

# The New World Order better be a brave one

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# excalibur

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## Glendon council sends funding shock to women's centre

by Christine F. de Leon

Glendon's student council came under fire last week with a decision to inadequately fund the women's centre.

At last week's council meeting, the Glendon College Student Union (GCSU) announced an allocation of only \$500 to the women's centre for this year.

According to Lynn Daley, a volunteer at the centre, the decision undermines the effectiveness of the centre.

"Five hundred dollars won't even cover our telephone bills. They [the GCSU] have interfered with the value of the centre to the community," Daley said.

Glendon college has a female population of approximately 78 per cent.

Bassam Abdou-Naim, vice president of finance for the GCSU, said one of the reasons for lack of funding to the women's centre is that it would duplicate the services for women offered by GCSU.

"If we give them all the responsibility to put on projects for rape awareness and other programs, the GCSU won't be doing anything and we'd appear sexist," said Abdou-Naim.

GCSU President Marc Adlam said the council provides some of the same services as the women's centre. "I do know that a university here will not help fund or sponsor any event

twice," he claimed.

According to Daley, there is no duplication of services. She said the GCSU often directs students to the centre for referrals. "The y [the GCSU] don't provide support services or referrals," said Daley. "If there is a duplication of services I'd like them to show us how they're working, what their guidelines are, and where they find the money in the budget."

Abdou-Naim also said the GCSU is not in a financial position to further fund the centre. "Financially we're not ready. The administration should be responsible for the funding of the women's centre."

Gilles Fortian, manager of student affairs at Glendon College, said the centre "is a student-initiated project," and should be funded by the GCSU.

Fortian explained that a fee of \$1.59 per credit is included in the tuition of Glendon students and goes to the GCSU to fund clubs and services.

Of their annual budget, the GCSU has allotted \$1,000 to campus services and \$11,000 to clubs. "We have placed the women's centre as a service, and we can't give them all of that money," explained Abdou-Naim.

According to Daley, the budgetary decisions are made arbitrarily by the council.

"They're getting away with this kind of sexism — 4 out of the 5 people making the

decision were men, and the women on council aren't informed on the issues enough to challenge them."

In an October interview, Adlam told *Excalibur* that women's issues were a priority on his election platform. Adlam clarified the issue this week, saying "Women's issues was something, but it wasn't the first thing on my agenda."

Michelle Hughes, president of the York Federation of Students, attended the general meeting as an observer and called the situation "a case of priorities."

"Budgets are not made objectively, money is geared to people's biases," Hughes said. "I understand the GCSU is working on a tight budget, but for them to give a few of their clubs \$1,000 and (only) \$500 to the women's centre is a joke."

The YFS gives \$9,500 to the women's centre on York's Downsview campus.

Adlam said he was offended by Hughes' presence at the meeting. "It looks to us as a college that we as a student union can't handle this, that's what they're saying (by being at the meeting)."

Adlam admitted that the council may have allocated too much of their budget to orientation week events, at the expense of clubs and services. "Perhaps an error in judgement was that maybe there was too much emphasis put on orientation," he said.

However, after repeated requests from *Excalibur*, Adlam, Abdou-Naim, councillor Karen Fieten and other GCSU members all refused to say how much was spent on orientation week.

Lynn Daley said last year the women's centre was one of the most active groups on campus. "We had training programs, we had forums, speakers and support groups on campus."

Last year the centre relied on spot funding from the GCSU to fund such events as International Women's Day activities. This year the centre was given space vacated by the elimination of the Glendon health clinic and was hoping to offer increased services to students on campus, Daley said.

Lack of funds means the women's centre will have to cut back. "It's frustrating. Our energies will be going to fundraising and not to services," said Daley.

Daley said the lack of funding to the women's centre is not atypical of positions taken by the council on women's issues this year.

"Council, as an example, decided to hold a Christmas ball on Dec. 6, the day York University declared as official women's remembrance day, a day of mourning [to remember the 14 women killed in the Montreal Massacre]. This speaks volumes about this particular council and the climate for women at Glendon."

### Budget figures unavailable

## Faculty, students wonder where parking fee dollars are going

by Jennifer Lim

Some community members are wondering where the money is going from this year's enormous parking fee increases.

In the Oct. 15 issue of *Active Voice*, the York University Faculty Association newsletter, YUFA asks whether the extra parking revenues are being used as "a convenient source of revenue" for the university.

This summer, unreserved parking decals increased by 52 per cent up to \$160. Other parking passes increased by as much as 109 per cent.

According to William Farr, vice president of finance and administration for York University, the extra fees are being used to cover a \$200,000 deficit and to pay for the construction of a future parking facility.

Pam MacDonald, executive director for security and parking services, said parking revenue normally covers the entire cost of parking operations and 50 per cent of security operations.

"A big chunk of parking revenues is used for security, which was inadequate in the past," MacDonald said. "Otherwise, we would not be able to afford current security services."

Farr said he is not willing to remove the financial ties between parking and security in order to ensure lower parking rates.

"I am not prepared to implement the cutbacks in security that would be necessary if we could not use from the parking revenue to pay for it," he said.

YUFA Vice-Chair David Clipsham said YUFA wants to know how the fees are being used. "We have never seen detailed financial statements or analysis of any kind of how parking revenues are spent."

Nikki Gershbnain, internal vice president of the York Federation of Students and a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking, said PACOP members have not been given any specific information on the parking budget.

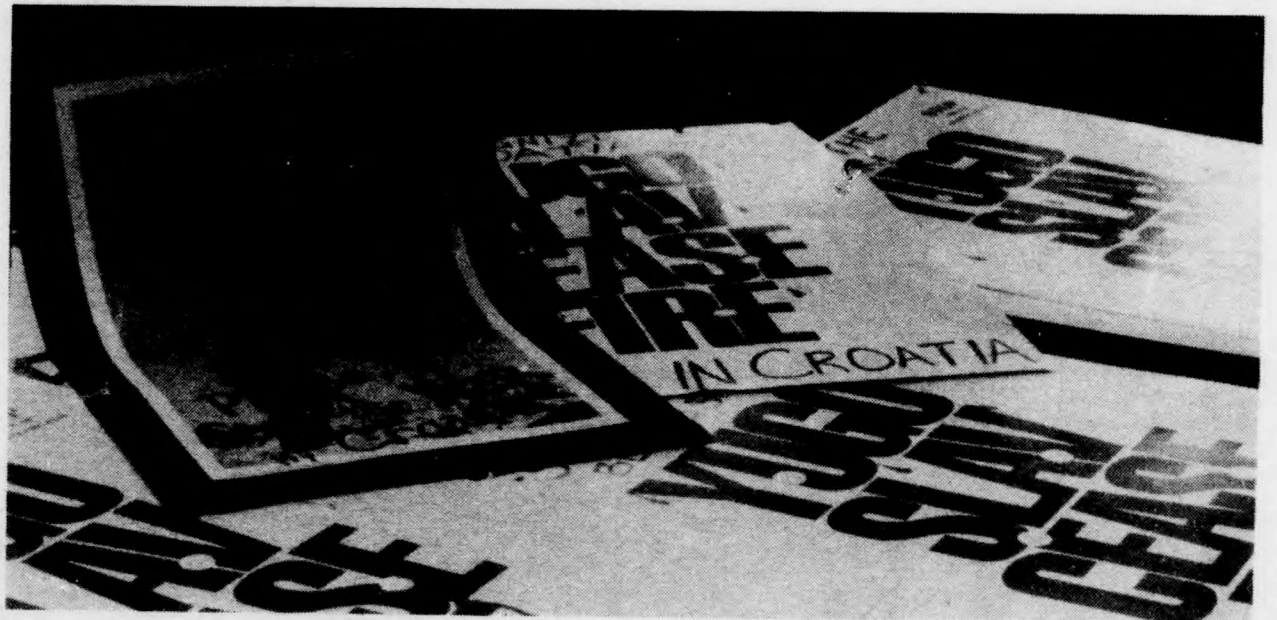
"We have no reason to believe that the university isn't using the parking money for their own budget," Gershbnain said. "We have a pie chart which shows where the money is supposed to go, but we have no budget to prove it. They could be doing anything with it."

Clipsham questioned the administration's decision to implement such steep parking rate increases.

"Is the jump driven purely by demands of parking? Or is it the need to generate more revenue to subsidize the university budget?"

MacDonald said all the fees were

Continued on page 3



## Croatian students harassed on campus

by Elaine Bellio

Although the war between Croatia and Serbia is being fought half way around the world, hostility between the two communities may have found its way on to campus.

Croatian students at York are complaining of harassment they say is linked to the political situation in Yugoslavia.

On the morning of November 11 Sandra (who wishes her surname be withheld) found a chewed-up orange thrown at the windshield of her car, parked in lot 5A.

Sandra has a Croatian flag hanging from her rearview mirror. "It is obvious that they were Serbians, throwing it at the flag," she said.

"Somebody who is Serbian is being offended because I have the flag

displayed. I have the flag because of how I feel. I am proud," said Sandra. "If I saw a Serbian flag, I would respect it, so they should respect me."

According to Bob Stevens, coordinator of investigations and audits for York Security, "there is a possibility that the Croatian flag perpetrated the incident."

"We don't think it's a personal threat but we're paying more attention to property in our parking lots," said Stevens.

Elissa Horscroft vice-president of equality and social affairs at York Federation of Students said this is typical of things that go on at York "A group gets picked out and becomes the brunt of an attack."

"Unfortunately, in this attack, people are becoming really fright-

ened and getting hurt," she added.

This is not the only such incident that has occurred at York University. Another student who asked to remain anonymous, found a note on her car reading "everybody in Croatia deserved what they were getting."

According to Martin Gamula, a member of the Croatian Students Association, most of the Croatian students feel scared, as do those who support them.

