Perestroyka brings controversial films to campus

By JACOB KATSMAN

"They did not let me open the coffin. How I begged them; he seemed alive in that coffin, as if he was crying to have it open. They did not let me —just to have a peep through the



glass opening."

This is an excerpt from *Pain*, a Soviet film about the Afghanistan war. It will be shown tomorrow (March 17) at 2:30 p.m. in Nat Taylor Cinema as part of the Soviet Film Series organized by the Royal Ontario Museum in conjunction with York and U of T.

York students will be offered a peek at a series of Soviet documentaries, some as dramatic as the excerpt from *Pain*. The series is indicative of the greater freedom presently enjoyed by Soviet filmmakers under *perestroyka*.

These documentaries are revolutionary in content and likely would not have been shown in the preglasnost (the Soviet campaign for openness) era. "These films explore the old myths and forbidden zones of the Soviet past," said York humanities professor Nick Lary, who helped

organize the series.

The film Pain attempts to give the Soviet view of Afghanistan, compiled from interviews with veterans, widows, and mothers of the war dead. The documentary takes a negative view of the Afghan conflict, calling it "a long and hopeless war."

The other three documentaries are entitled *Black Square*, *African Hunt*, and *Assa*. *Black Square* presents a view of the Russian avant-garde in

the 1920s, and its destruction, through images of abstract painters. African Hunt deals with the killing of the great poet Nikolai Gumilev in

Assa takes a current look at the celebration of Soviet youth culture.

The Soviet Film Series concludes on Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. with a feature showing of My Friend Ivan Lavshin. Admission is free

Canadian poet Paul Dutton reads at Vanier

By STEVEN PAGE

Canadian poet Paul Dutton was featured last week as Vanier College's writer-in-residence. His stay at York was highlighted by a reading and dinner on March 8 at the college.

Although the event was advertised widely throughout campus, turnout was relatively small. The audience included an almost equal number of faculty and students.

Dutton began his reading with a series of peoms, one of which was the found poem, "Royal George Schedule, June 17-September 29 Shaw Festival, 1985." This title was extracted from the Shaw Festival events (plays such as "Murder On the Nile," "Naughty Marietta," and

a performance by the Danny Grossman dance troupe. Next in the poem series was "Mercure," a sound piece from his Underwhich Editions cassette, Fugative Forms. It was reminiscent of his work with The Four Horsemen a sound poetry quartet which featured the late bp Nichol.

After a short break, Dutton continued with a prose piece called "Shadows." Dutton reads prose like he would poetry — not with so much of a sense of punctutation as with a sense of line break. "Shadows" creates a sense of sheer panic and pathos, allowing for "action" within it. However, the way that Dutton read "Shadows" it could very well

have been written in line and verse form.

"This was definitely a prose piece," he said.

His explanation was that, to him, poetry is more "elliptical" than prose. Prose has certain parameters that must be followed in order for a piece to be coherent; poetry does not. That is the difference between his more opaque pieces of poetry and this long piece of fiction.

The reading and dinner were presented by the Creative Writing Students Collective (CWSC), formerly known as the Creative Writing Students Association, with support from Vanier College and Existere.

CWSC, still a struggling, fledgling

organization, has grown over the course of its existence. Currently, it features a Wednesday noon film series that has already presented films such as "Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. Leonard Cohen." The collective is also working on publishing a chapbook authored by its members.

Over the course of Dutton's threeday stay at Vanier College, he also offered assistance to student writers in private sessions.

With more exposure, CWSC may bring more events such as this to York — which along with the three literary magazines and the Tuesday evening readings in Winters College, will help to enhance York's literary world.

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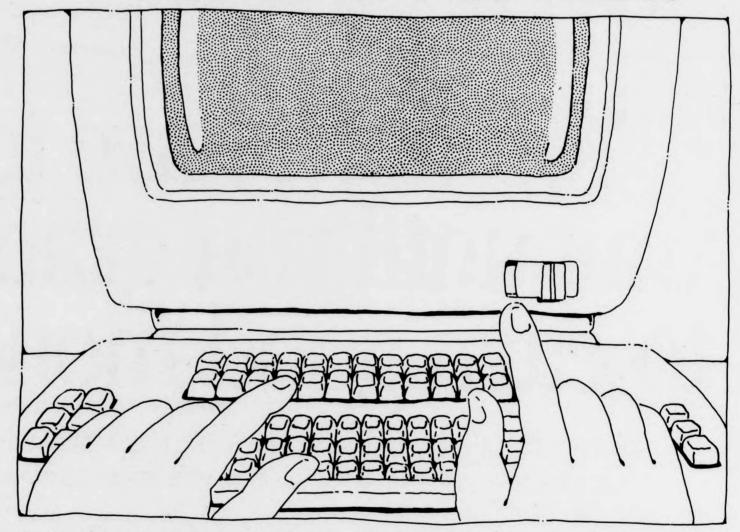
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