

The Toronto Folklore Centre is crammed with beautiful instruments like this. photo by JOHN OUGHTON

TFC shows the labour of love

By BOB MARTIN

My first impression of the Toronto Folklore Centre (284 Avenue Rd.) will not soon be forgotten. Just inside the door, the walls are covered by numerous photographs and posters; there is a large picture of Ian Tyson and his son, another of Judy Roderick, and a poster for the 1964 Mariposa Folk Festival. (The Mariposa office is on the third floor.) Mary Rosenthal quietly strums his guitar from Spain (like Segovia's) and mentions that he is the newest member of "the family". Marty, who teaches classical guitar at the TFC, also helps Paul Hornbeck (who plays old time music and Bach on banjo) manage the store.

As this impression would suggest, the TFC serves many different purposes. In a workshop a few blocks from the Folklore Centre, Jean-Claude Larivee builds guitars which are in great demand in many parts of the world. (After having played one, it is not difficult to understand why.) Besides Larivee's guitars, there is a wide variety of old and new acoustic instruments and the TFC repairs instruments. Interesting miscellaneous articles range from records and instruction books to parts and pennywhistles.

There is a quantity of wood, instrument makers' materials and kits for the do-it-yourselfer, and lessons are available on banjo and guitar. However, information is central to the TFC; the people are friendly, but most important, they are interested.

The proprietors of the TFC are Eric and Marty Nagler. Eric has been involved in folk music for years, and Marty is the former Martha Beers of the Beers Family, and thus both of them contribute a vast knowledge of folk music and folk instruments to the Centre. On Bruce Cockburn's second album, Eric provided accompaniment on three songs, and Marty sings in the chorus on Cockburn's new album. The Naglers have been performing for CBC Radio; "Bringing Back The Future" will be aired December 20 (FM) and December 24 (AM). They also appear occasionally at Grumbles and Fiddler's Green.

The success of the TFC is due to many things: the Naglers themselves, and the notion of a "family" working together comes to mind; but probably more than any other factor, the Toronto Folklore Centre is a success because it is a labour of love.

Different concepts in two new galleries

By JOHN OUGHTON

Two important new galleries have opened within a few yards of each other in the Yonge-St. Charles area. Both of them provide services not previously available to the community. The Toronto Gallery of Photography, at 10 St. Charles St. W., run by former York student Jerry Shiner is the first Toronto gallery devoted specifically to photography to be open at all regularly. Around the corner is the A Space Gallery, an ambitious, multidimensional concern initiated by The Nightingale Arts Council to serve artists and art "which tap the resources of nearly all disciplines."

The Toronto Gallery of Photography is "devoted to the exhibition and encouragement of contemporary photography." The gallery is quite small, but its simple furnishings and plain white walls allow room for a respectably sized showing without undue crowding of the prints. One senses that Shiner is a little overly serious about the function of the gallery; carefully written on the wall is something to the effect that "this spot marks the completion of the repainting of the walls of the Toronto Gallery of Photograph — 1971 A.D., 140 A.N. (after Niepce), an important date in history of Canadian photography."

This impression, however, is offset by the nature of the present exhibition, which features the work of Leslie Krims. Krims is fascinated by the grotesque aspects of humans and their selfmade world, by the visual moments in life which flash absurdity and mystery. Krims is an excellent darkroom technician. His prints are faultless in appearance, and often employ tricks such as montage and superimposition. As a result, some of Krim's photographs seem a little too contrived; most of them, however, are startling, funny, and make definite statements about contemporary man.