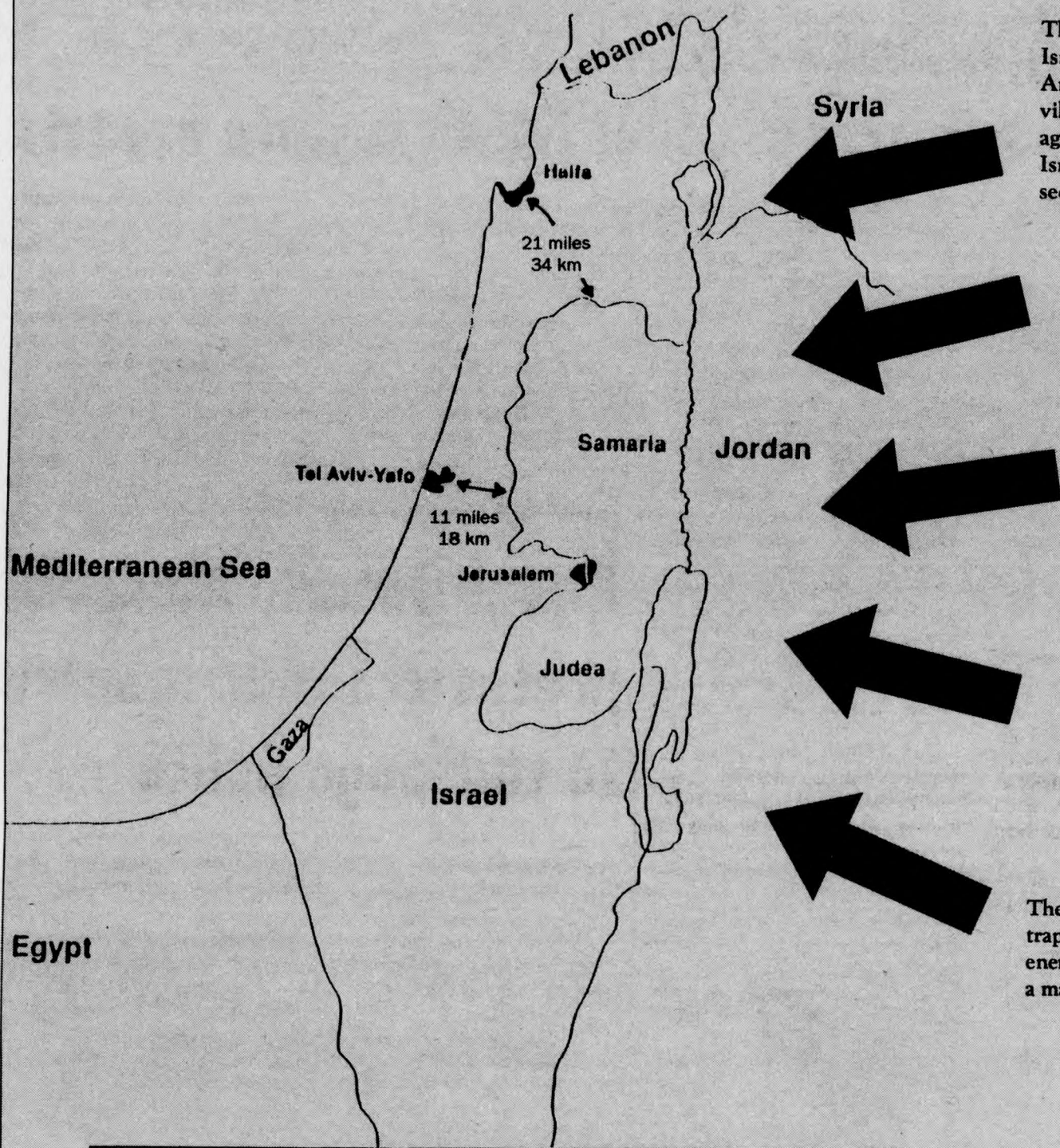
"There have also been Serbs who have helped the Croatian cause, but it are usually private support because they face repercussions from their own community," said Gamula.

Serbs and Croats have been locked in months of civil war following Croatia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia in July.



# Israel Has Its Doubts

**Peace does not necessarily mean security.  
In this volatile region of shifting alliances,  
no peace is guaranteed.**



The Golan Heights overlook northern Israel. From 1948-1967, the Syrian Army constantly shelled Israeli civilian villages and sponsored terrorist attacks against Israel's northern population. If Israel gives up the Heights, what security guarantees will it have?

Israel's only water supplies flow through the Territories.

Without radar stations in the West Bank, Israel's warning time on surprise air attacks and scud missiles from the East would be cut from over 20 minutes to less than 2 minutes (including attacks from Iran or Iraq who are not even at the peace conference).

Israel's population centres would be exposed to easy attack. From the West Bank, Israeli passenger planes can be shot down as they land in Tel Aviv with a small hand-held missile launcher.

The West Bank hills are a natural tank trap. Without the obstacles of this area, enemy tanks could easily divide Israel in a matter of minutes.



*"We extend the hand of peace and good neighbourliness to all neighbouring states and their peoples and call for their cooperation and for mutual helpfulness with the independent Jewish nation in its Land. The State of Israel is prepared to contribute its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East."*

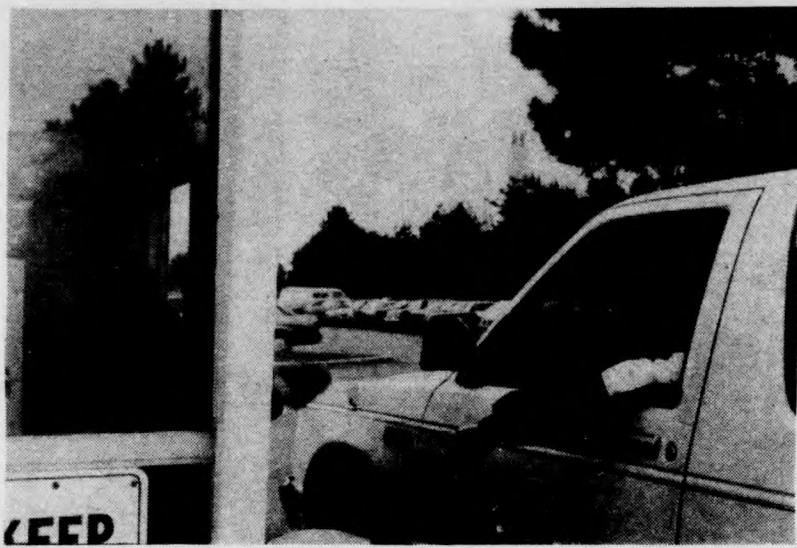
With these words from its Declaration of Independence of May 14, 1948, the State of Israel began its existence with a call for peace.

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## Parking fees unexplained

Continued from page 1

being used within the parking and security department.

Some of the revenues are slated to be used in a "sinking fund" to build a new multi-storey parking structure on campus.

"The ministry of colleges and universities do not allow the university to fund parking costs," said

MacDonald. "If we did not introduce a sinking fund, we would have to go to the public and possibly into debt with interest rates."

The university's long-term master plan calls for a number of future parking structures. Several current lots are slated to be sold as part of the York University Development Corporation's plans to sell and lease campus land to private developers.

## Marriott's china plate program dies in dorms

by Anna Di Rezz

A plan to use china plates in residence cafeterias is floundering due to student negligence.

"We are in a crisis at the moment," said Suzanne Cullen, director of food and service management at Marriot Corporation. "We do not have enough China to last through lunch because students bring it to residence and we don't get it back." Marriott Corporation operates large cafeterias in Vanier, Winters, Founders and Bethune Colleges. The corporation moved in September to eliminate styrofoam containers and replace them with "environmentally friendly" china dishes.

In an attempt to retrieve the dishes, Marriott has begun a program in affiliation with MacLaughlin College for Marriott to collect dishes left by students beside elevators on each floor.

Marriott is negotiating with other college residences for the same collection system.

"No decision has been made by the residence councils on the matter," said Albert Ng, coordinator for food and services at York.

Due to the lack of cooperation from students, Marriott has put flyers on cash registers, trays and in residences, asking students to return their plates.

Styrofoam containers are still available for take-out orders.

## Pettiness prevails at CFS conference

by Karen Hill  
Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Student councillors bitched, bickered and backstabbed during the annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students last week.

In a meeting more notable for its animosity and division than common interests, about 250 delegates indulged in backroom lobbying and rumour mongering, not to mention procedural wrangling.

National treasurer Lyndon Surjik successfully fought off an impeachment vote, spurred by a \$67,000 discrepancy between an auditor's report and CFS financial statements. CFS chair Kelly Lamrock was elected for another term, although 14 student councils voted against ratifying him in a highly unusual procedural move.

"It was the most divisive meeting in recent memory," said Marcella Munro, a Carleton University student councillor.

Some delegates stalked out of committee meetings, including one discussing the budget when it became clear that Surjik had no intention of resigning.

Surjik said he was targeted be-

cause he is gay, and some delegates wanted a scapegoat for the financial problems. "I got a sense on Tuesday that trouble was brewing," he said.

He said he was waiting to hear from the auditors about the difference in the figures, saying it could be a simple accounting error on the auditors' part.

At the final plenary, where the impeachment motion came up, Surjik said people had been spreading rumours and misinformation. "People could be sued for what they said," he said.

Sandeep Dhir, Alberta's national executive representative, spearheaded the drive to purge Surjik. "I think the national treasurer should have resigned immediately when he realized the discrepancy," he said in an interview.

The bitterness that pervaded the meeting came to a head during the ratification of Lamrock as chair for 1992-93 — 14 schools opposed the motion.

Lamrock said he was surprised. "That act was shameful," he said. "I guess those 14 schools don't believe in democracy."

But Patricia Barrera, president of the University of Ottawa, one of the

## Candlelight vigil held for political prisoners

by Tom Schneider

A group of York students braved the cold last Monday night to demand the release of political prisoners in China.

Members of York University's Amnesty International chapter held lighted candles outside the Chinese Consulate on St. George Street in Toronto.

"We are here to draw attention to the continued human rights abuses that are occurring in China," explained Steve Birnie, treasurer for the group.

The students were protesting in support of Wang Youcai, a 24-year-

old Beijing University student, and other prisoners of conscience in China.

Wang was imprisoned for organizing anti-government demonstrations in Shanghai similar to the Tiananmen demonstration of 1989.

"We feel that as a student group, we should help represent the rights of students in other countries whose human rights have been abused," said Birnie. "We believe that everyone has the right to express non-violent political beliefs."

Fan Yan Jun, a Consul with the Chinese Consulate in Toronto, says the Consulate does not have any in-

formation on Wang's status.

"As of yet, there's nothing official coming my way in terms of that case," said Fan.

Gord Bennet, executive assistant of York's Amnesty International, said a petition with over 160 signatures was delivered to the Chinese Consulate, asking for Wang's release.

According to Fan, the petition was received, and is being examined by an officer who does not want to be identified.

"He [the officer] is still reading it and will later decide whether or not to send it to China," said Fan.

## Challenges Canadian laws

## Guelph student fights to bare breasts

by Clive Thompson  
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — A Guelph University woman arrested for walking around topless is challenging the charge in court, claiming Canada's indecency laws are discriminatory.

Gwen Jacob, who was to appear in court on Friday, was charged with two counts of indecency for appearing shirtless in Guelph on July 17 and 18.

