

# Entertainment

"The tragedy of sadism is the shortage of masochists."

-Derek Pell-

## Norman Jewison

# Passionate kid on location

### Elliott Lefko

With shaky hand, Norman Jewison balances a cup of coffee, squinting behind an expensive pair of sunglasses, and whispers confidentially: "I believe a Canadian film boom is imminent. Right now every hustler this side of Burbank is crawling our streets looking to get in on a film. Something is going to happen. I believe that out there is a great Canadian film. We have got to find it."

At York for an informal talk with film students, Jewison spoke in an optimistic tone, something he feels there is a dearth of in this country.

"During my early days in Canada, all I ever heard was the expression 'It won't work.' There seems to be a negativism permeating through Canada, especially the press. They are lagging behind as if they are suspicious of success, power and money. It makes it so tough for anything to get done."

Jewison believes in film studies and has two kids in film programs, although not at York. He recently packed up an assemblage of his writings and memoranda and donated it to an American university for preservation and study.

The costs for cataloguing and maintaining such a collection are enormous and prevent York from attempting such a move.

A recent attack by the Globe's Jay Scott on Jewison's new film **And Justice For All** angered the internationally renowned director. Says Jewison: "Critics are cutting their own throats by consistently putting down Canadian films. I find the same attitude in the CBC. The people there are full of pessimism. They think American television is the best. Little do they know that American film people enjoy Canadian TV."

The Canadian-born filmmaker grew up in Toronto, "on the sidewalks of Queen Street." He began, as did other Canadian directors Arthur Hiller and Silvio Narrazano, working for the CBC. He moved to New York, working in television. In the early 60's he began making Doris Day comedies for Universal. Jewison maintains that many television directors came to Hollywood bringing with them a European influence. They introduced the zoom lens and the idea of shooting on location.

Jewison's early success came with **The Cincinnati Kid** and continued through such classics

as **The Russians are Coming**, **The Russians are Coming**, **In the Heat of the Night**, **Fiddler on the Roof**, **Jesus Christ Superstar** and **The Thomas Crown Affair**. His recent efforts have included **F.I.S.T.**, **Rollerball**, and recently, **And Justice For All**. He also won raves for his Judy Garland television specials of the early 60's. Travelling around the world, Jewison worked primarily in Europe where he found a creative and encouraging atmosphere.

Recently he has moved back to Canada and is now living on a farm north of Caledonia. With his return he has discovered an industry laden with tremendous potential. He estimates that just about every capable Canadian film director is presently working. "Feature filmmaking is about the most tough, awful, lousy business there is. Competition is keen. However the opportunities are there. The Canadian film industry needs trained people. I just hope the government will continue to support an industry that will develop through its newcomers."

Jewison's visit was arranged through film professor James Beveridge. At a lunch after his talk he promised further cooperation with the York film department. I asked Ken Dancyger, associate



Jewison, his shades, and a York student rap

film professor his views on the director's visit. "Canada has traditionally been cold turf for its own. We have not embraced our creative people. Jewison's visit gave us an opportunity to properly welcome him back. I think it was important for the students to see a successful filmmaker."

Jewison's career is studded with a collection of big-profit films. I wondered if he has concerned himself lately too much with making a profit. Jewison didn't see

it that way, though. "You can't make films to make money. I make films that I hope people will come and see. I know that people are sitting back waiting for me to move them. They are living in the darkness. You need a strong idea and a lot of passion to make a good film."

With those parting words, Jewison made his way through the pouring rain, into his expensive car, and attempted to navigate his way off campus.

## Off York

### Theatre

The Factory Theatre Lab is currently presenting a new satiric play written by Robert Siddons, called **Girls in Chains**. The play tells the story of two desperate actresses who get themselves parts in a porno film. Literally, the two women spend one-and-a-half hours chained to the stage. The apparent symbolism represents the chains that bind us all in society. However lacking subtlety, the play was blatantly opinionated on the topics of politics and sex. It was as if the playwright underestimated the intelligence of the audience, and chose to magnify the issues. Audiences will be puzzled by the non-existence of action on stage.

Nicole, played by Mary Ann Coles, is a young woman who, despite the perverted things she is forced to observe and participate in, envisions herself as a glamorous actress. In contrast, Billy, played by Louisa Martin, is a bitter pessimist. The performances by both women were quite strong, but the brightest characterization was delivered by Robert Nasmith, portraying Jack, the insane horror/porno flick director.

