

INSIGHT

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the brew, paying the price in severe fines, jail sentences and subsequent deportation. Mug shots appeared in local newspapers. This was an alluring way of life, money always being an appealing incentive.

Those who invested abroad were wise; the experience of those who didn't is tragic. Their blood, sweat and tears, like the sand of the desert, has slipped through their fingers.

John's children have nothing now. They have no place to go, except, because of their passports, India, a land to which they do not really belong. One supposes that they are young, that they can start anew.

John looks on, feeling helpless and old. He is in a land he is of brief acquaintance with, one without any personal connections. The house and land where Sev bore all her children is gone. There cannot be any concern for friends or other relatives at this time, except your own blood.

John and Sev have hopes of one day reuniting with their sons in Canada. But, it seems this wish does not fit with current reality.



Saddam Hussein comes across as a saviour or hero to some. As the media unearths more truth and information about Kuwait, the royal family, the western concern for oil over people, the U.S. move to aid Saudi Arabia rather than Kuwait, one becomes aware that the Kuwaiti people are silent.

With the exodus of thousands of expatriates, one wonders just how many "asli" (genuine) Kuwaitis are left in Kuwait. Hussein chose a good time to invade the country; schools were officially closed and practically everyone was on vacation outside the country to beat the heat. Only a majority of expatriates were left to "keep the generators running."

To John, Kuwait has been home, and always will be; some of his children feel the same way. For him, loyalty remains and, therefore, the experience of the invasion has been received with sadness and dismay. He is not angry. He is quiet. Very quiet.

John knows the situation well. As an expatriate, your purpose was that of a cushion, to "make it all better," but remain submissive. You were conditioned that way. If one could interpret John's silence, one would hear stories of nothing but hard work, devoid of any kind of personality or social life except for purposes of employment.

While the United States and other countries assume they are out there to "kick ass," John is skeptical. His only concern is for his flesh and blood. It seems the legacy of having sponsored his children in Kuwait has now been a loss. He cringes and is frustrated with responses from agencies to aid in the search and relocation of his children.

If there was an invasion of Toronto, one would not send the Italians back to Italy, the Greeks back to Greece, or . . . But, if there was a storm and a town was wiped out, people would help. There would be government aid, compensation and a whole lot of sympathy.

For those who never had the opportunity to work in the Gulf (Kuwait being one of the most difficult states to enter), there is the sound of cruel laughter. The glamour of living and working in the Middle East is gone. Akin to the nature of a commodity, the value of people (expatriates) has depreciated as they find them-

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selves on the doorsteps of countries they do not know, and to which they do not belong.

While nations decide what line of action can be dictated to countries, other than using their own judgement within moral contexts and the debate over what strategy is favourable for the good of all, the grim aspect of impending

war escalates. As days become weeks, the situation in Kuwait becomes real, yet coverage of the crisis is slowly diminishing.

John knows that this is not fair. But, who said war was fair?

*Linda Dias is a York student who was born and raised in Kuwait.*

# La route vers Glendon

*La route vers Glendon* is a weekly column which will keep York Main more closely in contact with its affiliated bilingual college.

## York-Glendon shuttle

by Ed Drass

Welcome aboard the Glendon Shuttle. In this traffic-ridden fiefdom called North York, it's the best way between the two campuses of York University, failing a subway extension. (Ross Flaggpole. Keele Street. St. Regis Crescent. Sheppard Avenue. Wilson Heights. Yonge Blvd. Yonge Street. Lawrence East. The Glendon Mailbox.) This intercampus lifeline is available to any student, staff member, book or piece of mail that wants to go from Big to Little; from treed valley to oversized parking lot.

It comes in handy, for those who have courses on both campuses, and for those who discover that the book that they need is only available at the library at the other campus. "Where the hell is Frost?" The alternative to the shuttle is either getting a lift with someone (no car-pool/ride-sharing service is available at York) or the TTC. Et ca serait l'enfer si chaque personne conduisait sa propre voiture.

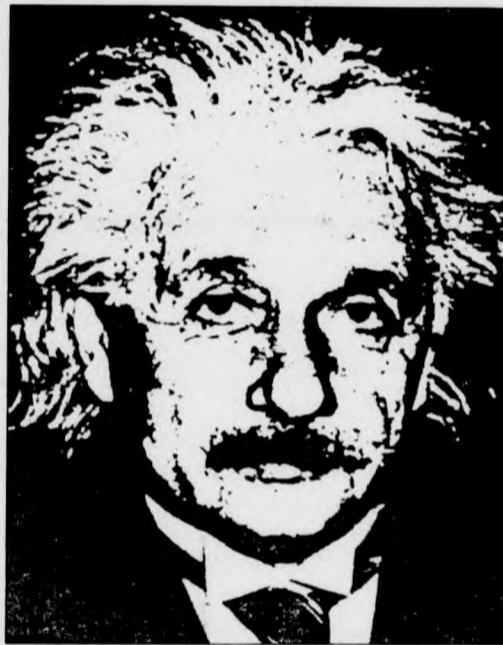
But try as it might, the TTC is at a disadvantage in a car-oriented

city, especially as York Main is as far away as possible while still remaining part of North York. A study would be worthwhile to see which combination of bus and subway will get you quickest from Glendon to York Main. Try Lawrence Subway to York Mills Subway, the Wilson 96 to Wilson Station and then the York Express 106A. If you have a better route, write me c/o *Excalibur*.

Ideally, the shuttle would be full all the time as York people considered themselves at home at either location. However, the average UofT student is probably more aware of the other two campuses and of the buses that link the Erindale, Scarborough and St. George grounds.

Alas, too few at York know about our own little umbilical cord with the tacky red and white "YU" logo and "Glendon Bus" stenciled on it. The shuttle is not well publicized and it is hard to find out when it leaves or how to get tickets. This information should be common knowledge. It's not. However, to be honest, the system could not handle a lot of people without improvement. There are only six trips a day, and there are no night-time shuttles for those with evening courses.

In any case, splurge on the 50 cents and take the half-hour ride down to check things out. Tickets seem to be available only at the bookstores, as is the schedule. Et finalement, telephonnez l'AECG/GCSU et la FEY/YFS et demandez l'amélioration du service. Toodle-oo.



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