Jacob says she wasn't wearing a shirt because it was too hot. A man and a woman complained to the police, however, resulting in her arrest. But Guelph's finest needed a bit of an anatomy lesson.

"The cop was telling me that my genitals were exposed," Jacob said. "I told him my genitals were quite comfortably covered. Then he arrested me."

She said the charge violates her equality guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. "It's the only thing I can think of where men and women can be doing the same thing and the women can be arrested."

Last week, a judge in Rochester, New York overturned the 1989 convictions of 10 women found guilty of exposing their breasts in public, ruling that women's breasts are the same as men's.

Jacob said this sets an important precedent for her case, but others aren't so sure it will do her much good.

Queen's University professor Gayle MacDonald, a sociologist who specializes in the Charter and sex equality rights, said that although she agrees with Jacob's argument, sexism in the legal system may work against her.

"I think she's going to have a difficult time arguing the case, because she's working against a legal system that doesn't protect women."

"It doesn't give us protection from sexual assault, or for equal pay, so I don't think it'll be much different here."

The legal system is often more lenient on male flashers than women who expose their breasts, she added. "I had people flashing me when I was going to university and that was never taken seriously."

### Preparing for upcoming trials

## Royal Ontario Museum protesters tour country to challenge police

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — Black activists who opposed the Royal Ontario Museum's exhibit, *Into the Heart of Africa*, are touring to drum up support for their upcoming trials.

During an appearance at Carleton University November 9, the activists showed a video of police attacking a peaceful demonstration. During the spring of 1990, eleven women and men were beaten and arrested while protesting the ROM exhibit. Nine of the demonstrators go to trial in Toronto November 18 to 29.

The Coalition For The Truth About Afrika was formed in November 1989 following the opening of the exhibit. The coalition organized weekly pickets outside the museum, calling the exhibit an inaccurate and stereotypical portrayal of African history.

Jennifer Issac, one of the activists charged by police, told an audience of sixty people that she had been looking forward to seeing the history of her people at the museum. "I left the exhibit and I had tears in my eyes," said Issac.

She said the exhibit portrayed African history through the eyes of the missionaries who pillaged Africa. She said the exhibit "reduced me and my people to a bunch of savages." Issac joined the demonstrations in front of the museum. "The African community in Toronto came together," she said. "It was a unifying experience."

Although Issac was arrested and charged with assaulting a

police officer at the June 2, 1990 demonstration, she said she didn't touch anybody. She also said police made racist remarks about her.

The charges against Issac were dropped on condition she stay away from the museum for six months. Another coalition member was tried and found guilty.

Activist Oji Adisa was arrested as he left the demonstration on June 2, he said. Two men in business suits, who did not identify themselves as police, jumped him and threw him upside down into an unmarked car, he said after the meeting.

Adisa said he saw one police officer kick a man and another told a bystander to "fuck off and mind your own business."

Demonstrator Ras Rico said the coalition stopped the exhibit from travelling to Ottawa, Vancouver, Albuquerque and Los Angeles. He said this was the first battle won by blacks in Canada against an educational institution.

"We busted ass," he said to the audience's applause. "Feel proud — that victory is also your victory."

The coalition also convinced the Toronto School Board to not to send children to the exhibit, and won an apology from the museum to apologize for the harm done to the black community by the exhibit.

"The word is the truth and the truth is that nobody is going to speak for us," said Rico. "If you accept it, you are defeated. If you don't accept it, you can always fight on."



excite november 20, 1991 drop everything

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- game • sit-in • love-in
- be-in • debate • debate
- deflowering • defrosting • demonstration
- dissertation • revelation • happening
- awakening • convergence • conference
- milestone • phenomenon
- crisis • confirmation
- reunion • tourney
- party • orgy • fiesta
- siesta • soiree • tea party
- second coming • odd appearance • broad-based coalition • jam • mixdown
- hoedown • rap-session

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**SILENT PHANTOM**  
Pianist Rick Friend will play the original accompaniment to the 1925 silent film version of Phantom of the Opera. This Friday at 8 p.m. at Trinity St. Paul Centre, 427 Bloor Street West. Tickets \$10, \$8 students/seniors.

**YORK VIETNAMESE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
Orientation gathering with refreshments and entertainment, this Friday in Sylvester's, 201 Stong College. Everyone welcome. For more information go to 209 Student Centre.

**EL SALVADOR!**  
Special guest speaker Trinidad Nieto, a Salvadorian priest. Monday, November 25. An interview on CHRY in the morning. Spanish Mass at noon in 453 Student Centre. A lecture entitled "The view from the Base" in 305A York Lanes from 2-4:30 p.m. A fiesta featuring Salvadorian music and cuisine at 6 p.m. in Coluget College Common Room.

**MEDICINE WITHOUT AN M.D.**  
Alternatives to Medical School. A lecture by Professor Jack Rosenfeld, McMaster University School of Medicine. Monday, November 25 at 3:30 pm in Bethune Gallery, room 320 Bethune College. For more information call 736-2100 ext. 3940.

**PUTTING LIFE ON MARS**  
"Is it ethical to Play God With Another Planet?" A lecture by Professors Robert Haynes and Donald MacNiven. Tuesday, November 26 at 3:30 p.m. in Bethune Gallery, 320 Bethune College. For more information 736-2100 ext. 3940.

**I.D.A. GALLERY EXHIBITIONS**  
SCARS by Derek Wessinger, Annette Kraft Van Ermel. Running until this Friday. Reception this Thursday at 6 p.m. METAPRAXIS by Stephen Doyle. November 25-29. Closing reception on the 29th, 4-8 p.m. CHANGES by Barbara Nymen, Clara Ursitti. December 2-6. Reception the 6th at 5 p.m. The I.D.A. Gallery is on the Main Floor, Fine Arts Centre 2.

**BREAKING MEN'S SILENCE TO END MEN'S VIOLENCE**  
White Ribbon Campaign by the Men's Network for Change. A national men's response against men's violence against women asking men across Canada to hang a white ribbon from their house, car or at their workplace and to wear a white ribbon or armband from Sunday, December 1 to Friday December 6, the second anniversary of the Montreal massacre. For more information contact Ron Sulser at 927-8099.

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERIES**  
Faculty of Arts will hold the following events: Getting into Law School-Tuesday January 21. Developing a Career in Communications-Tuesday, February 25. Career Planning-Monday March 9. All events held from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Senate Chamber, Ross South 519.

**HORDE OF GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS (H.O.G.S.)**  
A pub night with H.O.G.S. November 28. Monty Python film fest on November 29. For more information come to the T.R.C. room Ross South 405.

**WOMEN'S BODY IMAGES SUPPORT GROUP**  
Next meeting for new members on January 7, 1992 at 4 p.m. in 328 Student Centre.

**UNITED INDIAN STUDENTS (U.I.S.)**  
India's funniest home videos contest. Deadline is January 10, 1992. First prize is a trip for two to Florida or \$500. For more information call U.I.S. of York at 329-0681.

**A TASTE FOR JUSTICE!**  
Support third world co-operatives. We have bridgehead coffees and teas. Go to Student Christian Movement, 214 Scott Religious Centre or call 736-2100 ext. 77275.

**AIKIDO YOSHINKAI**  
A Japanese Martial Artist will hold classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-2 p.m. in the

**Drop Everything for your campus announcements. Leave submissions in the Drop Everything envelope in the Execal Newsroom. 426 Student Centre. c/o Marcus Parmegiani. Deadlines are Thursdays before Wednesday Publications.**

Judo/Wrestling room, Tait McKenzie. Spectators welcome.

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**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GENERAL MEETINGS**  
Every Thursday at 5 p.m. in 110 Founders College. All welcome.

**ANGLICAN, UNITED, CATHOLIC, BAPTIST**  
Lutheran, Presbyterian, Quaker...Join us for ecumenical worship, Thursdays at 1 p.m. in Scott Religious Centre Chapel. Organized by York Student Christian Movement.

**ENVIROSCOPE**  
A student newspaper for environmental and social issues. Copy, photos and graphics needed for the first issue in 1992. Please send submissions to Enviroscope c/o TASC, Education Centre 155 College St. Toronto, M5T 1P6. For more information call Jason at 229-0023.

**FIRST NATION STUDENTS**  
We want to get to know each other to share information on education, social events. Please leave your name and number at Environmental Studies, 736-5252.

**LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN AT YORK**  
General meetings every second Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Women's Centre, 328 Student Centre. Next gathering is today. For more information contact Lucy at 736-2100 ext. 20494.

**PLENTY CANADA**  
Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity on campus which will expose you to global issues and link you to an international development organization? If so consider working for Plenty Canada! There is much to be done: organizing, participating in events, learning and talking about development, hosting speakers. Please join us. For more information call (613) 278-2215.

**THE WRITERS READ SERIES**  
A student run workshop designed for poets, prose writers, musicians, drama students & anyone else interested in giving readings of their work outside the classroom. Held Mondays from 4-6 p.m. and the first Wednesday of each month, 4-6 p.m., in Vanier College Senior Fellow Common Room. Special Event on Tuesday, November 26 with Toronto Poet Ann Michaels. For more information contact Zaf or Fil in Vanier Student Council Office.

**THE YORK DEBATING SOCIETY**  
Weekly meetings on Mondays from 4-6 p.m. in Ross South 701.

**VANIER GAMES CLUB**  
Wargames, RPG's, T.A.G. General Meetings Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. in Vanier College Junior Common Room. For more information call 748-6772.

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**YORK FENCING CLUB**  
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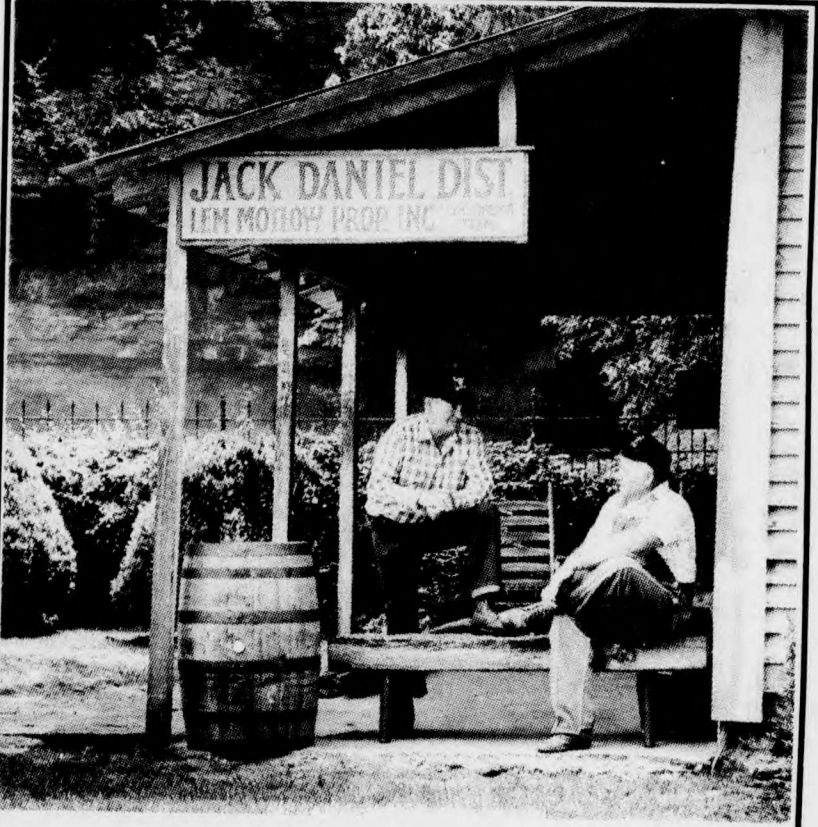
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## OSAP's not fair

Dear Editor,

OSAP discriminates against mature students.

