

EXCALIBUR

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Censors defended

Toni Elkins

On Tuesday, Mary Brown, chairperson of the Ontario Film Censor Board, held a lecture and seminar at York. By detailing its mandates and objectives and discussing some specific instances of censorship in Ontario, Brown attempted to defend the Board against its media propagated image as a group of scissor happy Puritans.

Brown denied that the Censor Board bases its decisions on paternalism, but rather on the documented concerns of the majority of people in Ontario. It is, she said, the object of the Board to reflect the community's opinions by classifying and, if necessary, censoring films for public viewing. She said that the concerns of the majority dictate to the Board that there should be censorship in three areas:

- sexual exploitation of children
- excessive and prolonged violence
- sex and violence in combination.

In the past year, according to Brown, the Board has censored scenes from low budget porns depicting such things as: nails being driven into vaginas, castrations, and rapes of children. The more high profile and controversial acts of the Board have included the clipping of *Tin Drum* and *Luna*. Brown explained that in the

former, a scene in which a 12-year-old boy was involved in oral sex and copulation was censored; in the latter, a scene portraying explicit incest involving a 14-year-old boy was cut.

Under Brown's direction, the Ontario Film Censor Board is assuming a new format. Comprised of 20 to 25 members that work on a rotating basis, the new Board will be more representative of the population and will include several people between the ages of 20 and 25.

According to Brown, the most important function of her Board is the classification of films for public viewing. She cited the example of the controversial film *Not A Love Story*, which is shown commercially in the province of Quebec. The Ontario Board, however, decided to classify it as an educational film which may only be shown when it is requested from the National Film Board. This reflected the Censor Board's concern that the

Brown said that it was necessary to realize that Canadian Censor Boards were set up to administer the federal government's policy of censorship. The Ontario Board, she said, serves to protect the polled interests of the community; it reflects "not the right or the wrong, but the representative concern."

Amnesty holds vigil

Michael Monastyrskyj

Members of Amnesty International from York's main and Glendon campuses will participate in a vigil this Friday on behalf of disappeared political prisoners.

The vigil, to be held downtown at the Holy Trinity Church, is part of Amnesty International's global campaign to highlight the plight of people who according to government sources are missing, but whom Amnesty International believes are being held by the state.

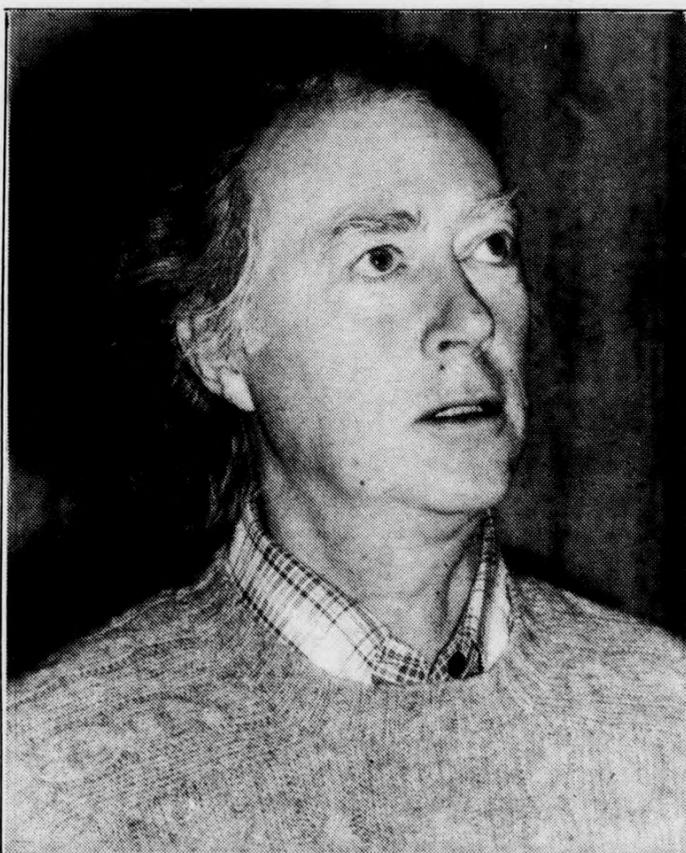
The term, "disappeared" is a

translation of the Spanish word "desparecido" and was coined to describe practices of the Chilean military regime that came to power in 1973. Aside from Chile, disappearances are prevalent throughout Latin America, parts of Africa and certain middle eastern and Asian countries.

