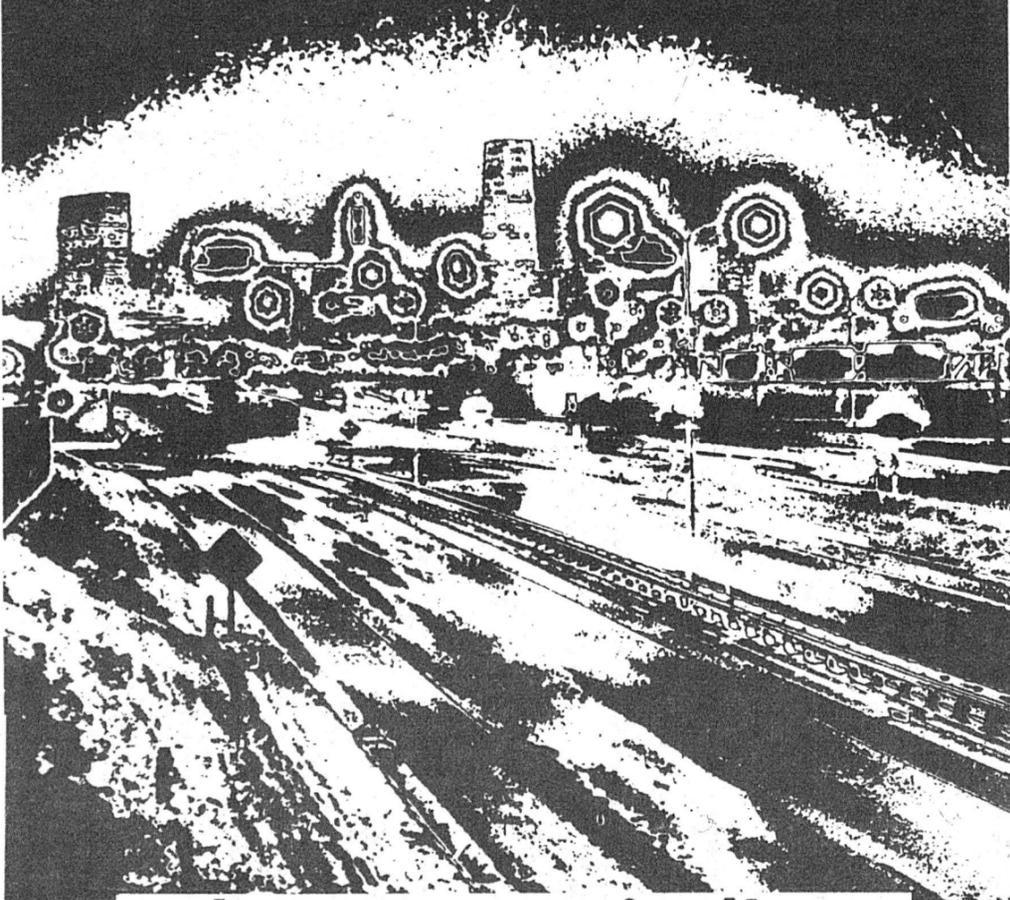


DOWNTOWN

presents

"THE RUSH HOUR"

two shows daily
morning and evening



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Graffiti:

an Apocalyptic Vision

Gone to the bathroom lately? Of course you have. More specifically, have you visited any of those fine facilities the university provides for us? Then again if the reply was negative to the first question clearly it is Ex Lax you should be searching for and not a far-flung washroom.

What exactly graffiti has to do with 'saving the world' is not entirely clear even to the befuddled author of this treatise. Perhaps that's precisely the point. Washroom graffiti is the great leveller or the plateau of poetic justice, telling us nothing and sometimes saying everything. It does not profess to save the world and rightly so. To the anarchistic spirit roaming the washroom walls there is no answer.

A tour of the U of A washrooms reflects all of the graffiti 'highs' and 'lows'. The Education building is a suitable starting (ending?) point. Witness; "Eduvac - a person who through education has created a vacuum in his head." Or how about, "Half the people in the world are below average - think about it."

If indelible ink doesn't work try scratching in:

"Here I sit in fumes and vapors,
the guy before me used all the papers.
Should I sit or should I linger
Oh hell, I'll use my finger"

Tantalize the curious with a cryptic "QU QT, INVU". And then there's "69 - the breakfast of champions" - would Vonnegut approve?

There's something missing here though. Maybe it's those grotesque scrawlings of pendulous breasts, gargantuan cocks, and other aimless tidbits mingling with the wit. Despite the irreverent and vicious nature of the artwork it is exactly the kind of zany and surreal illumination that's needed. And it doesn't provide any answers either.

Does SUB? The womens' washroom proved to be a veritable beehive of activity. "Nurses are indoctrinated"/"Women can unite in struggle and in love. Sisterhood is beautiful."/ "Reality is a crutch, not a ladder!"/"Seven whole days of sex makes one's whole weak"/"Semen is a pigment of your ejaculation"/"Kenny M. fucked Suzie K." Round of applause for all those women of wit. Shall squatter's rights forever reign supreme!

The men are far more prolific and imaginative graffiti guerillas. For instance, one gentleman, in reply to the question "Should cubicles be censored?" astutely noted that "it depends on the price of grapefruit." That was his statement, his daring comment upon life. It reminds me of;

"Here I sit
Broken Hearted
payed my dime and only farted
yesterday I took a chance
saved my dime and shit my pants!"

Such beautiful concern and symmetrical articulation of the anal functions. Surely it revels in the limelight of its own rhythm, all the time hinting at the cathartic release for his whole electrified being.

The humorless walls of the Engineering washroom (B32 A) were rescued from some unimaginative depths with "a fool wanders, a wise man travels." A stalwart soul skulking through the basement washrooms of Science managed to pen "Virgin walls I desecrate, Come and get me Hounds of Fate." Well done. The fumes and the mounting pressures must have totalled potential physics contributors. Their offering: "98977". Phooey.

Let us not despair. There is *some* quaint eloquence and charm to be found on those slabs of stainless steel.

"There is absolute justice
in the experience
that each of us
is having
every second
of the day." (Education)

If that completely misses the mark there's always; "Existentialism is the contraceptive of the mind." (Arts)

The choicest piece of graffiti has yet to be exposed, though. IT can be found in the innermost regions of the Rutherford Library. Pass through that oak-panelled door of the men's washroom downstairs and pace over (pirouette if you wish) to the farthest stall. Make yourself comfortable - take a few test runs. Then, when the mood strikes, glance up at the door. Before you will loom 5 words. The power and magnetism of the 'big 5' will drain you of all manner of response. The words: "The big Push is on." It says it all.

Kenney, Schuler & Kenney