In my naivety I believed that the OSAP program was a fair one. But, like many things in life, the reality of the situation is hard to accept. We the mature students, are evaluated on the basis of income and homes. This, I believe is discriminatory. Why should we be penalized for providing our families with a home? OSAP drags its heels over processing the applications, leaving many of us in doubt until well into the semester. There is an appeal process, but this process is a total invasion of one's life-style and a totally degrading experience. One is left feeling that we are criminals, that we have done something terribly wrong by asking for assistance. Even if we do go through with this humiliating experience, there is no guarantee that the appeal will be a success. In speaking with a representative at OSAP I discovered that if you make more than \$18,000 - \$20,000 per year, you are expected to fund your own education. This base amount automatically excludes mature students, which I feel is yet another form of discrimination. I strongly urge other mature students to write to: Ministry of Colleges and Universities, 6th floor Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, M7A 1L2, Attention: Dr. Richard Allen.

The ministry is presently reviewing their policy concerning acceptance or denial of OSAP funds. The more letters he receives, the stronger our voice becomes. I would also urge York University to take a greater interest in its mature student population. We also have a lot to contribute to York and to the community.

Sandra Iantorno



Book Sharma

## Will Harry pick up AMEX tab?

An Open Letter to President Harry Arthurs

Dear Harry,

We are outraged to find that all full-time staff members have received a pre-approved York University "corporate" credit card from American Express.

We contend that in issuing these credit cards, York University has acted in a socially and financially irresponsible manner. We support these contentions by offering these facts:

Although described as a "corporate card," the accompanying document

notes that "we are not against the use of the card for personal expenses". Cards were sent out indiscriminately, regardless of whether staff members incur legitimate expenses on behalf of York University.

Since the individual is financially liable for debts incurred on the card, it is a personal credit card. Its promotion as a "corporate" card is misleading. The claim narrowly escapes being fraudulent because the University pays the annual \$5.00/card fee.

Credit cards hold their greatest appeal to those least able to afford them. To make Amex membership more enticing, the card has "no pre-set spending limit". Through this easy credit program, the University is encouraging its employees to risk

personal indebtedness at a time of financial crisis. This apparent lack of social conscience may predict the nadir in the University's quest for a dollar.

We are concerned that employee information given to American Express may be used to conduct unauthorized credit checks. Employee information, including names and addresses is confidential and its release is a breach of trust.

We believe that money spent in legitimizing the "corporate card" claim might be better invested in improved facilities and services. The card fee is small, perhaps, in terms of the total budget but every dollar wasted is still wasted. We suspect, however, that York planned to make money on this scheme by (1) selling

employee information to Amex and/or (2) taking a kick-back each time the "corporate card" is used. We cannot estimate the net profit, nor do we know the current market value for integrity.

York may insist that the "corporate card" is genuine and is intended for University business. We argue that the wholesale distribution of the cards

## Letters

encourages additional spending while most faculties are facing severe cut-backs.

We recommend that you direct comptroller R.J. Goudreau to immediately cancel this program.

Rena Singleton  
Pat Finch  
Debbie Mojzes  
Michael Belanger  
Helen Lee  
Leona Andrews

## Pessimistic view of Peace Talks

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed with Gamal Abdel-Shehid's article, "Peace talks have little to do with peace" (Bearpit, November 6) because it displayed an attitude which is not only pessimistic, but rigidly dogmatic as well. If it is "relevant" to discuss to histories of Israel, the U.S., and the U.N., then surely it is also relevant to examine the histories of the Arab participants.

There's no doubt that some students would fill a whole paper detailing the negative actions of Israel

Continued on page 8

## Help for ASA members

Dear Editor,

With great determination and commitment, the African Students' Association has successfully coordinated the establishment of an emergency relief fund for its members to be administered by York University. The need for the establishment of this relief program speaks for itself. Recently, five ASA members could not afford to continue their studies at York and two others were threatened with eviction from their homes due to financial difficulties.

The financial problems facing ASA members extend to the area of books, stationery, and even food. The importance of the relief fund is underscored by the fact that the majority of ASA members are foreign students who are not entitled to official means of financial support such as OSAP or credit cards. Unlike their Canadian counterparts, most ASA members cannot turn to their families in the event of financial difficulties.

**Who May Apply:** The fund would operate similarly to a university bursary to financially assist African students during difficult times. It will be available to students at York (including Glendon College) in critical financial need only.

**How You Can Help:** The ASA is coordinating activities to generate funds, and is also soliciting

for financial donations of any amount from interested community members, faculties, departments, colleges and student governments, as well as corporate sponsors.

Financial contributions and donations of any amount are welcome and tax deductible. Any contribution will be fully tax receipted by the University in accordance with Revenue Canada guidelines. Donations and contributions should be directed to the York University ASA Relief Fund, Office of Private Funding, External Relations, West Office Building, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Ontario, M3J 1P3; or to the ASA office, Room 310 Student Centre, tel. 736-2100 ext. 20435; or call Diamond at 665-1372.

Finally, getting the word out to interested community members will be of great help. We have tried, but we may have missed some possible contributors during our recent mail-out.

It is important that students and communities try to help each other in times of need. Your contribution, either personal, financial or both, will be greatly appreciated by those students who will benefit from it.

Sincerely,  
Diamond Tobin-West  
President of ASA

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# editorial



## FROM CROATIAN STUDENTS FACE HARASSMENT AT YORK FROM UNSPECIFIED GROUP(S)

### Strange rumblings coming from Underground

Student Centre Programmer M. J. Kelly, who was responsible for bands, buskers, art in the gallery and multi-cultural, club-sponsored events, had been asked several times to quit her job to work for The Agency, one of the largest band booking companies in Toronto. "It was a tempting offer," she said in an interview with *Excalibur*, "but I really want to stick with things here."

Half an hour later, she was fired.

By all accounts, the split was amicable. But the laying off of five employees has left serious questions about the way the Student Centre is being run.

Student Centre programming, including bands, buskers, art in the gallery and multicultural, club-sponsored events, was losing money. It was expected to. Starting from nothing, with no reputation and no track record, it was only common sense to expect programmes to lose money. In fact, programming had not spent as much money as had been budgeted, putting it slightly ahead of where it was supposed to be.

Where the budget has expected revenue, and where it has subsequently hemorrhaged red ink, is in food revenue. Restaurant sales for the period of June to October were \$375,000 less than budgeted, while space rental was \$215,000 less, a combined loss of \$590,000. Expenses were less than budgeted for, but this still left the Student Centre with a deficit of almost \$390,000.

Cutting back staff and cutting out programming was like amputating a leg to cure a head wound. It offered a quick solution that didn't address the main problem: people aren't using the Student Centre as much as expected, particularly the Underground. Until this problem is properly addressed, the Student Centre will continue to lose money.

Even more ominous was the way in which the decision was made. The Executive Committee of the Student Centre Corporation Board made the decision without consulting those affected, giving them no opportunity to find less drastic alternatives.

Decisions at the Student Centre are made on an ad hoc basis and lines of communication are weak to nonexistent. Kelly claims the Student Centre has been operating on "crisis man-

agement," which unfortunately demands immediate decisions that allow no time to consider long-term objectives.

It shows. The Dream Warriors are a local band with an international following; they should have sold out the Underground, yet the place was barely half-full. A large part of the reason for this must fall on the decision not to advertise off campus.

The policy not to advertise bands off campus was apparently a response to escalating violence in the Underground. Its main effect was to limit awareness of, and attendance at, the concerts, diminishing a source of revenue and ending the Student Centre's secondary goal of linking students and the North York community. The policy didn't even achieve its primary objective: the worst cases of violence happen on Thursday and Friday nights, when there are djs in the Underground.

Because dj nights bring in the most revenue, they could not be changed; live acts became the scapegoats and the victims.

Another last minute policy affected local artists Meryn Cadell and Maestro Fresh Wes, who were booked to appear at the Underground in October. Without consulting anyone, the Executive Committee decided to get a television in the club and broadcast Blue Jays games. Due to her contract, Cadell had to be paid in full even though she did not appear; Maestro Fresh Wes was rescheduled, but, because there will be no more live bands, he will have to be paid without playing as well.

These potential consequences are serious. The Student Centre's contract with the university makes it clear that if there are doubts about how well it is being run (the deficit being an indicator), the university is within its rights to take over administration of the Student Centre. As bad as things currently seem, that would kill any hope of a Student Centre responsive to student needs or desires.

More immediately, the Student Centre mess has left those of us who love live music, and were looking forward to having an outlet for it on campus, out in the cold. The Underground, with one poorly considered decision, has become a place primarily for people who want to get drunk, laid or both.

I.N.

## excalibur

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Black Writer's Caucus Meeting at 3:00 pm

Womens Caucus Meeting at 4:00 pm

General Meetings

Every Wednesday

4:30 pm

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# Defenders of ROM's Africa exhibit distorted reality

bearpit  
excilibur november 20, 1991

by Omond Obanda

**J**udith Hellman's appeal to the *Excilibur* to reopen the debate over the ROM's "Into the Heart of Africa" is the same as calling for a debate with the holocaust-deniers. It would be tantamount to helping the neo-Nazis rewrite history and exonerate the culprits. Hellman's is a futile attempt to rehabilitate the reputation of "Into the Heart" curator, Jeanne Cannizzo who, like others before her, inter-

pret colonial and slave history from the oppressor's point of view.

