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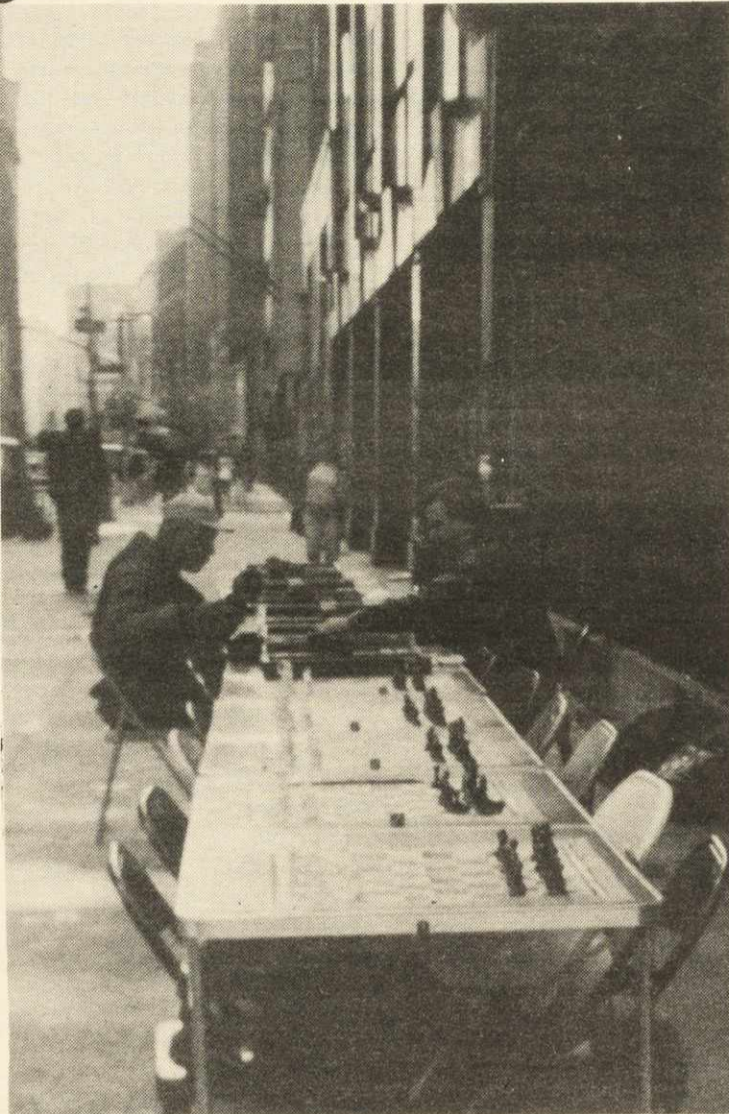
New York stories

by Miriam Korn

The whole time I was in New York, my mind was swirling. Swirling with the bombardment of lights, swirling with things to do, swirling with the implications of the immense microcosm of society presented before me. Suddenly, the Big Apple was not just a place that Frank Sinatra sang about or a spot on Earth where the wonder of limitlessness shone, but a place unmistakably unique in its conglomeration of people with infinitely different backgrounds. The brew sent my head spinning.

This is what I wrote on the plane back from my adventure last week. Maybe it seems over-indulgent in its romanticism of what some may dub just another big dirty city full of ostentatious wealth and stark poverty. I can only retort that it simply expresses the feelings with which I was gushing after they bubbled within in me all weekend. I was wholeheartedly happy that I had jumped on the opportunity to visit the land of endless bursting imagination.

I, along with reporters from *The Mount's Picaro* and *King's Watch* as well as some head honchos from the Canadian Hostelling Association departed together on a romp around the Big Apple a couple of weeks ago. And thus began a three-day well-needed change of pace. Those of you who have not visited this metropolis may have visions of non-stop violence and danger dancing in your heads already. But we all came back with our bodies and belongings fully intact. An experience which is more typical than commonly believed.



Hangin' in Manhattan

PHOTO: MIRIAM KORN

pastries, attending a party full of people dancing to Persian melodies, playing dominoes and talking about the parallels of the differences among

about the lives of the rich and famous, but that's part of the wonder of the Big Apple. It's like being dropped into a movie with a never ending series of plots ready to unravel. Every person one encounters is a possible launching pad for the extrapolation of a story, because New Yorkers are not polite, clean-cut and soft spoken like good ol' Haligonians. They say what's on their minds because that's not against the rules. As one native said of his city: "it's organized chaos."

And indeed, he was unmistakably correct. If very nice, very polite, very civilized Halifax is just not cutting the mustard lately, a weekend jaunt down to New York could be just what you need to scramble your brain a little and to spark your imagination a lot. Once the dust has settled, you'll have enough sparkliness (they even put sparkles in the asphalt—as close as you may ever get to roads paved with gold) left over to keep your eyes wide and step light among the marvels of the utterly sane Haligonian landscape. It's no wonder Woody Allen can make film after film about his wonderfully crazy hometown. It certainly offers no shortage of ideas

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Others may think big bucks are a necessity for escapades in a big city. A central location and a few dollars for subway tokens were enough to provide these three poverty-stricken students with a grand time.

My visit involved a great deal of wandering around Broadway being mesmerized by the lights, hanging out in cool bars and cafes in Greenwich Village, visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art to take in Rene Magritte's special exhibition, kicking around multi-coloured leaves in Central Park, meandering down Park Avenue to gaze at the magical windows full of ridiculously, deliciously over-priced clothing, jewellery and

New York, San Francisco and Halifax, drinking tea in a pub decorated with descending figures of Frankenstein, a hanging model of a hammerhead shark and a bathroom hidden behind a wall of false bookcases, seeing a Columbia student theatrical production, buying big fat birthday bagels on Broadway and exploring a snazzy hotel near Times Square.

As you can see, although lots 'o money would help pay for Broadway show tickets, fancy meals, and haute couture clothes, there's lots for a ramble to do on a modest budget. Admittedly, spending time in New York may make you fantasize excessively

Air Nova offers a special package for students: \$299 includes flight, and two nights accommodation and two mornings' breakfast in the New York International Youth Hostel (a very clean, very large, very lively place) in Manhattan. Planes depart for New York everyday at 10:40 am from Halifax airport arriving in Newark at 12:00 pm. Returns are available each day from Newark airport at 1:05 pm and arrive in Halifax at 4:00 pm For more information ask Travel Cuts in the Dal SUB lobby.

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