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The day that René came to York



Story By Paul Stuart
Photos By Gary Hershorn and Bryon Johnson

Misguided idealist. Visionary nationalist. Father of His Country. Media pinup.

They've slapped a million labels on René Lévesque. But on a sunny, windswept, chilly April 7—York students got a chance to make up their own minds about the Quebec premier, when he strode into Burton auditorium and held a capacity-crowd of about 660 (plus an overflow of 200) in the palm of his hand, as he made his case for an independent Quebec.

Lévesque was in Toronto to open a Quebec government office, make a

public address and do a CBC interview. He asked York president H. Ian Macdonald for a chance to appear on the campus because, says Macdonald, "he was anxious to be exposed to a cross-section of the Toronto community."

True-to-form, Lévesque was an hour late. When he finally arrived he was introduced by Macdonald as a man whose story is a "chronicle of self-discipline, initiative, and above all of conviction."

When Lévesque got to the podium he told the crowd that Confederation was a mistake that has never been corrected:

"Canada was, I remind you, the first country set up by committee. That was the time of the industrial revolution, of people setting up corporations. So we set up a country like we set up a corporation—the board was consulted, but the common shareholders had nothing to say about it."

Lévesque maintained that the French and English have never seen eye-to-eye on confederation. He said that if you look at history, the English wanted a strong central government in 1867, whereas the French were more interested in protecting their own culture. He lamented "the perpetual tension" stemming from this misunderstanding, which, "eats up energy, resources, time and creates real bad blood between the two cultures."

The implication is that with an unhappy marriage dissolved, the two partners can develop a mutually satisfactory friendship. He promised there would be a "free flow of goods and services" between Canada and Quebec after independence.

As to his government's controversial language legislation, which has given many grave doubts about what the new Quebec would be like, Lévesque was blunt. He conceded that it is "obnoxious" to regulate language, but said that any Quebec government, including one headed by Liberal Leader Claude Ryan, would have no choice but to protect the French culture with restrictions on English.



A couple of weeks back, President Macdonald took time out to talk to Excalibur about the Lévesque visit. A staunch federalist, the man who made Lévesque's visit possible explained his own views on the Quebec issue.

"My two propositions," said Macdonald, "are that the rest of the country should show real sympathy to Quebecers, so that they know from where they sit that we're interested in keeping the country together."

"And that we be serious-minded about coming to grips with the problems, and not lapse into a reactionary mode because someone comes up with a proposal and we haven't done it that way before. That's what really frightens me."

Macdonald, the understanding federalist, agrees with Lévesque on one basic point: that Quebec independence is a real possibility. Asked if he believes the rest of Canada could remain independent of the U.S. if Quebec separates, Macdonald refused to play the prophet.

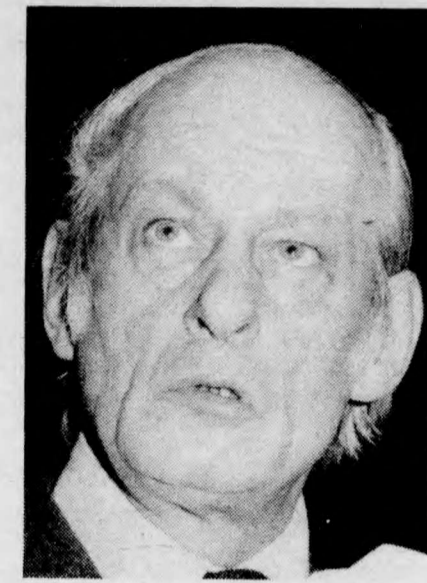
"In the first place I don't think there's any precise, clinical answer. It's like asking if you could survive losing an eye or a leg.

"I think life in Canada would become more complicated, and I'd be concerned about the plight of the Atlantic provinces with Quebec independent. But institutions, countries and nations adapt. I suspect it's a question of attitude, not inevitability."

Incidentally, Macdonald feels that there is "a tug-of-war between the independence referendum and the federal election. I can think of no other explanation for Trudeau's recent behavior."

The Burton crowd went pretty well ga-ga over Lévesque and, according to Macdonald, the premier seemed surprised at how calm his reception was. It is likely that with exams slated for the following week, the crowd viewed the visit as diverting entertainment, rather than an occasion for hard debate.

Lévesque went back to the province which used to describe itself as *La Belle Prouince*, and five months later we still don't know



much about the referendum. One sometime gets the impression from William Johnson, the *Globe and Mail's* Quebec correspondent, that the Parti Québécois' leadership is just another bunch of sly politicians, trying to manipulate public opinion as best it can to stay in power and win the referendum.

But nobody at the *Globe*, or *Maclean's*, or *The Star* gives the PQ's view equal time. As expressed by Lévesque at York, the PQ position is that "eventually there will be a better understanding of the change in Quebec, which does not reflect some sort of radical, nationalist ruling government, but represents a deep, very deep majority feeling."