It is a distortion of reality to even imply that Cannizzo wanted Canadians to be ashamed of their imperial past. Cannizzo, Hellman and any other human being over five years of age, who lives in this racially stratified and oppressive society, must be fully aware that Canadians are very proud of their imperial past and murderous racist present! (Our cops are tops you know — especially when it comes to shooting unarmed African women and children).

Hellman states that her impression of the exhibit was "of exquisite beauty of the African objects and music on display, and on the other hand, of outrage and shame at the racist and imperialist attitudes of the Canadian soldiers and missionaries who had collected those articles."

This kind of reaction (that Cannizzo knowingly or unknowingly elicited) was the essence of our protest at the ROM in the summer of 1990. Assuming that Hellman was one of the most "informed" and "bigotry-free" viewers,

all that the exhibit achieved was to evoke a token of appreciation of objects and music of Africa. There is no reference to the people who made and used those objects. And to add insult to racist injury, she only felt outrage at the soldiers and missionaries for collecting the objects, not at the white slave dealers, not at the colonialist, not at the present murderers in Toronto, Montreal, Los Angeles, not at the KKK, the police abuses and the applauding condoning public. This is an apology for savage profiteering from slavery, colonialism and today's racism and neo-slavery (reparation for which Africans now demand).

mirror to make them see the ugly racism will not mean a thing. To them, bigotry is beautiful and normal. To show them a picture of a White woman enslaving an African woman is to evoke in their hearts the feelings of a glorious past.

Last but not least, to reopen the debate now would be to aggravate the precarious situation the ROM Eleven are in. It is a cruel attempt to create doubts as to the nature of the

## It's time Canadians dumped the Queen

by Paul Notley

One of the more depressing things about this country's intellectual history is that since confederation there has been practically no republican or atheist currents. I am not an atheist but clearly the chauvinist and philistine elements in our churches deserve all the slander they can get.

I am a republican though, and was particularly struck by the absence of republicanism in this country while reading the horribly fawning press coverage of the visit of Charles Windsor, the Prince of Wales. How grateful we were that his singularly uninteresting wife should interrupt her shopping for a few days to say a few platitudes at our hospitals.

Why do we have a monarchy? Obviously many people support it merely because it's always been there, like death. But the classic argument for it is that without it we would have the same person as head of state and head of government and that the monarchy protects us from a Nixon-like demagoguery.

Of course there is the obvious objection that Germany, Greece and Israel have separated the two functions without the need for monarchist sycophancy. There is the unnerving objection that what sort of democracy are we if we have to depend on an aging, mediocre woman 4000 kilometres away with no special interest in our country?

But still some ninnies have thought that restoration would be just the answer to Eastern Europe's problems (usually these are ninnies who don't



have to live in the new monarchies).

Last month *Time* had a column proposing the Romanovs be restored to Russia. Right, just the thing to put Poland and the Baltic states at ease. The columnist also stated that the Churchill thought that if the Weimar Republic was a constitutional monarchy we could have avoided Hitler.

Well for once Churchill was a twit, since a statement like that is not much of an improvement on saying rattlesnakes would be harmless if we were immune to poison. The essential reason why Weimar collapsed was that various elites, such as business, the army, the (Protestant) church, the aristocracy and especially the universities, so despised the new republic that they turned to the first demagogue who could get rid of it.

In the same vein of stupidity, some

people earlier suggested that Romania could be saved if they restored its royal house, under whose previous rule Romania had been the most corrupt country in Europe.

So when you consider how Ulster Loyalists hack up Catholics in the name of the Queen, when you consider how close Prince Philip was to the worthless Greek royal family (a bunch of Danish puppets whose penultimate king married a Nazi and whose last king, the playboy Constantine, arbitrarily removed the first post-war liberal premier and was indirectly responsible for the coup of 1967) — when you consider that the Restoration nearly had Milton executed, and that the Glorious Revolution fired Dryden as poet laureate because he was Catholic, and when you consider that most of our rulers have been dull non-entities who have showed no interest in their (or anyone else's) culture, you just have to agree with Oscar Wilde who said that if this is how she treats them, her Majesty doesn't deserve to have any prisoners.

The ROM exhibit was meant to reinforce the distortion, denigration and stereo-typing of the African person and rationalization of White peoples' unforgivable past and shameful present.

The debate on the ROM (a transparent effort to help Cannizzo get her job back) is an effort to reverse the gains already made in trying to rectify the Lies About Africa. The issue is dead. The exhibit was another racist piece, period.

The patronizing White liberal who think that Africans need their assistance in interpreting (or for that matter fighting) slavery, colonialism or racism should first cleanse themselves of all feelings of superiority (rescue-mission attitude) or SHUT UP about Africa. The least they can do is to recognize our ability to demystify the myths about ourselves in our own way.

Racists do not need a special school where they can be taught how not to be racists. The school is the society. If they cannot see the injustice going on, then holding a

# bearpit

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exhibit and portray the protestors as violent, lawless and hyperactive individuals. The case would then be depoliticized and white supremacy would reign as usual. Such statements by Hellman that some of her students had protested without seeing the exhibits are calculated to achieve that end (just at the stereotypes would have it).

Omond Obanda is a York student and member of The Coalition for the Truth about Africa.

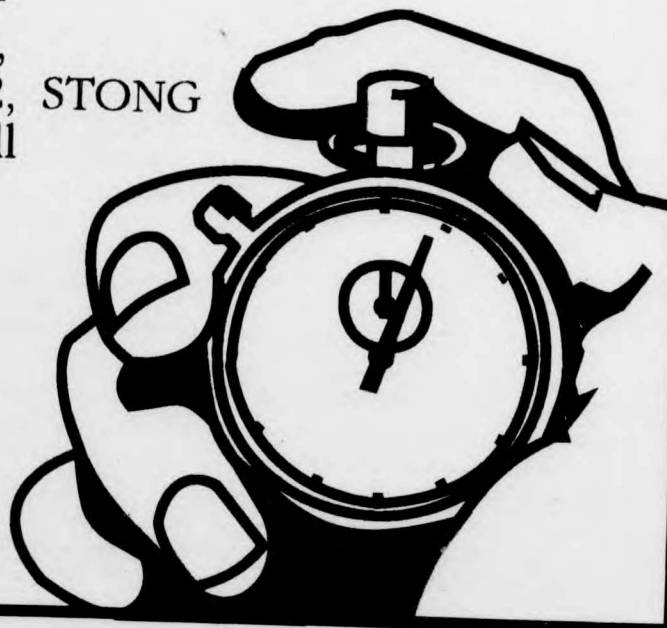
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will be having a brainstorming session this Thursday November 21 at 4:00 to come up with ideas for the upcoming International Women's Day feature • we need volunteers • writers • artists • photographers • if you're interested in contributing, please join our mind meld

the Women's Caucus meets every Thurs at 4:00pm



Continued from page 5

Arab neighbours. However, both that attitude and Abdel-Shehid's are utterly counter-productive. While it's obvious that history will play a large role in the peace talks, it must not be used to dehumanize the people of any of the nations involved. Israel and its neighbours must sit down and negotiate peace, because it certainly won't come from rhetoric.

Cindy Lauer

## Future bright for Peace Talks

Dear Editor,

Re: "Peace talks have little to do with peace", Gamal Abdel-Shehid, Nov. 6, 1991

Because I have faith in the York community's ability to distinguish between facts and historical revisionism without my help, I will not bother to comment on the glaring errors in Mr. Abdel-Shehid's column. I also assume that everyone saw the same coverage of the Madrid peace talks that I did and not the coverage that Mr. Abdel-Shehid obviously saw.

I would like to say that I feel sorry for Mr. Abdel-Shehid because he believes peace to be an impossibility. In the world that Mr. Abdel-Shehid lives in, Israel, the U.S. and the U.N. cannot be involved in the peace process. It would stand to reason, then, that the road to peace cannot be reached unless the Arab nations speak on Israel's behalf.

It is a shame if Mr. Abdel-Shehid is disillusioned by the peace process. Many are encouraged by the first steps taken (including Israel, Palestinians and Jordanians). There is obviously a lot more to be done. Luckily, there are those (on both sides) who do not see things as Mr. Abdel-Shehid does and they are the ones doing the negotiating. These people understand that the region's history is viewed differently by the parties involved. They understand that injustices have been committed by both sides (a point ignored by Mr. Abdel-Shehid). But, most importantly, they understand that the only road to peace lies ahead, by looking at the future, and not behind, by looking at the past. They have lived with war and now they hope for peace. *You*, Mr. Abdel-Shehid, seem to be the one who is, regrettably, not genuinely interested in peace.

Finally, let me say that I have had the good fortune to have lived in Israel. In my short time there, I lived among Jews and Arabs. Regardless of their views on the various issues surrounding relations between Israelis and Palestinians, they share a common desire to stop fighting. Please, Mr. Abdel-Shehid, join those of us who live in 1991, I think you will find the atmosphere much more enjoyable and the outlook much brighter.

Alan Grad

## Israel cast in wrong light

Dear Editor,

Re: Gamal Abdel-Shehid's Bearpit article "Peace Talks have little to do with peace."

Mr. Shehid presents a distorted, inflammatory and cynical view of the recent Madrid peace talks, especially with respect to the involvement of the State of Israel.

Mr. Shehid, as if analyzing the situation from inside a vacuum, states that Israel "continues to destabilize

## letters continued

the region through the use of military force." However, the facts, most of which Shehid neglects, point to different conclusions. In 1967, Israel fought a defensive war against Egypt, Syria and Jordan, all of whom were

out to perpetrate its [Israel's] destruction. In the ensuing six-day battle, Israel captured the Golan, West Bank, Gaza, and the Sinai. Mr. Shehid also forgets to note that Israel immediately offered their return to the Arab aggressors but were met with three *no's*: *no* to peace; *no* to negotiation, and *no* to recognition as proclaimed at the Arab Conference at Khartoum after the 1967 war.

In fact, if one looks at their history, *no* is the favourite word of the Arab world. In 1947, the Arabs said *no* to peace by rejecting Israel's right to

exist as a Jewish state alongside a Palestinian-Arab state and immediately attacked the fledgling nation, again in an attempt to wipe it off the map. They said *no* to peace in 1973 when they attacked Israel on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. And they said *no* to peace in 1982 when Syrian-baked Palestinians assassinated Lebanese leader Bashir Gemayal for making peace with Israel. Furthermore, where Mr. Shehid obtained the bloated figure of 30,000 killed in Israel's "invasion" of Lebanon is of interest since Arab sources

place the number of dead at 3000, while Israel estimates only 600.

Finally, even at Madrid, Syrian (and its puppet Lebanese) delegates refused to shake hands with a female Israeli delegate whose gesture of friendship was left hanging in the air. Mr. Shehid knows that rejection begs rejection. And if Yizhak Shamir is a rejectionist (and heaven knows he is), then it has evolved as a direct result of 44 years of Arab rejection of Israel's right to exist.

