

ARTS

Fusion of styles make One balanced sound

by Trevor Campbell

One at the Bamboo

"What were you doing on the evening of Jan. 16?" Will be the question asked as a possible prelude to any discussion about the Middle East conflict. My answer will concern the writing course I attended as the war started, the numerous news pro-

Canadian reggae rocks hard

grams I watched with great scepticism, and the reggae band called One, which I saw at the Bamboo.

In light of my disappointment and anger that evening, I was hesitant to go out and listen to music. But then I figured that light entertainment would offer relief from the frightening reality of war.

One describe themselves as a "Rockin' Pop Reggae" band that has played extensively around Ontario for a year. Their hard work becomes evident through their stage presence and sound which combine a bass-heavy groove with youthful exuberance. The moment they began their first set I realized that this seven-piece band understood the dynamics of a balanced sound.

From the bassist's thumping beats to the horn's brash resonance which served as powerful back ups to the vocals, One instilled a dance-happy mood.

Chris Taylor (lead vocalist and a York alumnae) states that One's

mixture of reggae with ska, rock and rhythm and blues comes from the band's introduction to Jamaican music through such groups as the Clash and the Rolling Stones.

After hearing and enjoying this fusion of styles, Taylor and the guys (separately of course) wanted to find out who the composers of this laid back dance music were. Their search lead them to a glut of reggae recordings which turned them on to the music.

Considering reggae's lack of appeal with Canadian record companies, I wondered how One figured on achieving the popularity which they desire.

According to Taylor, the band's blend of popular dance styles makes this music accessible to people with diversified tastes. He also added that since One is a full-time outfit, with a record and video out, they are willing to relocate if necessary.

The crowd of predominantly young school-types at the Bamboo

that night, took a couple of songs to warm up, but eventually packed the small dance floor with their gyrating bodies.

Taylor, long of hair and full of energy, used his strong voice to entice the audience. Unfortunately, I found his rap, especially between songs, too hurried and lacking the dynamics needed to sustain the energy of the music. It seemed that he was attempting a Canadianized form of Jamaican patois which fell flat.

This point, concerning attempts at assuming another dialect and its failure, raises the issue of mis-directed energy.

The Hopping Penguins, another local reggae/ska/rock-play-whatever-sounds-good band, whom One has previously backed, have a similar style, but execute better.

The Penguins attempt at Jamaican patois and use of frenetic dance succeed because they are comfortable with their act, while One's front man seems awkward with his — granted his over-all performance works and the rest of the band exude

a good natured and comfortable energy that drives their music. However Taylor's flailing-pogoe-dance style accompanied with his pseudo-Island rap might be more suited to some other music style.

This argument was reinforced when part-time member Ken Montague (who played full-time until his dentistry profession became too much) sang late in the set. The music behind him did not differ at all but the over-all sound took on a different character.

The music cohered into a powerful blend of West Indian groove and vocal stylee that stopped me in mid-sentence. Similar to a sail boat which enjoys a breeze but wants a steady wind, Montague became the wind needed to blow this One boat.

Either way, regardless of the singer, (percussionist/back-up vocalist Paul Brundtland another York alumnae), should be included here. One's reggae sound should be heard. Their mixture of straight ahead reggae, both original and covered, with other dance styles provided the stuff that happy feet are made from.



compiled by Trevor Campbell
GALLERIES

From Jan. 16-Feb. 17, the Art Gallery of York University, (N145 Ross) presents *Get Real*, an exhibition of photographs by Philip-Lorca di Corcia, Nan Goldin and Jack Pierson.

The I.D.A. Gallery presents a *Graphics Area Show*, from Jan. 28-Feb. 1. For gallery hours call 736-5169.

The Glendon Gallery presents *Zones*, an exhibition of works by Shirley Yanover, Sylvie Belanger, and Ginette Legare. The show runs from Jan. 16-Feb. 15.

Glendon College's *Maison de la Culture*, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. (at Lawrence), features photo montages by Pierre Guimond on Jan. 17-Feb. 14. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 12pm-4pm, and Thurs. 6pm-8:30pm.

The *Winters Gallery* (123 WG) presents *Sexual Identity*, recent paintings by students of Renee Van Halm. The show runs from Jan. 21-Feb. 1. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 12-3pm.

The *Bethune College Gallery* will show recent works by Andrew Dold, Stas Orlovski, Steve Kerr, and Paul Gallent from Jan. 21-31.

The *Samuel J. Zacks Gallery*, located at 109A Stong College, features Paul Walty's *Tumuli* from Jan. 21-Feb. 1.

THEATRE

Theatre at York presents *Full of Flame and Crying* at the new *Studio Theatre*. The show previews on Feb. 3 and 4, and runs from Feb. 5-9 at 7pm, and admission is \$6 for students/seniors and \$8 for others. Please call the box office at 736-5157 for further information.

Theatre Glendon presents Erika Ritter's award winning play *Automatic Pilot* on Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Glendon College is located at 2275 Bayview Ave. and tickets are \$4 for students and \$5 for others.

CONCERTS

Dr. D and The Midnight with special guest *The Tom Barlow Band* play at Calumet College's *Atkinson Dining Hall* on Feb. 1. The doors open at 8pm with a cost of \$10 for tickets in advance and \$12 at the door.

The student run *Art Supplies Store* in the Fine Arts Lobby, ext. 44704, is selling tickets for the *Toronto School of Art's, Feb. 4*, benefit bash. The cost for this attraction-filled event is only \$6.

TRIPS

The Fine Arts Department is preparing for its annual *New York Trip* on Feb. 20-25. Call Dawn Abercrombie at ext. 55135 for details.



ANNOUNCEMENT TO NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

INTRODUCTION OF THE \$300 SCRIP MEAL PLAN

The **Food Services Department** is very pleased to offer a scrip meal plan for non-resident students. Food purchases made on the meal plan are **P.S.T. (8%) and G.S.T. (7%) exempt**. You may purchase this meal plan from:

**Scrip Office, Room 104, East Office Building
MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

REQUIREMENTS:

- Students must purchase the full \$300 scrip plan.
- Payment must be made in cash or certified cheque.
- Students must present valid York University Sessional Validation Card.
- All sales are final — there will be no returns or refunds.
- Students must take the full amount of scrip purchased, at the time of purchase.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SCRIP EXPIRES ON 7 MAY 1991.

The expectation is that this meal plan will cover 10 meals a week over a one-month period.

FINAL DATE OF PURCHASE IS 5 APRIL 1991.