The vigil begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a concert. There is a suggested donation of five dollars, which will be used to support the work of the Toronto Office of Amnesty International. More information can be obtained by calling 593-1219.



As staff photographer Mike Albu learned from this assignment, some people just like winter—and some are just stupid.



Avant garde filmmaker Michael Snow visited York this week.

Uncut Snow

Gary Cohen

Avant garde filmmaker Michael Snow brought his special brand of cinema to York this week.

Snow, 52, was on campus for a screening of his film *Wavelengths*—a 45-minute journey through sight and sound. Sometimes grating, often surreal in its effect, but always interesting the film marked a crucial point in the sculptor/photographer/filmmaker's career. Looking like a mad-hatter with pudgy-blue, beagle eyes Snow explained the motivation behind his film.

"I was trying to do something definitive in the medium," says the film purist. "Since then I've found out that there are other things to do. It is a well kept secret that the materials of film are light and time.

"I shape light and pretend to shape time. *Wavelengths* deals with the essential nature of the medium."

Students fight apartheid

Cathy Moffat

A rather unresponsive group gathered around the bear pit in Central Square on Tuesday afternoon to hear the views of Chris Swart and Trevor Bailey, from the South African student union NUSAS. Both representatives have been sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Students to speak to students in Ontario about the situation of their struggle under apartheid in South Africa.

"Canadian universities should try to provide scholarships for black South Africa students," said Swart, former president at Natal University in Durbin of the National Union of Students in South Africa.

"The general consciousness of the Canadian people needs to be raised as to the situation in South Africa," said Swart, who also believes that Canadians should peacefully pressure the South African government for the abolition of apartheid.

The NUSAS was founded in the 1920s and consists of only white students. In the 1930s the Afrikaners formed their own group, and in 1969 black students split and organized a distinctive student union. These segregations Swart explained were due to the fact that the NUSAS could not serve the needs of black students. "For blacks to regain human dignity they needed to free themselves from the white-dominated union," said Swart.

Asked if the black consciousness movement is "progressive", Swart responded that in South Africa the term "progressive" is equated with Marxism, and that therefore he did not feel that the black movement was progressive.

Trevor Bailey, the acting president of NUSAS at Natal University, stressed the reality of intensive security that pervades all aspects of life. The union has had to move away from visible protest of apartheid because of the restrictions on the right to assembly.

The black universities in South Africa advocate that "the only language white men understand is violence," said Swart, and hence many black students have seen violence as the only alternative. For this reason many blacks and some whites cross the border and join the forces of the Africa National Congress (ANC).

The military issue is also a very real concern for the white South African, said Swart. Every white South African male must serve two years in the government military. Some dodge the draft and several Christians have refused on the basis of faith, but the majority of white men still continue to consign.

The future of NUSAS is

precarious. The government is continuously disbanding all types of "unions". Bailey revealed that there was talk of an inquest into NUSAS activities by the government, but he feels it will be difficult to ban the Students Representative Council (SRC) because it is constituted in the University statutes. The government has succeeded in banning some of the leadership of NUSAS, but has not destroyed its credibility.

Segregation continues nevertheless, with the English whites, the Afrikaners and the blacks in their own distinctive organizations. There is only one group, the Students Union for Christian Action, that is multi-racial.

The right wing of students has not yet mobilized, and Swart feels that they have little chance of organizing in the near future because "they don't have leaders that are bright."

"In South Africa students who come to university don't stay right wing very long," said Swart.

Chile changes education

Michael Monastyrskyj

Chilean students and their education system have been transformed in the years following the overthrow of Chile's democratic government.

Frances Valverde, whose family emigrated to Canada after the 1973 coup d'etat, emphasized this theme during a talk given Tuesday at Vanier College. The former York student returned to South America in 1980 and says, "It's like day and night, the difference."

Appearing at York as part of a

tour organized by the Student Christian Movement, Valverde told an audience of ten people that before the military takeover, "Chilean students were very aware, perhaps too aware," but today's teenagers, who were very young when General Pinochet took power, have little or no knowledge of politics.

Working with high school students on behalf of the Student Christian Movement,

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