Mr. Shehid's cynical attempt to paint the Madrid talks as an exercise

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in imperialism is flawed because finally after wars and hatred, Israeli and Palestinian Arabs are finally talking. Most important, the Palestinians put away that outdated and silly notion of "Arab unity" and proceeded with the talks irrespective of Syrian rejection.

Knowing Mr. Shehid as I do, I cannot imagine that he would prefer to see the war continue between Israel and the Arabs which Madrid has sought to stop. However, after reading his analysis, it appears the he too will be another individual to say *no* to peace when the rest of the world is trying to equitably settle this age-long dispute.

Michael E. Kay

## Restaurants for eating not studying

Dear Editor,

I have my doubts that this will be printed because I am not out to hang the manager of Company's Coming, but I am writing this in the hope that you are not as biased as you appear.

I am a full-time student at York, and like the majority, I live off campus. I go to Company's Coming a lot because the food is very good and the staff is very pleasant. Many times I have my tray with my soup or whatever I have purchased, and there is nowhere for me to sit and enjoy my meal, because so many of my fellow students are so inconsiderate. Lunch hour is not the time to study in a food outlet. I don't blame the owner for not allowing studying, that's what the library's for. I study in my home or in the library. If the York Lanes estab-

lishment was meant for studying, would not the store be called Company's Coming Study Parlor, or Tastes Study Area? These food places were built so that we would have the convenience of eating good food on campus.

Mary MacMasters



## Where was York Security?

Dear Editor,

I was amazed the York Security was not in a position to prevent the vandalising of as many as 19 cars in various parking lots around the campus on Friday night November 1, 1991.

The extent of the damage included broken windows and stolen stereos. One car even had all four tires and the battery removed! Three of these cars were parked on Ottawa Rd., the only road leading to the security office. However, apparently not one security officer noticed these vandalized cars.

Why does the security department

exist? How is it that this could happen if regular patrols are carried out? If security is on the spot the minute a parking meter expires, why can't they do their jobs and insure the safety of cars in the lots?

Hamid Parakhodi,  
Founders Residence

## Students should practise democracy

Dear Editor,

Re: New rule restricts student referenda October 23, 1991

Recently there has been a great deal of concern raised about the possible threat to democratic decision-making at York. In particular these complaints have been voiced by the York Federation of Students.

The basis for their worry arises from a recent decision by the Board of Referendum Commissioners (BORC) to raise the voter turn-out mandate from 10 per cent - about 2000 students - to 20 per cent of the student population. In doing so, say YFS President Michelle Hughes and Internal V.P. Nikki Gershbnain, the BORC has made it impossible for referenda to be passed.

If history is our guide then they are absolutely correct; student turn-out at the polls has been shamefully low in the past. However, to say that this decision by the Board has potentially deleterious effects on the democratic process is misguided and misses the core of the problem entirely.

Let us take, for example, the United States of America - that bastion of democracy - where a mandate in a presidential election is a mere 28 per

cent of all registered voters; no, not 28 per cent of all eligible voters but registered voters. Would raising the percentage required for a mandate in this situation damage or vastly improve the democratic process there? This has been one of the most salient problems in the eyes of those who wish to reform the democratic process in the U.S.

To return to our own situation I believe it is clear that student democracy at York was ailing long before the Board of Referendum Commissioners stepped in with this decision.

That the YFS will now have an even harder time of carrying out the various referenda is amply clear, but if the goal of the student government is to improve democracy then they will applaud the fact that a larger percentage of the student population is now required to make important decisions which affect each and every paying student at York University.

The government must now try to impress upon students with even greater vigour, the importance of taking their turn at the polling station.

Renato Filice  
B.A. Political Science

## No love lost over tossed pasta

Dear Editor,

I feel it is incumbent upon me to address Steven Kates' letter ("Pasta protestors had point," Oct. 3). To refresh, we wrote a letter to the *Excalibur* expressing our concern over an egregious ad run by the paper calling one and all to come out, protest, and throw pasta at Michael Wilson. Mr. Kates accuses us of not being able to see the forest for the trees because we did not embrace the conventional wisdom that Michael Wilson is responsible for every ill that ails Canada. He then goes on to obfuscate "The problem with Canada" issue by blaming yuppies, BMWs and MBA salaries (is he a self-hating MBA?). I could debate for hours with Mr. Kates on why the problems of this country are not the result of any one politician or party, as he implies, but in order to avoid jumping on Mr. Kates bandwagon of platitudes, I won't.

While Mr. Kates glosses over what he regards as minor annoyances, namely, the disruption of exams and the mess that was created. He says that the exam should have been rescheduled. I'd like to see him tell that to the professor who booked that exam months in advance while adhering to everyone's time constraints. He says that the mess created was "nothing a few minutes of sweeping won't correct". Is he prepared to clean up the mess? If so, then maybe it's not such a bad idea to have a food fight in his halls of study.

Finally, Mr. Kates lovingly tells us to "get over it". Well, I can tell you Steve, it wasn't easy, but we're way above it. You can veer left and slowly descend the bannister or you can turn right and join us up here. Contrary to popular belief, we do have charitable hearts.

Yours truly,  
Arthur Lofsky  
MBA I

## More to York than essays and lectures

Dear Editor,

We at the Association of Economics Students held a membership drive recently and by most standards were satisfied with the results. There is one disturbing fact: very few first year students participated.

There are a litany of reasons for joining a club (not just ours). The reasons extend from social contacts gained, to extra-curricular academic achievement but most importantly it is part of your total university experience. Attending class, taking notes, writing essays and taking final exams may get you a degree and ultimately a job. So what? You will have missed an opportunity to meet people with similar, and more importantly, dissimilar ideas. University is a place to open up your mind, not just to learn facts, but to gain new perspectives, even shift your paradigms of thought.

Don't wait until your third or fourth year to realize what you've been missing. Like the commercial says: Just Do It. Now.

Michael Crawford,  
President,  
Association of Economic Students

## York Professor: that's not what I said

Dear Editor,

Your October 30 article on "Classes getting even bigger..." misquotes me. The main instance is "Sociology...should be embarrassed to be using the formats they are." In the context of the article, I appear to be making an oracular pronouncement about the way sociologists should teach Sociology. I wasn't. The issue I was discussing with your reporter was the effects of budgets cuts in the English Department, specifically, the tactics which I think the English Department should be using to resist the pressure to go to large lecture formats. However appropriate these formats are in other departments, they do not provide an effective means to develop the reading and interpretive skills

which are essential in English. I did explain this to your reporter on the telephone; and she, presumably, was scribbling notes on the other end, but what she got is substantially different from what I said. Although she called to check a couple of quotations with me, she did not check the one above.

There is one other detail I'd like to clarify. You say that I am "the sole part-time faculty representative on the university senate." I am the only CUEW representative, but there is currently one other part-time representative. Senate legislation, which does not yet seem to have been fully implemented, requires that there be 4 part-time faculty representatives. However, the main point that this section of your article makes is certainly right: part-time faculty will be

the group most affected by the budget cuts, and we have no significant input in the process by which these decisions are made.

The English Department, on the other hand, has very progressive policies on the participation of part-time faculty. Since the department is the level at which decisions about the format of courses are made, our ability to participate here is: very important. Any part-time faculty member in English who holds one Course Directorship has a vote at Department meetings, and there are many such members. Those full-time faculty in English, who last year voted to allow us into the collegium, deserve credit for having done so.

James Brown

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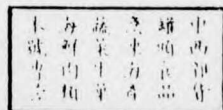
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By Jennifer Holmes:

**W**ith York's multitude of student clubs representing everything under the sun, and somethings that belong under a dark rock, I was not impressed to hear about the launching of the African Caribbean Alumni Association (ACAA). That is, not until I spoke to Debbie Costello, president of the association, and went to the "kwanza" style gathering ("potluck" for the uninitiated) organized by the club.

Family Day was intended to bring together current students and York graduates of African and Caribbean descent. The event as explained by Costello, marks the association's official arrival on the campus.

**"Critical is the total lack of professional networks available to Black students." The ACAA intends to change this situation.**

## COMMUNITY

**Looking into non-profit services at York**

ACAA is "absolutely not a political organization." The association is founded on the belief that there needs to be greater "continuity" between

York's Black Alumni and its present students.

According to Costello "currently there are no means for new students to liaise with graduates" for help with the ins and outs of the university, and to get advice or help on assignments.

Even more critical, notes Costello, is the "total lack of professional networks available" to Black students. The ACAA intends to change this situation.

Family Day took place in Founder's dining hall, on Saturday, October 26. The

event culminated with a "conscious party" that went on past midnight. Michelle Hughes, president of the York Federation of Students, and several members from the association opened the festivities with brief welcoming addresses. Following this, all those interested were free to browse at various booths.

Books, clothing, jewellery, arts and crafts and even christmas cards reflecting African and Caribbean culture were available for purchase. In keeping with the "kwanza" theme a few people brought food to share with the group, and quite a few Caribbean dishes were also on sale.

The comfortable family atmosphere the ACAA was hoping to create was achieved largely due to children running underfoot as alumni members

and students talked, browsed, ate and listened to reggae and pop music.

The one disappointing element to Family Day was the lower than anticipated turnout, especially from the targeted graduates. Costello explained that the low turnout is reflective of the difficulties the association has faced since early summer in trying to contact African and Caribbean graduates. She points out the association has had to use a word of mouth system since information regarding students' ethnicity is not recorded at York. Nevertheless, Costello who was pleased with the day, said the association achieved what it had intended — to establish itself as a new and significant club on York's campus.

The word is out.



## York dominates debating

by Royal Morton

The York Debating Society sends teams to competitions in Canada and the United States throughout the year. The University of Toronto's Hart House recently held what was one of the largest debating tournaments in North America.

The York team fared well in the debating portion of the tournament, but in the public-speaking portion York dominated a very competitive field and achieved the best results in the seven-year history of the society.

Against over 130 of the top debaters in Canada, York placed five speakers in the top twenty. Fourth year political science major Laurence Rabie and veteran debater Robert "the Borg" Borg led the way with a second and third place finish respectively. Both of these outstanding speakers used eloquence and side-splitting humour via five-minute impromptu speeches.

They were given topics such as "You are a badly bruised day-old banana" and then given only 10 seconds to prepare their speeches. Rounding out the top 20 were society vice-president Royal Morton, who grabbed 11th spot; Audrey Weinburg, who placed 16th, and Andrew Feldstein of Osgoode Hall law school fame who placed a strong 17th.