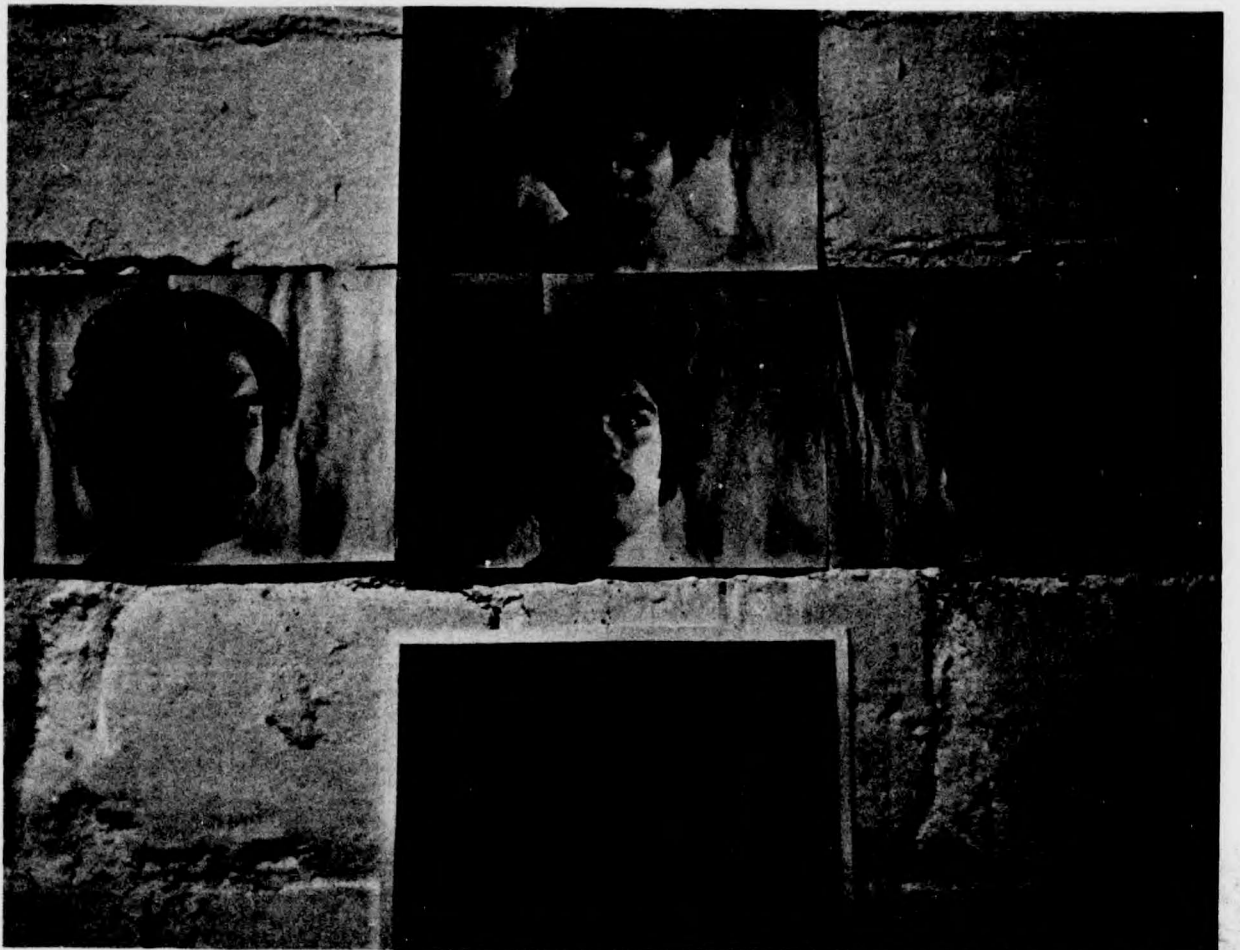
A Space at 85 St. Nicholas St. comprises a whole bag of artistic

services. The upstairs part of A Space is a large gallery. Downstairs is the Cafe, "a neutrally charged space within an otherwise charged space", which is meant to function as source of income for the gallery's other services, and a meeting place for people in the area. The A Space Library, at the back of the Cafe, which tries to concentrate on Canadian art and artists. There is also the A Space Press, for printing and distributing books by artists, and The News sheet.

In addition, A Space has what they call "videospace." The gallery has a complete 1/2 inch video unit which it loans to local artists, a film-makers and theatre groups. The gallery hopes to soon have enough equipment to allow loans of an entire unit to interested groups. Videospace also includes workshops in the use of video, and a library of experimental videotapes.

All of the concerns run by A Space are non-profit. The gallery does not have a fixed program of showings for any great length of time. Instead, "anyone may apply for the use of A Space and its resources for periods up to three weeks." This is really the case. When the gallery had its grand opening, there was no show on exhibition. Someone named Joseph Pepiano walked in and showed the proprietors his work; he was immediately given an exhibition. Most of the pictures were contact prints of a young boy with a mannequin; interesting, if a little repetitious.

Now showing is a video environment by Sam Carter entitled "Summer Numbers 1-10". The people at A Space are friendly, and sincere about what they are trying to do. Toronto badly needs a gallery which cares about experimental art and doesn't care about trying to make money out of it. If A Space can keep going, it could provide a focus for the living arts in Toronto which could greatly enrich everyone's cultural experience.



One of the exhibits at A Space.

photo by JOHN OUGHTON

Lysistrata coming

Dramatic experiment at York

By RON GRAMER

About two o'clock Tuesday afternoon a few weeks ago the area outside of the Central Post Office was silently invaded by a group clothed people in shirt tops and black tights.

Suddenly one of the group began to harrass another, seated on a bench reading an Excalibur. The reader was pushed poked and jostled while tension built all through the room. Silence reigned. A girl got up and quickly left the room. The fight started. Provoked beyond endurance our gentle reader began to cry. The combatants were barely able to keep a straight face, but the spectators sucked it all in — almost to the last.

At the end of the exercise the actors received tumultuous applause from some and an astonished Oh! I get it! from others.

This was not an experimental guerrilla theatre group that had invaded Ross Square but part of a class exercise by York's Fine Arts department.

These dramatic experiments which include mime, tumbling, special awareness exercises and rehearsals in giberish are leading to three free performances of

Lysistrata beginning December 10th in Burton Auditorium.

Already wardrobe artists are putting the final touches on gigantic phalusses and obscene pillows in the shape of female breasts.

Lysistrata, a two thousand year old women's lib sexual anti-war farce, boasts everything from soup to nuts. The women, in order to stop the war ruining Greece, go on a sex strike until the men sign a peace treaty. Within days there is an uprising all over Sparta and half of Athens is convulsed. The men are aflame, but only the women can put out the fire.

Posters advertising the play, use the winning design from a contest by York Art students.

Another experiment will be a presentation of projects by York Fine arts students in any medium to be held in January. Students will be given this time to mount works of art, plays or multi-media medium and can conscript professors.

Lysistrata is a class exercise and is not intended to be a finished production. It merely puts into practice some of the things students work on in the classroom.

Staff meeting today at
5 p.m.—
everyone welcome