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New wave punks crash downtown clubs

By: Michael Korican

A poster screams, *You look for paradise but the Viletones look back in anger.* The performers go under aliases like *Trixie Danger*, *Mike Nightmare* and *Patzey Poison*. Their music is loud and vigorous and driving. They're punks that live and play in Toronto.

Since its exploding emergence in London and New York during 1976, spear-headed by bands like the *Sex Pistols* and *Ramones*, punk has

venue, a basement at Pearl and Duncan affectionately known as *Crash 'n' Burn*, which thrived until its condemnation a year last month. A handful of bars, the fringe of country and western and disco entertainment, converted their premises and became punk palaces.

Usually, these changes merely meant booking new acts — the *Horseshoe*, at Queen and Spadina still has wagon wheels on its walls.

Some punks claim the *Horseshoe* will eventually outshine New York's

"We're new wave in a million directions," says Topp. Both Topp and Cormier are well-experienced, having produced rock shows at the *New Yorker* and *Roxy* theatres. They've booked new wave acts at the *Horseshoe* since March. England's *Stranglers* provided their largest audience of 800 although some of the best shows have been by local Toronto bands. Their one and only instance of violence occurred September 1 during a *Viletone* set which ended in a brawl. *Nazi Dog* and band quickly left, leaving the *Horseshoe's* reputation untarnished with "good people and good energy." (Depending on the notoriety of the act, the *Horseshoe* removes the front tables and replaces mugs with plastic cups.)

They also show films, lately *Un Chien Andalou* accompanied by *Nash the Slash*. There are a lot of regulars and a lot of musicians; you can meet all types: obnoxious postees, U of T pharmacists and OCA students. This weekend sees *Cleveland's Dead Boys*, backed by the *Ugly* and the *Forgotten Rebels*. As if you needed further inducement, the *Horseshoe* also serves the city's best french fries.

The *Isabella Hotel* plays punk and new rock in their *Tap Room*. *Johnny and the G-Rays* appear there tonight through Saturday.

Downstairs at the *Beverley* on Queen Street, old men sit at separate tables watching the TV. Upstairs, in the *Attic*, neo-punks sit at formica tables watching the bands. Though extremely narrow and long and lit by oppressive neons behind yellow panels, the *Attic* (or *Bev*) is one of Toronto's few purely punk establishments. A lot of groups graduate from here with dedicated followings.

The only other exclusively new wave venue is the *Turning Point* on Bloor Street West. One of the more personable spots, the *Turning Point* showcases a wide variety of Toronto bands, from *Mr. Shit's the Plastic Bags* to the *Sophisticatos*.

A lot of band members climb the stairs and create a unique atmosphere. In fact this is the best

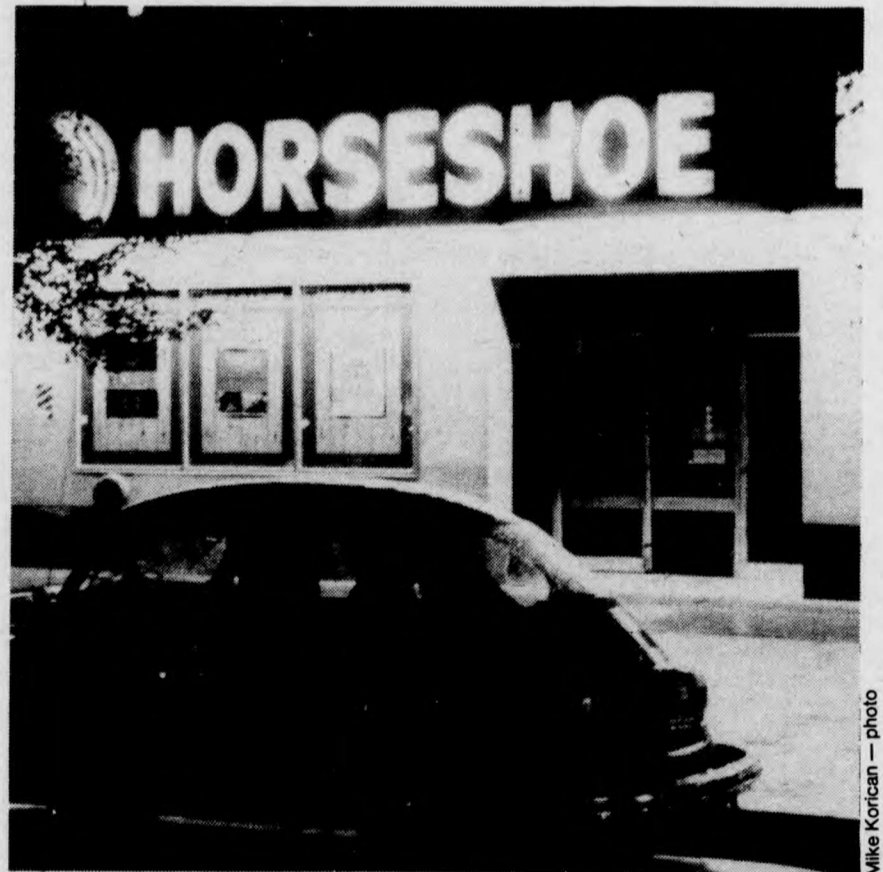
place to go if you want to meet *Ruby T. Nazi Dog* or any of the players; some nights band members outnumber the public. The volatile compositions of the groups, though making for diversity (witness the new *Curse*, the new *Ugly*, the new