York's other speakers made the top 50. They included first year debater Michael Hrylov, society president Debra Moskovitz, Hugh Scher, also of Osgoode Hall fame, and first year debater Edmond Sholz.

# BOOKSTORE BACK ON TRACK!!

A number of students and faculty were distressed with the service breakdown in the new Bookstore in York Lanes this fall, and justifiably so. We know that when students can't get their course books in a timely fashion, it's frustrating for them. We did have a few problems this fall, some of which were caused simply by the enormity of the move to the new location. Other factors, which were largely beyond our control, also came into play:

The installation of the new computer system was a full seven months behind schedule. This meant that all ordering, receiving and tracking of books had to be done manually, a nearly impossible task.

Hiring and training of new staff took much longer than planned, resulting in a shortage of adequately trained staff for the fall rush.

The TTC strike meant that staff living in isolated areas couldn't get to work on time, or in some cases, not at all.

The PSAC strike resulted in some shipments of books being turned back at the border and returned to the southern U.S., and having to be reshipped.

Over 500 hundred course book requisitions from professors were not received until mid to late August, making it impossible for those books to be on the shelves in time.

The postal strike delayed our ordering of books.

However, we did better than it seemed. Only five percent of ordered texts were missing during the fall rush, meaning that we actually had 95 % on the shelves on time! And in terms of lineups, the longest time anybody had to wait for cashier service was 20 minutes - we timed it - and many of you complimented us on it.

We can do better, and we will. The computer system is now on line, meaning that the course book ordering is proceeding in an orderly fashion. We are planning and preparing now for the winter term, and can assure the York Community that our service level will be substantially improved for the January rush.

We look forward to serving you in future.



# Jacobovici accepts the criticism given to his latest, film *Deadly Currents*

by Pedram Fouladianpour

*Deadly Currents*, a documentary examining the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, is undoubtedly one of the most important films of the year.

In a recent interview Director Simcha Jacobovici said he had mixed feelings working on the film. "It made me hopeful and depressed," he explained. "More depressed because you see no solutions. And more hopeful because you see human nuances."

Jacobovici, who leaves for the Israeli premiere of *Deadly Currents* this Wednesday, has faced a mixed reaction from Israelis and Palestinians in Canada.

"Israelis were saying that their soldiers were humanized for the first time, that they were not shown as an Israeli Robocop. And Palestinians (said) that they were (also) humanized since the film showed their culture, their music or themselves in a family situation."

Despite the fact that *Deadly Cur-*

## interview

*Deadly Currents* director Simcha Jacobovici talks about the reaction from Israelis and Palestinians to his film

*rents* manages to create a balance between different perspectives, the film has received criticism on a political level. Palestinians have argued the film does not portray them as victims of the situation. Israelis, on the other hand, have accused the film of being too sympathetic to Palestinians.

"The problem oscillates between the human rights aspect, which is connected to the Palestinians, and the geopolitical aspect, which is what Israelis are concerned about. The human rights issue is emotional and easier to understand," explained Jacobovici.

Cinematically, *Deadly Currents* is intriguing, deliberately avoiding voice-over narration camera movements are handled the same way they are in a fiction film. "Camera movement reminds us that there is a film going on," Jacobovici pointed out.

Representing reality on the screen has been a dilemma for documentary filmmakers for decades. It is an issue that Jacobovici is relaxed about.

"People are usually media illiterate. When they read a book they know that there is an author behind all that.

In film, the images make people blind, making them believe that there is no one behind, and that what they see is real. We played on the theme of reality as opposed to fiction."

It took Jacobovici and his editor more than a year to trim down 100 hours of footage to less than two hours for theatrical release.

"It was like sculpting," Jacobovici says about the editing process. "It was like playing with a Rubik's cube. There was a scene that we wanted to use so we had to do the scene right before that and so on. There were also certain themes that we were playing with: human rights vs. geopolitical aspects."

Although his next project is a fiction film, Jacobovici has no intention of leaving documentary for good.

"When documentary is well done it is the most powerful kind of cinema. You combine the real with investigation and cinematic techniques. It is also very exciting to combine fiction film techniques with the immediacy of documentary."

*Deadly Currents* goes beyond the limits of conventional documentaries dealing with a political issue. "People have to realize that we were not trying to concentrate on the news angle of human beings," Jacobovici explained, "we were trying to look at a situation that is universal."



Simcha Jacobovici, the director of *Deadly Currents*, a documentary on the Israeli/Palestinian issue. "When documentary is well done it is the most powerful kind of cinema," Jacobovici says.

# arts

film • theatre • galleries • music

## York and professional writers read every week at Vanier College

by Zaffi Gousopoulos

I was sitting around, writing some hit poems, when it suddenly occurred to me: wouldn't it be good if there was a place on campus where York's creative writers could meet and give readings? Wouldn't it be good, I thought, if we young writers could support each other?

Actually, someone thought of it years ago. They called it the Writers Read Series, designed for and run by students. Winters College hosted the Series for ten years until Vanier took

it over in 1989, which makes sense: Vanier is the home of the Humanities and Creative Writing departments, as well as York's enduring literary magazine *Existere*.

A new student can really get lost in the shuffle, at a massive temple like York. Being a compulsive loner and recluse is the only revenge. Or so I thought. I wandered through my first three years of University disinterested in anything except writing and reading.

I skipped classes to read Sylvia Plath and ee cummings. I sat around

## reading

Writer's Read Series  
Vanier Senior Common Room  
Mondays, 4 pm

writing poems while the black screen of night slowly unfolded. Sir Gawain and The Green Knight would have to wait — I was writing my own epic.

I would talk about my latest hits with friends and friends of friends over coffee and cigarettes. And I read them in my Intro to Creative Writing workshop every third or fourth week. Poems about death and cynicism, cigarette butts and coffee spoons, the elusive John Cougar and those monthly blues.

It's true what they say about workshops: they can't teach you how to be a writer, but they can teach you how to be a better one. I wasn't just reading or hearing; I was developing my voice. Sounds cheesy, but it's true. I was making myself a poet.

I didn't realize how valuable workshops are until I took one in fourth year. My peers made me think about the responsibilities of being a writer in a social context.

I gave my first public reading through the series last October with another poet from that class. It made me realize how important it is for a writer to develop performance skills; especially poets, since poetry is a spoken art.

I enjoyed my Writers Read experience so much, I decided I wanted to run this gig. I wanted to open it up to anyone and everyone interested in the spoken word.

Libby Scheier, a Creative Writing Prof at York as well as poet/prose writer, launched the Series on September 23, reading from her latest book of poetry, *SKY*. The following week, a York Graduate and I held the first student readings. The next week, several students read from their poems in progress.

Professional Canadian writers also give readings through the Series. The Canada Council sponsors the authors, a real treat for the York Community. On Oct 16, award-winning Crime Fiction Writer Howard Engel read

from his latest manuscript, as well as from his first Benny Cooperman novel.

We are also pleased to present Toronto poet Anne Michaels on the Nov 26. Anne has just been nominated for the Governor General's Award for Poetry. Beverly Dorrio is also scheduled sometime in late late January.

After an open question period, the speakers are taken to dinner in the Faculty Lounge. This is our way of saying thanks, as well as giving students and faculty an opportunity to talk informally with the writers.

On Nov 11, the Creative Writing Faculty brought their work to the Se-

ries. It was the best reading of the year. Ten Creative writing professors gave wonderful performances. Led by Don Summerhayes, the coordinator of the program, some of the readers included Bob Casto, Lola Tostevin, Libby Scheier, Rhea Tregabov and Rafael Rivera.

If you enjoy writing, the Writers Read Series (ie. Zaf & Phil) would love to present you. Come read and/or listen. Have a beer, have a smoke; we even supply the coffee, crackers and cheese (and sometimes cookies).

The Writers Read Series is held Mondays at 4 pm in the Vanier Senior Common Room, except the first week of every month.

## Modern American slavery

Sydney St. Nicholas

This Tuesday, TV Ontario presents the award winning documentary *H-2 Worker*, which examines, for the first time, the story of the 12,000 Caribbean farm workers who come to Florida and work on the Sugar plantations.

The documentary reminds us that although slavery and the slave trade were abolished over a hundred years ago, slavery is still practiced today in America.

*H-2 worker* examines the horrible living and working conditions of the farm workers.

The men who cut the cane are denied appropriate care if injured, paid less than minimum wage and are deported if they do not do exactly as they are told.

American farm workers discuss in explicit detail how they are promised \$5.35 an hour and told they are going to be paid hourly. In reality they are paid for what they produce, having to work up to 16 hours a day to make \$1.05 an hour.

Michael Manley, the Prime Minister of Jamaica, says the levels of poverty in Jamaica force the workers to go to Florida.

TVO host, Catherine Olsen, also takes a look at how the farm workers

## television

The Human Edge: *H-2 Worker*  
TV Ontario  
Tuesday, November 26, 10 pm

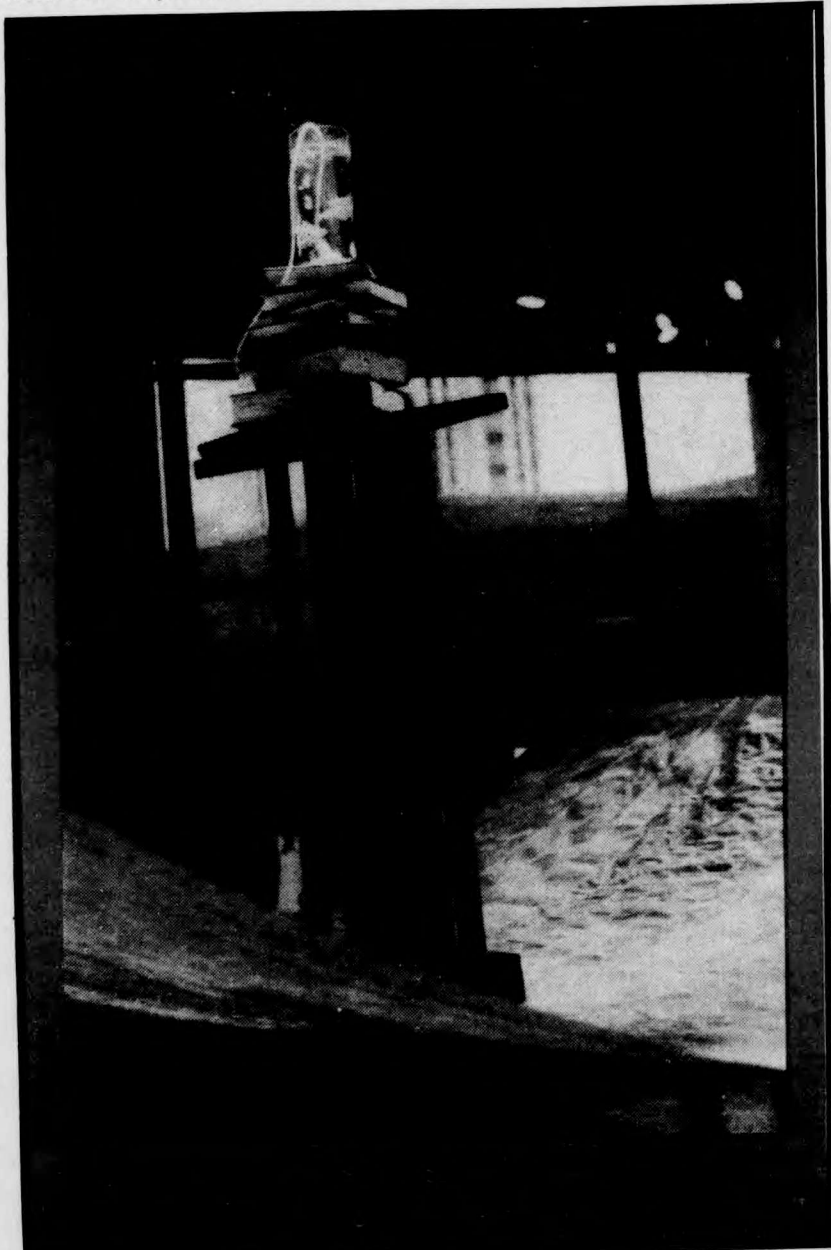
in Southern Ontario are treated.

