

CYSF Orientation Extravaganza

Spoons, Bannerman and Ceedees

Paula Todd

As you sidle into lecture hall, trying to shake the glow from long, warm evenings and sunny days when you had nothing better to do than monitor the progress of your tan, take comfort in the knowledge that the CYSF has planned a few events to help ease the pains of adjustment to brisk fall days and book-laden arms.

As part of the Orientation '82 programme, they've booked enough entertainment to keep you out of class. On Thursday, September 16, Burton Auditorium will play host to the Spoons, a Burlington band that has shot to the top of the charts with their EP *Nova Heart* and is currently experiencing an open-arm response across Canada, especially in Vancouver. They are a quartet of

Nova Heart

young people (one's still in high school) who had the good fortune to meet John Punter, a big-time British producer who heard them while he was here with Japan. What followed is another version of the Cinderella story set to music. Under his guidance they got the EP and their latest album, *Arias and Symphonies* together and have embarked on a college tour before they leave for

New York. Now that they've signed with A&M for international distribution, a solid future is ensured. They'll hit York near the end of their Ontario tour and just before the October 1st release of the latest LP. Their gig is the inaugural performance for the new CYSF Concert Series planned for Burton this year.

Jazz Band

On Friday, September 17th something called an "Orientation Extravaganza" will happen in the Central Square Bearpit. Beginning at noon, Radio York will reintroduce itself and warm up for the Geoff Young Jazz Band scheduled to play at 1:00.

At 2:00, a Master of Illusion, Mike Carbone will entertain with "comedy and fire eating"—this you'll have to see to believe.

A little later, before or after the man burns up, the well-known Yorktones will offer their calypso sounds; you'll see this band around often as they are York's unofficial musicmakers.

On Saturday, the 18th, the Ceedees, a Toronto-based band that is currently making the downtown

bar circuit will open for the Maja Bannerman Group. The latter is centred around a female vocalist whose new wave sound makes for excellent dancing. Both bands usually have their audience on their feet within a couple of songs so it's appropriate that they'll be the entertainment for the Orientation Dance in Founders Hall.

In conjunction with the Orientation festivities, the CYSF Reel and Screen film series is hosting a free cinema crawl for all the indefatigable Yorkites who converge on Curtis Lecture Hall "L" in the Ross Building, September 18th at 7:30 p.m.

They'll show the Academy award winner, *Network*, starring Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway and William Holden and a film by York film graduate Alan Novak called *Mondo York*. As well, two shorts—*The Three Stooges* and *Krazy Kat* will be screened.

The Reel and Screen's new manager, Howard Goldstein, has already programmed an impressive film lineup. Upcoming movies include, *Altered States*, *The Shining*, *Cat People*, *Ragtime*, *The Tenant*, *Body Heat*, *Montenegro*.



The Ceedees are coming to York next week: Curtis, the man behind the band, plans to come in from the garden for the show.

Photo: Himbara

Nothing Choice about The Chosen

Paula Todd

Choosing to see *The Chosen* is like betting on a horse that has just won the Queen's Plate: safe. This film is everything a "classic" should be.

Based on the novel of the same title by Chaim Potok which was published in 1967 and which has since become a "staple of contemporary Jewish literature", the film explores the division within the faith -- that it is the Jewish religion detailed is of little importance; the script is a formula that could have been effective with any subject.

Take two young boys grappling with adolescence and place them in the midst of a religious and philosophical conflict, add the basic plot of boy meets boy, hates boy, reconciles with boy and learns something about himself and the world in doing so, and you have the key to a successful film. Successful, if you measure that quality in terms of box office returns and the few tears shed in the darkness of the screening room and quickly forgotten afterward.

Potok's novel deals with an Hasidic boy (played in the film by ex-basketballer, Robby Benson) seen here complete with ringlets and

contrived accent whose inception into the ultra-orthodox sect of the Jewish faith is a painful one, and another Jewish teenager whose father writes secular literature to which the Hasidic Jews are opposed. The novel details the intellectual blossoming and intense curiosity of the two as they come to terms with the implications of a faith which simultaneously divides and unites them.

Potok uses this fragile and slightly transparent plot to explain, in detail, the specifics of Judaism. It is more a religious tract that it is literature, but Potok is able to weave the delicate threads of youthful rite de passage well enough to hold a reader's interest to the novel's end.

The film, however, makes the mistake of acknowledging the cinematic inadequacy of the almost non-existent plot line and swerves dangerously far from Potok's intent. *The Chosen*, therefore, is an overly sentimental and cliched depiction of what it seems to be to grow up Jewish.

That any religious or social group could have been substituted for the one selected is, perhaps, the film's

greatest flaw. At no time does the film concentrate successfully on the specifics of the religious conflict; secular questions are not well enough explored to be intellectually stimulating, and the attempt to "beef up" the story line results in slow motion scenes of traditional dancing at weddings and a totally fabricated portion about gun smuggling to

Israel.

It is not surprising that a special release of the film in 1981 for a benefit marking the 33rd birthday of Israel raised \$5,000,000--this is the ideal treatment of any group; here, it is a polite, superficial and carefully coiffured look at what it can mean to be Jewish. This is the dress you pull out for company, the best china in which you serve them tea, and the faded photographs you pass around

for wistful reflection: attempts at hard-hitting religious investigation are brushed aside like the annoying crumbs on the tea table.

That the filmmakers predicted a ready-made audience with certain expectations is obvious; what could have been a brave investigation of religious conflict and adolescent discovery is instead a muted (albeit pretty) look through the picture window of a Jewish family's home.

CYSF

MOLSONS AND CYSF PRESENT ORIENTATION '82

Thursday September 16/82 8:30 p.m. Burton Auditorium

THE SPOONS with Special Guest from England John Otway
Reception with the band to follow.

Ticket Price: \$6.00

Friday September 17/82 **ORIENTATION EXTRAVAGANZA**
Bearpit, Central Square

12:00 p.m. **Radio York Live**

Join the festivities of the new old new Radio York featuring **COUNTDOWN '82**.

1:00 p.m. **Geoff Young Jazz Band**

Come and listen to the finest in new jazz.

2:00 p.m. **Mike Carbone**

Master of illusion, comedy and fire-eating.

2:40 p.m. **Yorktones**

Let York University's very own calypso steel band entertain you.

Saturday September 18/82 8:30 p.m. Founders Dining Hall

Dance featuring two of Toronto's finest groups, **The Maja Bannerman Group** and the **Ceedees**

Tickets: \$4.00

REEL AND SCREEN free opening night presents academy award winner *Network* — Best Picture, Best Actor '76. Starring Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway and William Holden. Plus York film graduate Alan Novak's satirical short on life at York *Mondo York*... and *Three Stooges*... and *Krazy Kat*...

Watch for upcoming features: *Clockwork Orange* and *Altered States* — October 2, and *Shining* and *Wolfen* — October 9.

Next week

in Excalibur:

Interviews with the

Spoons, the Ceedees

and Maya Ban-

nerman. And a look

at the Festival of

Festivals.

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