Viletones), makes any semblance of advance booking impossible.

Just show up and be entertained by whoever's playing. Take a large group and occupy a booth up front.

Punk in Toronto is alive and kicking. Competition among the

clubs generates originality and keeps things moving. Yes, we're at the crest of the second wave, a wave gradually gaining momentum, a wave that when it passes, assures another, ultimately destined to become the mainstream.



Mike Korican — photo

metamorphosed into a much more socially acceptable phenomenon called *New Wave*. Toronto is currently at the crest of its second onslaught. The first wave spawned a lot of bands, many of which have now disappeared, such as the *Plugs* and the *Art Boys*. North American punks lacked the dole-queue mentality of their English counterparts.

The *Diods*, perhaps Toronto's best known new wave group, attended the Ontario College of Art. They fostered the city's first punk

infamous *CBGB's*, but in the meanwhile it's locally recognized for the breadth of their acts. When you play the *Horseshoe* your ego gains a certain sense of confidence, either protected from commercial reality by a consuming vision of yourself, or by the knowledge that your music is good. There are a number of posers, but if you play the *Horseshoe* you're a cut above the plethora of punk bands.

Gary Topp and Gary Cormier produce shows for the *Horseshoe*.

Exploring Queen St. bookstores

By Mark Eprecht

As if you need to be told, inflation has hit the book market with vengeance.

Unless you enjoy hanging around the reserve library you'll be faced with what, as a typical student, is probably your fourth biggest expense (after tuition, residence and beer). There is, however, a great way to save.

Queen St. West, between University and Spadina, boasts twelve used book stores. Each has its own specialty. In them practically every kind of book can be found for generally half price or less. They will also buy back your used books. Best-sellers and science fiction will earn a quarter the list price if they're in perfect condition.

These stores are reluctant to take textbooks though, since students form such a small part of their clientele. If you can persuade them to buy texts from you, you'll probably be lucky to get five per cent of the sale price.

While texts are rare, and usually outdated, there is a wealth of other material. For literature try *About Books* at 280 Queen. The *Village Book Store* at 239 is strong on history and political science. *Bakka* (282) is pure sci-fi. *Page One* (371) is Toronto's only antique magazine shop, though, of course, it carries a good deal else as well.

Whatever you're after, you need only ask one of the managers who, if he doesn't have it, will send to the store where you're most likely to find it. They compete much less than they complement one another.



Donna Mobbs — photo

These stores can be your saviour if you're looking for a book that's been out of print for a while. Even if you can't find it on the shelves or in the boxes in back, leave your name and telephone number with the manager. He'll call you if he ever comes across it.

The bulk of their business comes from bestsellers and sci-fi. Magazines, from *Playboy* to *National Geographic* to scholarly periodicals, are also high volume. But for those who collect antiquarian books, this is paradise. Try the *Village*, *Gail Wilson's Books* (at 198 Queen) or *Volume One* (at 698 Spadina) for these.

Browsing through the dusty stacks I found some really interesting old works. For three bucks there was *The Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs* with such ominous chapters as *Of the Brazen Bull*, *Frying Pan*, *Pot*, *Cauldron*, *Gridiron* and other *Instruments of Martyrdom* by *Red Hot Iron*.

Light entertainment. Then, for feminists, there was

What Can a Woman Do, suggesting excellent job opportunities in poetry bookkeeping, nursing and other time-honoured pursuits. For more serious collectors, you can find books worth several thousand dollars here. Just say you're looking for a book to complement your *Gutenberg Bible* and you'll be sure to get the best service.

This block on Queen Street is lined with dozens of other specialty shops; antiques, comics, you name it. Many of the proprietors claim it is one of the very best in North America for those of the collecting persuasion.

The friendly atmosphere, bustling sidewalks (adorned with sundry winos) and sheer variety must certainly make it one of the most interesting. Not only is it good for bargain hunting, but it's also a fascinating way to kill off an afternoon, and a definite improvement over shopping in some sterile book supermarket. Just take the Spadina subway to Queen station and a two minute walk west to get there.

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