

# Comic Jam shut out

BY CHRIS YORKE

What do a Star Trek convention, a music festival and a hurricane have in common? The weekend of September 13th. And something seems to have got lost in that whirlwind of events: Halifax's first-ever honest-to-God zine conference and/or comic jam.

(editor's note: a review of the Jam by Neil Fraser was cut due to space constraints the week after the On Music Festival.)

Sunday afternoon saw Woodwood's Industrial Cafe transformed from a drab goth hang-out to an explosion of colour and activity. Photocopying bums became self-publishing gurus for a short and perfect moment. But you didn't see that on TV. You didn't hear that on the radio. Hell, you didn't even read it in the damn paper. Until now.

So where were our news crews when this little bundle of history came down the chute? Out chasing ambulances and getting footage of fallen power lines, that's where. The media has always treated zines as a novelty, a fad, without ever addressing the possibility that it may be more of a way of life than a state of mind. A bad zine may be a subject of ridicule, but a good one CAN PAY YOUR RENT. Believe me, I'm there.

The copier is your friend, your pet. It helps you spread your own unique message, it repeats what you say a hundred, a thousand, a million times over. And we all know that if you say something enough times, it becomes the truth. We are dealing with a group of people who create truth here, folks! And if that's not dangerous or exciting enough for the mainstream media, maybe it is time to give up.

That being said, the importance of this particular event was that for once the warring factions of Zineland laid down their arms and partied together peacefully. This brought our town up to speed with big cities like Toronto and Montreal where coherent

scenes congeal and printed forms of expression flourish in all their myriad manifestations.

Responsible for this were Earle Terry and Calum Johnson, the latter of whom seemed to receive the lion's share of the credit for the gathering. Over 100 screaming zinesters were reported to have attended this micropress fair.

As well as feasting their rabid eyes upon copied offerings, their auditory canals were treated to performances by Al Tuck, Stinkin' Rich and the Motes. The Halifax On Music festival has adopted the event and everyone has agreed to come back next year for more.

Even those familiar with the zine world had cause for surprise, as a gaggle of new releases were showcased. Some of the more prevelant were:

SHUFFLE #5 (\$1.00 c/o Editor E, 1596A Robie St., Halifax NS, B3H 3E6)

This is the last printed incarnation of this particular publication, so also my last kick at the can before they go on to do the posthumous "Audio Zine". I guess



I might miss it but God knows why. Every issue looks the same inside. It sucked up to the Truro music scene. I wanted them to try harder but they wouldn't. They were starting to get

into the artsy philosophy stuff but it was too late to save them from slacker hell.

BAKEAPPLE #4 (\$0.50 c/o Dan Walsh, PO Box 34014, Scotia Square RPO, Halifax NS, B3J 3S1)

New issue, same recipe. One poem per booklet, accompanied by clip art. The writing in #3 was, to use a tired cliché, Bob Dylan on crystal meth in the Museum

of Industry. This one was less gripping, but had a nicer cover.

TALLY #4 (\$1.00 c/o Heather, 6356 Summit St., Halifax NS, B3L 1R9)

More sycophantic music business propaganda. Includes a good — if somewhat incomprehensive — venue directory of the city, some bad

ripped-off social justice cartoons, and lots of "I wish I were a hardcore feminist but I'm too repressed so I'll just suck up to any woman I find who gets more attention than I do" sentiment throughout. Love it.

MARCUS SAID #1 (\$2.00 c/o Julie Wesolowski, 334 E. 25th St. Apt. 509, New York NY, 10010 USA)

I don't know. I guess it was disappointing to me that the best thing that two girls from the Big Apple could make a zine about were indie rockers from Nova Scotia that I see every other day hanging out on Spring Garden. On the other hand I can see it as a tribute to the greatness and dominance of our fair town's culture, both far and wide. But really, what's new? I can't find it in myself to get hyped up about an exposition of loud, out-dated/over-rated music played in hot smoky shitholes full of gluttonous alcoholics and lost children. Many can. And who's to judge?

