

**Travel adventures**

# Sleeping on the Rhine

By GREG GERTZ

Four feet of sand separated the water on the west bank of the Rhine and the upward grading towards the road. I unrolled my sleeping bag, checked to make sure it was hidden from the road by the bushes on the incline, boiled a cup of the dirty Rhine water for coffee, rolled a cigarette, and sat back to look the place over.

The symmetry of the two sides of the river was almost perfect: the thin strip of sand, the road about ten feet higher and back a bit, then the German train tracks, a few timbered houses surrounded by gardens, and green vineyards climbing the several hundred feet to the tops of the almost vertical hills, crowned by a shadowy castle. I watched as a few flat Rhine freighters steamed past towards the dusk around the bend and the trains hurried north to Koblenz or south to Mainz. It was perfect.

Very few little kids will tell you they want to be a travelling salesman when they grow up, but when I was ten I would consider no other career. Not because I knew or cared anything about selling, nor because I wanted to learn if all those travelling salesman jokes were really true. All I knew was that I wanted to travel, and wasn't that what a travelling salesman was all about?

I no longer want to be a travelling salesman when I grow up (who wants to grow up anyway?) But I must travel. I have to. You know how it is at the end of a long hot summer — you've got a few bucks in the bank and one hell of an urge to say "screw school" and just take off. Sometimes people make it in the summer; they work during the year and pocket enough to take a few months vacation. I pulled that one off a couple of years ago. But that only whets the appetite. Before you know it you have to leave again. Test yourself. Torture yourself. Treat yourself to the world.

And then all of a sudden you're finished school. You have two basic choices: get a steady job and a steady spouse and a steadily increasing stack of bills (please forgive my obvious bias), or surrender to that little voice inside that says, "If you don't do it now, baby, you'll never do it." And if you make that second choice, look out, for you may well be throwing your "life" (read "career") to the dogs.

But what the hell. Who's wealthier, an up-and-coming young exec with a couple of grand in the bank and a two week vacation, or a down-and-out hitch-hiker with a couple of hundred francs in his pocket whose time is all his own?

## Student applications for residences up despite prices

The recent increase in residence fees did not affect the number of students applying for undergraduate accommodation at York this year, according to D.A. Nesbitt, Residence Manager.

Most of the college residences are already filled and Nesbitt attributes this to the inavailability of good off-campus housing.

The new meal plan, under which residence students purchase individual food items with prepaid vouchers, doesn't hide the fact that food prices have risen dramatically from last year. "I guess it's back to the coffee and ten sugars for breakfast," commented one distraught student. This new plan, at the minimum level, has increased \$45 from last year.

Come to the staff meeting at 4p.m. today

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## York Briefs

### Concert of Nada Swaram music

As the first in a series of noon-hour concerts sponsored by the Music department, Sheikh Chinna Maylana Sahib and Party will give a free concert of Nada Swaram (a native South Indian reed-type instrument) music on Monday, Sept. 17 from 1 to 3 PM in the Ross Building Amphitheatre.

### "Jocko" Thomas to speak here

Jocko Thomas, crime reporter for the Toronto Daily Star, will be addressing Sociology 342, a course on crime and delinquency, on the topic of "Publicity and Crime", at 7:30 pm., Wednesday Sept. 19 in Curtis Lecture Hall K. The public is welcome.

### The French Connection on Sept. 23

The Winters College film series comes back to Curtis LH-I on Sept. 21 with a presentation of The French Connection, a thrilling cops and smugglers tale starring Gene Hackman. Starting time is 8 PM, and the feature will be repeated on Sept. 23. On Sept. 22, the program presents Dirk Bogarde in a film version of Thomas Mann's Death in Venice, also at 8 PM. Price for the show is \$1 for Winters' students and \$1.25 for others. For information, call 667-3888.

### McLaughlin holds car rally

A car rally will be held by students of McLaughlin College on Sunday September 9th at 9.00 am. The entry fee is \$5.00. Entry forms can be obtained at any college council office. For more information contact Nancy Maggs, 633-2813.

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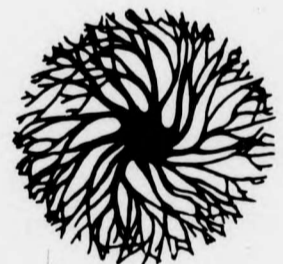
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