

Melancholy, The Yellow Boat, by Edward Munch on view at the Art Gallery of Ontario to March 11

## Mystic North leaves art viewers cold at Art Gallery of Ontario

*The Mystic North*  
Art Gallery of Ontario  
Until March 11

By BECKY BAINBRIDGE

**T**he *Mystic North* clarifies the little-known or researched connection between the symbolist landscape painters of the Scandinavian countries and those of North America. AGO Curator Ronald Nasgaard sets out to illustrate the enormous influences the Northern Europeans were to have on the Group of Seven. Lawren Harris and J.E.H. Macdonald viewed an exhibition of contemporary Scandinavian Art at the Albright Art Gallery in Buffalo in 1913 (some pieces from which are included in *The Mystic North*). They were impressed with the naturalistic landscapes of the Scandinavians Sohlberg, Fjaestad, and Hesselbom. The Canadians wished to express conservative and patriotic attitudes by painting nature that would dominate their work in a reactionary way.

The stronger pieces in the show are those which break away from representative approach and use a freer symbolism to convey personal expression. Artist Piet Mondrian, Edward Munch, Emily Carr, and Ferdinand Holder have created their art first, their illustrations of nature second.

It is, however, the less ambitious paintings that comprise the majority of the show. In many, we are

unable to discover the content of the painting through form, but are more often shown works copying a landscape rather than using the land as inspiration to create form. Because of this the exhibition becomes a biography of painters of the north with only some of its works being good paintings using the northern motif.

The show does bring together many paintings which are comparable in structure. Similar compositional elements come into play linking the Scandinavian paintings with those of the Group of Seven. Arthur Lismer's *Old Pine McGregor Bay* (1929) echoes art nouveau in its centrally-placed tree which reaches out into the painting to define itself in determinate space. Harold Sohlberg's *Winter Night in Rondane* (1901) was in the Albright Art Gallery show in 1913. It demonstrates the same monumental mountains rising out of the distance, established with the same structural format used by Lawren Harris in *Lake and Mountains* (1927).

Few paintings in the show include the human figure, but in those that do there is a tension the others lack. The strongest example is *Melancholy, The Yellow Boat* (1891) by Norwegian artist Munch.

Collectively, the less rewarding works in this exhibition do outnumber the stronger ones. But the exciting pieces, namely the Munch, Dutch painter Mondrian's work, Canadian Emily Carr's pieces and Americans Georgia O'Keeffe and Arthur Dove work do in themselves give enough reason for the viewing of *The Mystic North*.



the  
**ALMOST  
VALENTINE'S  
DANCE**

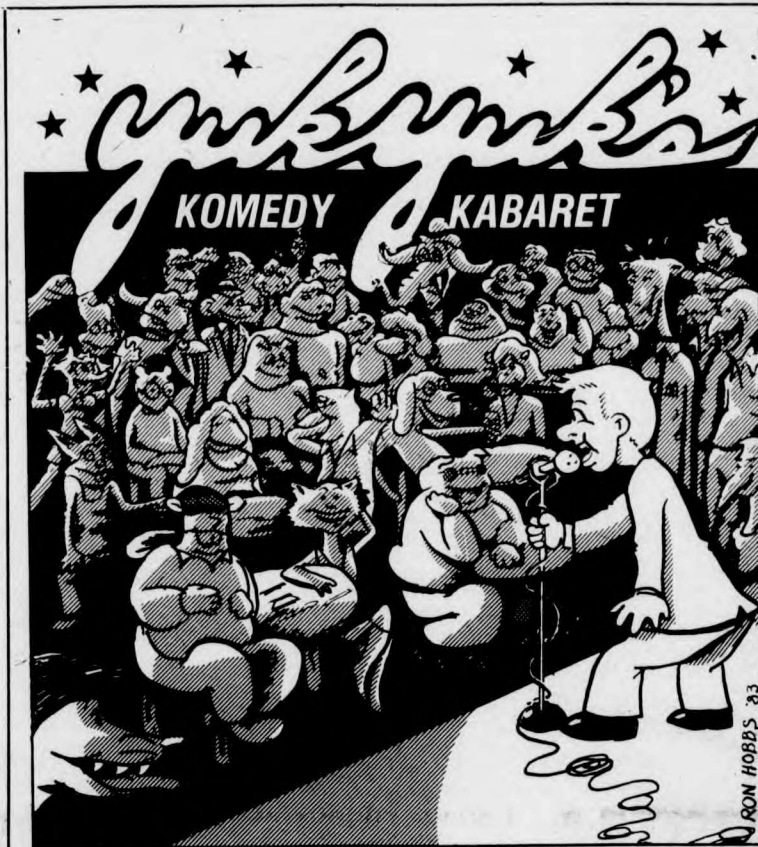
Saturday,  
February 4th  
in the

**GRAD LOUNGE**

8:00 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

\$2 at the door

**GAY ALLIANCE AT YORK**



**EVERY WED. NITE IS CAMPUS NITE!!**  
**\$2.00** ANY WEDNESDAY WITH STUDENT CARD!  
**1280 BAY 967-6425**  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

RELIABLE  
**CLEANING LADY**  
REASONABLE  
RATES  
CALL FOR APPOINTMENT  
AND **FREE** ESTIMATE  
**884-3946**  
ASK FOR BARBARA

**HONEY  
POT  
RANCH**  
on Dufferin St., just 1/4 mile North of  
Major MacKenzie Drive  
presents the best in  
**Country Music**  
Feb. 2-5 — SUNDOWN  
Feb. 9-12 — STONE RIVER BAND  
Feb. 16-19 — CLIFF EDWARDS  
**PLUS**  
Free skiing, tobogganing  
Bring your own equipment  
**SUNDAY SMORGASMORD**  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT!!**  
**\$5.95 - YOU CAN'T BEAT  
THAT PRICE ANYWHERE!!!**  
Call **832-0388**  
\$1.00 off Cover with York I.D.

**"Do Yourself a  
favor  
Hour"**  
Monday-Friday 3pm-6pm  
Saturday 11am-5pm  
Night Owl Special  
Monday-Thursday 10pm-1am  
**Monday & Tuesday  
BBQ Rib Dinner  
Special—\$7.95**  
Includes French Fries  
Our Homemade Coleslaw  
Kitchen Open  
Weekdays til midnight  
Weekends til 1 a.m.  
\$1.25 off appetizers every day  
for students with I.D.  
**FAVORS RESTAURANT**  
Marketplace Plaza 1881 Steeles Ave. W.  
Corner of Steeles & Dufferin (665-2550)

**Contiki's Europe**  
Fun and excitement for the 18-35s.

Why pay more to get less when with  
Contiki you pay less and get more ...  
If you're 18 - 35 and looking for action,  
adventure and fun in  
Europe, let Contiki  
show you around.



- CHECK THE CHOICE
- CHECK THE VALUE
- CHECK THE EXTRA'S
- CHECK THE FREETIME

**CONTIKI**



Going **TRAVEL**  
YourWay! **CUTS**  
The travel company of CFS  
**TRAVEL CUTS TORONTO**  
144 St. George St  
416 979-2406

You've only One choice - CONTIKI.  
Pick up your Free brochure today.