it stopped publishing years ago. The last I heard, Larry, Salah and a couple

of others started a highly profitable video magazine.

It's sad when people lose their youthful ideals.

artscalendar

compiled by Kristy Gordon

The Ties That Bind runs at the Atkinson Festival of Fine Arts until March 15. The exhibit features the work of York faculty and students — **Carol Laing, Jean Maddison and Yvonne Singer** — focusing on the historical, social and artistic forces that bind and push women to the edge of the artistic world. Catch this exhibit in the Founders Art Gallery (enter through room 206/207) Mon-Fri from 10am-10pm and Sat from 11am-4pm.

Glendon Gallery presents *Little Travesties* running until March 18. The gallery is located on the Glendon campus and is open from Mon-Fri from 10am-4pm and Sun 1-4pm.

Don't miss the March 2 Graduate Programme Colloquium featuring **Professors Austin Clarkson and David Lidov**: "The Body in Music/Music in the Body." DACARY Hall at 2 pm.

Make plans to catch the **Scott Little Band** with special guest Big Ska Country on March 16 at the Glendon College cafeteria. Doors open at 8pm, admission is \$4 for non-Glendon students.

James Coleman's work is coming to the AGYU! This contemporary Irish artist features one of his major works **BOX**

(**Ahhareturnabout**) where the past, present and future are fused into a simultaneous experience. The use of sound track and visual presentation encourages the audience to anticipate what is not yet seen and then recognize what has already been described. If this sounds a little confusing, check it out for yourself in the AGYU (Ross N145) until March 30. The gallery is open Tues, Thurs and Fri from 10am-4:30pm and Wed from 10am-8pm.

The Women's Centre and the Womens Studies Programme Arts and Sciences and Atkinson College are sponsoring a **Femfest for International Women's Day** on March 8. Set aside some time for **NESIS**, a 10-piece all-woman band singing about inequalities and racism in styles ranging from reggae to jazz to folk on March 8 from 6-7pm in the Stong College JCR. From 7-10pm (same day, same place), **York students' poetry, prose and videos** with feminist themes will be performed, followed by **THE NANCY SINATRAS**. This band will give a lesson on "love, lovey tunes and marvy melodies."

The Winters College Art Picture Gallery present a photo exhibition *Women at York: The Project*. The display runs from March 8-16.

If you want 16,000 pairs of eyes reading about your event, please bring your listing to the EXCALIBUR office and drop it into the big manilla envelope on the arts board.

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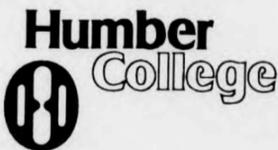
That's how the Toronto Star recently referred to a new breed of college program offered by Humber College, and designed specifically for University and College graduates.

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