

LETTERS

letters cont'd from p. 4

Curator critical of critic's comments

Editor,

In regards to Len Cler-Cunningham's review of *Alma Duncan: Men at Work* (July 16), a few points must be cleared up.

Yes, York University did lose a good director/curator when Elizabeth McLuhan left, however, like most public art galleries, our exhibition schedule is filled two years in advance. *Alma Duncan: Men at Work*, is an Elizabeth McLuhan exhibition.

I agree in part with Cler-Cunningham's opinion of the show. Installing an exhibition of work by one artist, in one media, of one theme covering a forty year period was a difficult task. Duncan's stylistic developments are not as perceptible as one might think. To hang the show chronologically, as you suggest, would have appeared unfair to Alma Duncan.

I would not presume to tell Mr. Cler-Cunningham how to do his job. I would only suggest that in the future, when reviewing/criticizing a show, a short interview with the person in charge would clarify facts and alleviate the need for speculation.

The new Director/Curator of the Art Gallery of York University was announced in the *Globe and Mail* in the first week of July.

Unless otherwise announced, there will be Elizabeth McLuhan exhibitions until the end of 1988.

Regards,
Robert J. Alton,
Administrative Assistant,
AGYU

AGYU exhibition significant event

Dear Sir,

Len Cler-Cunningham's review of Alma Duncan's recent exhibition at the Art Gallery of York University (*Excalibur*: 14 July 1988) seems not to grasp the significance of this artist's work.

Alma Duncan is one of the few Canadian artists who have successfully come to terms with the *Machine Age*. Along with Fritz Brandtner, Louis Muhlstock, Carl Schaeffer and Frederick B. Taylor, she has confronted one of the overweening realities of our age in a style that captures the physical power of machines, and which points to their ability to dominate and control. Of course, not all of the drawings are a success. Some of the early figures are unconvincing, but the geometry of Duncan's machine forms is almost always intriguing.

Amongst these paintings, one finds some of the most revealing images of Canada's industrial landscape. *Industrial Hamlet* (1947) is reminiscent of the subordinate status of workers' housing that is also evident in Lawren Harris' *Miners' Houses, Glace Bay* (1925). *Sunlight and Steel* (1956) makes good use of pastel to capture the murky atmosphere of Hamilton's steel mills. Here there is a parallel with L.S. Lowry's images of industrial Lancashire (especially the centrally placed chimney). *Steel, Clouds and Blast Furnace* (1985) presents Stelco's Nanticoke plant as an icon of the modern age which is suggestive of a launching at Cape Canaveral.

Realism is an important element of twentieth century art, a useful counter-balance to some of the more abstract post-modernist schools. It is a proper part of AGYU's agenda. I doubt that AGYU has the resources to mount the comprehensive exhibi-

tion depicting the history of Canadian industrialisation that Mr. Cunningham seems to propose. Besides, Rosemary Donegan's exhibition, *Industrial Images*, currently touring Canada does almost precisely that. By presenting this exhibition of Alma Duncan's work, AGYU provides York University with a glimpse of a Canadian artist who has been largely successful in capturing the tensile linkages between machine, man, and environment.

— Yours truly,
Glen Norcliffe

CYSF lobbying late-night transit

Editor,

During the last CYSF electoral campaign students overwhelmingly voiced their concerns regarding the extension of late-night TTC among other issues.

Students rightly complained about being stranded at Wilson Station as well as having to walk across campus at very early hours of the morning.

I made a promise to confront the TTC on these problems and I am happy to inform you that we have made some progress. During the summer, CYSF lobbied the support of all our area politicians and ministers. The TTC received letters of support for our efforts from our MP Bob Kaplan, Councillor - Ward 5 Maria Augimeri, Controller Howard Moscoe, Mayor Mel Lastman and Minister of Colleges and Universities Lyn McLeod.

This certainly made up an impressive list of politicians that are on our side.

However, the test comes on September 20th. This is the showdown date where the true confrontation takes place. After the TTC investigated our situation it determined that the campus was adequately served.

On September 20th, it will be our job to prove that when it comes to late-night service we are not adequately served.

CYSF now needs your support in the form of letters to the TTC. By exemplifying your own experiences and troubles with the late-night service, the Commission can get a better idea of how many people have been affected.

So please address all letters concerning late-night TTC service to: Jeffery Lyons, the Chairman
1900 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario,
M4S 1Z2.

These letters will be admissible to the Commission and our presentation.

You may also take heart in the Student Federation initiative to improve lighting on our campus. This is yet another issue that many students have been concerned about.

I thank you for your attention to these matters.

Joe Zammit
Vice President External
CYSF

Parking tickets unfair to students

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter because we feel that what follows might be useful to other people.

The two of us bought a car this summer for a more than reasonable price (under 2000 dollars). Even though we got it for a very good price, it was still above the means of the poor students that we are. The fact is that because of our purchase, we have been quite broke all summer long. In fact, we were so short of money that we could not afford the sticker for parking. So we did what many people do, we parked the car in one of the parking lots at York.

Because of the top quality security

staff that we have on campus, we soon found ourselves with four parking tickets. At 15 dollars, the ticket doubling within two days, we have to pay 120 dollars for the privilege of parking at York. As many people already told us, we would have been better off in the first place had we paid for the sticker. Anyway, we could not afford the price of the sticker, let alone the astronomical fines . . .

A few days ago, we wanted to get something that was in the car. We looked desperately for the car and then we realized that it had been kidnapped by a private towing company gently called by York security. What was the ransom? Seventy-two dollars cash . . . But we are poor students . . . No reduction for students: either you pay or the car stays with us.

The thing that bugs us the most is that the money for retrieving the car does not even go to York University but to "profit-thirsty" business people. Furthermore, we cannot park on campus anymore unless we pay for our fine (120 dollars) and a bright new sticker (70 dollars), i.e. roughly speaking 200 dollars (towing not included). As a result, our car is now sleeping outside of the University, exposed to nasty towers and North America's largest police force.

It seems to me that the students and university staff who have had the same kind of problems as we have should get together and boycott the parking office by refusing to pay their parking tickets. Perhaps the inhuman parking policy of the University would change as a result of such an action.

names withheld upon request

Flagellé speaks

Editor,

Why do they call them taste buds anyway?

—Jimmy Flagellé

JJSF

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Monday September 12 - 9:00 A.M.
6:30 P.M.
Tuesday September 13 - 9:00 A.M.

Yom Kippur

Tuesday September 20 - 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday September 21 - 9:00 A.M.

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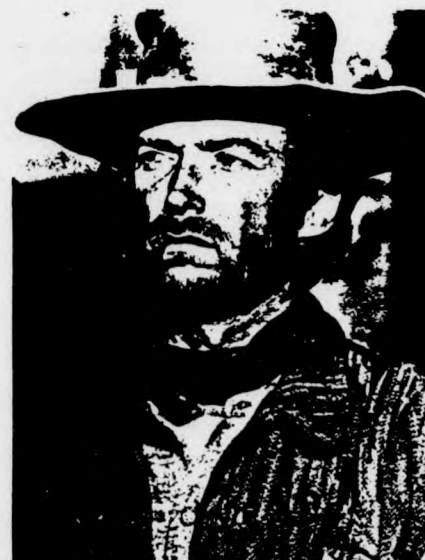
The Grapevine (part of the Diamond)
410 Sherbourne St.
Admission: \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door

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When the going gets tough, the tough get bowling!

Thurs. Sept. 15
7:30 p.m.
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