

THE BRUNS
ENTERTAINMENT DEPARTMENT
NEEDS YOU!
MORE FREE STUFF THAN YOU CAN
STIR WITH A STICK...
RM. 35 OF THE SUB
ASK FOR LILITH

Welcome Back
New Years Greetings
In celebration of 1994

Discount Available to
All Students and Staff
UNB/STU
For Sun Destinations

Spring Break



For Additional Details
Please Contact **TRAVEL CUTS**
Canadian Universities Travel Service Limited
453-4850

BOOK REVIEW

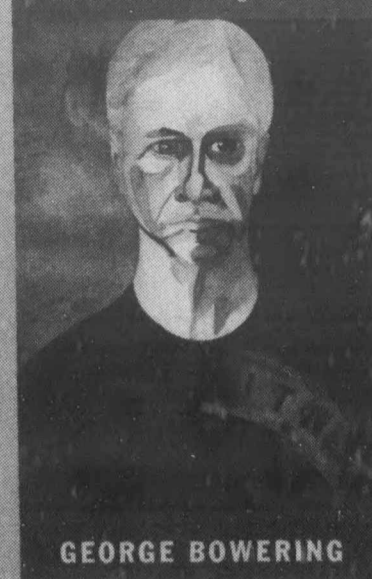
GEORGE BOWERING

THE MOUSTACHE: MEMORIES OF GREG CURNOE

COACH HOUSE PRESS, MCCLELLAND AND STEWART INC.

THE MOUSTACHE

Memories of Greg Curnoe



GEORGE BOWERING

George Bowering has been an active figure in contemporary Canadian literature. At the beginning of the 1980's, he edited a collection of short fiction called *Fiction of Contemporary Canada*, which included his own piece, "A Short Story". Part of his interest as a post-modern writer has been to debunk the illusion of fiction: "A Short Story" is broken into sections such as 'setting', 'characters', 'symbolism', 'theme', in an attempt to bring the structure of the piece out from behind the scenes to confront the reader. The result—an overt reminder that one is participating in fiction, not real life. These are constructed 'charac-

ters', not your next door neighbours. The hold of fiction on the reader is, both theoretically and practically, loosened; before thinking about what has happened in the story, one has to sort out the structural aspects. Distance is maintained and thought encouraged.

The Moustache: Memories of Greg Curnoe, however, is not a work of fiction. Greg Curnoe was a Canadian painter of some renown who lived in London, Ontario. He is also a close friend of George Bowering's. Curnoe was suddenly killed in late 1992, when an automobile struck his bicycle. The memoir, *Moustache*, was begun on November 20, 1992, and finished May 28, 1993. The type of writing is slightly foreign to most post-modern writers: how does someone used to poking holes in the veil of fiction tackle the creation of non-fiction?

As George Bowering painfully knows, the writing of a memoir cannot bring a dear friend back to life. So how does a writer honestly write biographical material?

The answer—keep it simple. *The Moustache* is the work of a person remembering a friend. Every section starts with, "I remember" (or, on very few occasions, "I don't remember"); no section or memory lasts for more than a page. The prose is simple, presumably to prevent the joy and the pain of the remembrance from disappearing into the tapestry of story-telling. The material dictates in *Moustache*, and the material is Bowering's memory of his friend in London.

The result is a brief, personal, engag-

ing, and informative glimpse into the lives of Greg Curnoe and George Bowering. Since they were/are thinking and acting members of the Canadian art world, the book provides an inside peek at the lives of various artists, but only, of course, as they involved Curnoe and Bowering. A picture builds of Greg Curnoe—as a painter, as a father and husband, as a member of the Nihilist Party of Canada, as a drummer in the Nihilist Spasm Band, and as a good friend. The composite whole portrays a man passionately involved with his friends, his work, and his country. Fittingly, the book is not marked with an overly sad tone. When Bowering recounts things about the funeral or the call about Greg's death, the tragedy fits into the context of a good man's life: the event and its sorrow do not overly impinge on the good, treasured memories of 25 years of friendship.

Like much post-modern writing, Bowering's prose manages to crackle in its simplicity. Bowering stresses at one point his attempt to keep the prose down to earth, like Curnoe's own. Apparently, Curnoe incorporated words into his paintings, relying on the visual impact of renewed simplicity due to foreign context. The very act of writing *The Moustache* (a reference to Curnoe's own life-long moustache, by the way) is tied up, for Bowering, with his friend that the finality of the death call at the end of the book conveys a sense of tragedy that transcends the author's personal life. *The Moustache: Memories of Greg Curnoe* is a touching and fitting tribute to a great friend.

—Andrew Sneddon

Chestnut

Wednesday Night is

Ladies Night

Come and join in the fun

* Live DJ

* Dancing

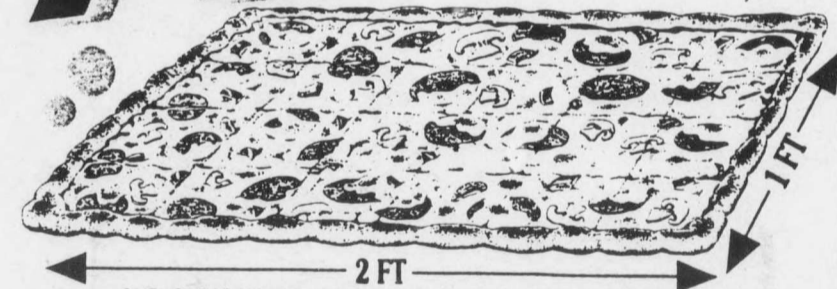
* Specials

8pm to Close

440 York Street, Fredericton
450-1230

24 SLICE

PARTY PIZZA



ONE 'GRECOWORKS' (OR ANY 5 TOPPINGS) PARTY PIZZA, ONLY...

AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Look at the size of this pizza!!! Two feet long x one foot wide. 24, count 'em, 24 delicious slices of your favorite pizza. Best pizza in town - biggest pizza in town - best value in town!!! Order one tonight!

HOW DID WE DO IT?

Greco uses specially designed pizza pans and packaging to bring you the biggest pizza you've ever seen. You've got to see it to believe it!

WHY DID WE DO IT?

Because it's perfect for parties, get-togethers, or that perfect late night time snack for you and everyone on your block. An incredibly big pizza for an incredibly low price! Ask about our special party price for more than one party pizza order.

CALL TONIGHT **452-0033**

13.99

+ TAXES

*Allow 10 to 15 minutes for delivery.
*10 minute guarantee does not apply.



GRECO