So there you have it. The amazing freedom of self-publication awards you with near-limitless creative power. It all depends how you use it. For some folks it's a lack of vision, others a lack of courage, and still others a lack of taste. I'm just dying to see the next developments from our budding youths, to hear an emerging voice that says something worth listening to. I'm waiting for the miracle to come. Join me in my vigil! See you next year at our very own down-home comic jam.



## Spiritual Satisfaction

A Return To Love

by Marianne Williamson

The nuclear family is an endangered species. Society's morals are quickly disintegrating, and to top it all off, our churches are failing us. Religious leaders are being convicted of embezzlement, sex crimes and other unthinkable. We are left with no crutch to fall back on, few guidelines on which to base our lives, and in a desperate struggle to find some sort of spiritual identity.

That search has taken many of us, myself included, to books, searching for the author who has all the answers. I read The Celestine Prophecy and The Tenth Insight. I even bought the darn Experiential Guide. I still felt empty and even more confused. Then my friend lent me (well, more precisely, she demanded that I read) *A Return to Love*. I read the title and dismissed it as a "girly" book. I read it anyway, just to please her.

I could exaggerate and say the book changed my life — that it had all the answers. I will say honestly that it made me feel a whole lot better.

*A Return to Love* is not a story. It is not a book of rules, nor is it a book of answers. It is a book of reflections on another work named *A Course In Miracles*, published in 1975 by The Foundation for Inner Peace, Inc. The author, Marianne Williamson, has been studying and teaching the course for over a decade.

"We think we authored

God," says Williamson, "rather than realizing that He authored us. Because we are angry and judgemental, we have projected those characteristics onto Him. We have made up a God in our image." What Williamson does through her book is attempt to rid our minds of this negative image. She tries to teach us that God is love, and therefore following God is simply to act out of love.

"Love in your mind produces love in your life. That is the meaning of heaven." Deep, isn't it?

*A Return to Love* uses the Principles outlined in *A Course In Miracles* to teach us how we can act out of love in all aspects of our lives. Williamson doesn't say, "Love your enemies because the Bible says you should," she tells us how to love our enemies without compromising our morals or our pride.

This is the most practical book on philosophy or religion I have read, and I've read a lot of them. I have since read two of Williamson's other books, and they get even better. I've also begun to study *A Course In Miracles*.

*A Return to Love* is not a 'girly' book — be prepared to take it seriously. It will lead you on an intense but spiritually satisfying self-examination. Read it. You deserve it.

NATALIE MACLELLAN



## MARCUS SAID

## MAGAZINE

ISSUE #1  
FALL 1996  
\$2.00

The Zine with the cherry on top!

FEATURING INTERVIEWS WITH:



THRUSH HERMIT



SUPERFRIENDZ

PLUS: SEX, DRUGS, and MERCH

VIEWPOINT: PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

## NS LINKS

### Student Internship – Investment Pays

Eager to put your skills to work? Worried about obtaining career-related work experience? Interested in earning tuition money?

**NS Links** can help. **NS Links** is an internship program that gives post-secondary students the chance to gain practical work experience through wage-subsidized work placements with employers throughout Nova Scotia.

**NS Links** is a partnership among the Department of Education and Culture, Human Resources Development Canada, Nova Scotia Economic Renewal Agency, and Nova Scotian businesses.

For more information on how you can earn while you learn, contact your campus Student Services Office or the Employment Office today.

Canada

NOVA SCOTIA

## ACADEMY OF LEARNING

Computer & Business Skills Training



YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS BEGINS HERE!

Academy Of Learning gives you more reasons why you should choose the system with the best record of successes.

### CERTIFICATE COURSES

- WordPerfect - Excel - Lotus - DOS - ACCPAC - Windows - Word For Windows - dBase - PageMaker - Corel Draw - Works - Typing - Office Procedures - Bookkeeping - and more.

### CAREER DIPLOMA COURSES

- Data Entry Clerk - Office Clerk - Word Processing Clerk - Accounting Clerk - Administrative Assistant - Executive Secretary - Computerized Accounting - MicroComputer Business Applications - MicroComputer Software Support - Business Office Skills

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING: Days - Evenings - Saturdays  
Over 130 Centres Across Canada

WEST END MALL, Corridor 1  
6860 Mumford Rd., Hfx.  
455-3395