**Girls in Chains** was a disappointment, despite the competent acting.

Leslie Wasserman



Brought to the screen by director Franc Roddam, the Who's **Quadrophenia** is a semi-realistic attempt to retell the tale of the mods and the rockers; two rival English youth gangs of the early sixties. Riding scooters, wearing large grey parkas, and listening The Who and The Kinks, the mods were idealist romantics, forerunners of art school new wavers. They clash with the short haired, blue collar, leather-jacketed rockers who drive large motorbikes. At the film's centre is Jimmy Cooper, perhaps assuming the persona of **Quadrophenia's** author Peter Townsend. His attempt to deal with family and work pressures, girl problems, and his search for the real self are at the soul of this menacing work.

Elliott Lefko

### TTC gallery

## Underground art

### Ronald Ramage

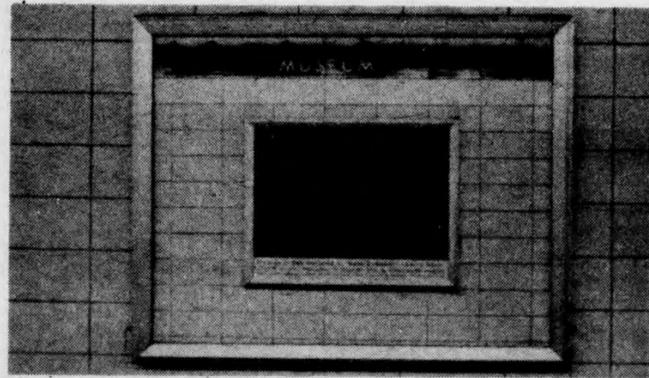
Und now, ve vill bring culture to ze masses. Yes, tucked between ads for the tan you take, the sound you hear, or the liquor you drink, is art for your eyes. In 30 of Toronto's 45 subway stops there is Canadian photography in the platform posters. It's hard to get to, hard to find on the walls, and for the most part, hardly worth it. Yet there are exceptions: the Lansdowne (eastbound platform) poster by Jeremy Cooper, an oil painting being displayed in a store window, framed by an obscenely purple bicycle seat; or Michael Sowdon's witty **Homage to the Cube** at Queen (northbound); or the very punny Gary Greenwood poster at Museum (northbound).

After searching out a few of the photographs, it became easy to discern from a distance which posters were advertising and which were art. That gave new hope to the argument, ads are not the art of the 80's.

This is not the first time that culture for the masses has been put in the subway. Earlier this year, there were poetry posters: a lot better, easier to find, and changed often enough to stay interesting. And long ago, one subway car had all its ads replaced with art photography.

This venture is an A Space (home of some of the city's most

exciting art) Satellite Project, aided by the National Museums of Canada Special Activities Assistance Programme, Canada Council, and the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, as well as an unexplained Rothman's of Pall Mall title and trademark sign on the lower right hand corner of Ken Straiton's poster at Dufferin (westbound).



## Bethune shows off product

### Andrea Doucet

The Bethune Art Gallery opened its doors on November 19 with a fine student art show assembled by Bethune people. The show is the first of a potential eight events sponsored by College College Council's Gallery Committee, whose purpose is to tap in on the hidden talents of Bethuners and provide an alternative art gallery for York.

The art show which is entitled **Product** consists of photography, etchings, painting, lithography, musical instruments and even an artistic expression of dance by Karrie Benedict, accompanied with a guitar piece by Doug

Smardon. The dance will be performed once again Friday night at 8. The artists include Ana Maria Delgado Condor, Harry

Zevenhuizen, Michael Lodge, Dan Hudson, Nora Kennedy, Marilyn Eason, Karifuno Shj, and Heather Mains.

## See your name in print

The Excalibur Entertainment Department wishes to publish short fiction pieces in these pages and invites submissions from the York community. Works will be considered for their originality of form, content, and style.

Submit types works of 200 to

500 words in length to Excal Ent. Dpt. in our office conveniently located off Central Square. Include your name and phone number (heh-heh).

And don't forget Alfred Jarry's death-bed request. Now, there's a man with style. A toothpick.