Are farm workers exploited here in Canada? The question remains unanswered. The farmworkers are hesitant to speak, leaving Reverend Oliver Dailey to speak on their behalf. Dailey feels the situation is much better in Canada than the US, but I would have preferred to hear the farmworkers speak.

*H-2 Worker* shows us that slavery and the slave trade are prevalent in today's society, but it does not suggest solutions to these problems. Everyone knows that the jobs the farmworkers are doing are jobs that Americans and Canadians do not want to do, but how do we address this? In Canada, the farmworkers won't even speak about the situation. In the West Indies, there are still people who believe the road to wealth is through the farm worker program.

Hopefully, *H-2 Worker* will open the eyes of the people who can make changes that will rectify these injustices.

*H-2 Worker* appears on TVO's *Human Edge* series on Tuesday, Nov 26.

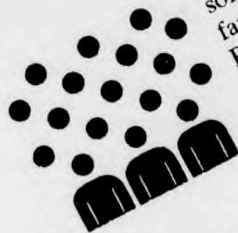




# Something to Bragg about

by Ira Nayman

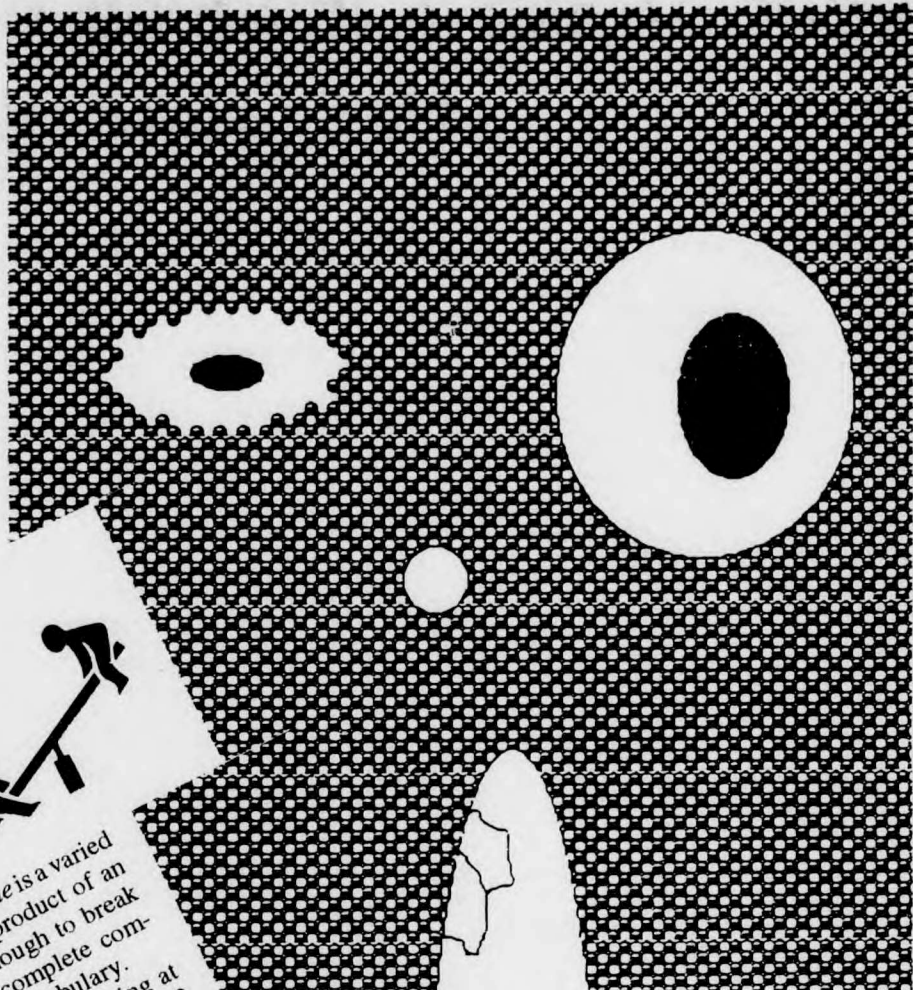
Rumours of Billy Bragg's imminent commercial sellout are greatly exaggerated. Although he does throw us some curves on *Don't Try This at Home*, it is primarily a culmination and continuation of his work to date.



"You to Happen" opens the album with the searing solo guitar many of his fans would like to limit Bragg to. At the first chorus, however, the band kicks in, to remain throughout the days of Bragg alone on stage with his guitar are over. Woke Up My Neighbourhood" or "Mother of the Bride" are love songs shouldn't be too surprising, people who know Bragg primarily as a political songwriter, after all, his first hit, "New England," and one of his most affecting songs, "Levi Stubbs' Tears" are ballads. "Cindy of a Thousand Lives," with its swirling musical textures and ethereal harmonies, is a throwback to sixties psychedelia. The next song, "You Woke Up My Neighbourhood," with its country beat and fiddle, makes a bizarre yet fascinating contrast. Of the 16 songs on the album, only one, "Wish You Were Her" — an attempt at sixties soul that sounds more like Rick Astley — doesn't offer something of interest. Even though his music is far more complex and adventurous, Bragg hasn't lost his political edge. His raucous lyrical takeoff on The Kinks, "You're a dedicated swallower of fascism," should allay fears of Bragg's domestication. Explicitly political songs include "Everywhere," "Rumours of War" and "North Sea Bubble," which he introduced a couple of years ago at WOMAD. Moreover, political references occur in romantic songs like "Moving Goalposts," "Sexuality," and "Single." Bragg has always effectively promoted the idea that the personal is political.

**music**  
Billy Bragg  
*Don't Try This at Home*  
Go! Discs Limited

*Don't Try This at Home* is a varied and mature work, the product of an artist who is brave enough to break new ground and in complete command of his musical vocabulary. Billy Bragg will be appearing at The Concert Hall on November 22 and 23.



# Lucky John Lee Hooker

**music**

John Lee Hooker  
*Mr. Lucky*  
Virgin Records

by David Kuswanto

It's hard not to like *Mr. Lucky*, the latest from John Lee Hooker. From the driving kick of "This is Hip" to the soothing soulfulness of "I Cover the Waterfront," Hooker provides an album that deserves serious attention.

There's something infectious in Hooker's grumbling, stammering vocal style; few people can get away with singing like shit. Backed up by a killer cast that includes everyone from Robert Cray to Keith Richards and Van Morrison, "The Hook" sounds better than ever.

An important element of the record is its "live off the floor" feel. The songs have been mixed with some of the rough edges intact. Hooker is also a generous improviser, laughing and adding or repeating lines during a number of songs.

It's good to know that John Lee Hooker is still out there at 71, singing and playing. *Mr. Lucky* doesn't contain anything you haven't heard before, just things you want to hear more of: good, solid blues.



# kill

# YOU

# TELL

# Cole getting weird on us

by Kathryn Bailey

Some say Lloyd Cole has sold out. These same people would also say Morrissey has sold out, but I remain a tried and true Morrissey apostle, going back to the early days of The Smiths.

Undoubtedly Cole has progressed in the same way that Morrissey has (since The Smiths). Perhaps only the devoted fan can accept and appreciate the new direction.

*Don't Get Weird on Me, Babe* is Cole's counterpart to Morrissey's *Kill Uncle*. It is a mellow blend of exploratory melodies, a noticeable departure from his earlier, tough writing style. And just like Morrissey, Cole has changed from an outright cynic to a forlorn lover. Self-pity and melancholia have replaced anger as the prevailing motivation.

On this album there is a vast difference between the two sides. All of the upbeat, potential singles are on the A side, while all the low-key, experimental (and somewhat less successful) songs are on the flipside. It is as if side B was an afterthought, meant to be ignored, which some reviewers have done.

**music**  
Lloyd Cole  
*Don't Get Weird on Me, Babe*  
Capitol Records

Side A, with its broader appeal, is true to Cole's established works. The first cut, "Tell Your Sister," and the current single, "She's a Girl and I'm a Man," are energetic and intense. The second side includes "Margo's Waltz," which, with its full orchestra and sappy female back-up vocals, sounds strangely like a Frank Sinatra show tune. "There For Her" is apparently a big country/western hit, featuring Cole's clever lyric: "I'm a hurrin' kind of guy." "Butterfly," the only song on this side that really sounds like Cole, is the only one he composed without the partnership of Blair Cowan.

*Don't Get Weird on Me* is a fair album — a progression in Cole's style with a few enjoyable songs. If there were an artist's first release, however, it would be totally ignored. When Lloyd Cole asked the question, "Are You Ready to be Heartbroken?" could he have been referring to his future solo career? It seems only a devout follower can truly praise this album.

He's getting weird on us.

45 rpm

side B



# Liebestraum is too long and convoluted — it's no Fellini

by Anthony Pizzari

*Liebestraum* is a story about an architectural writer (Kevin Anderson) who



Mike Figgis, director of the new film *Liebestraum*.

## film

**Liebestraum**  
written and directed by Mike Figgis  
starring Kevin Anderson and Kim Novak  
produced by Eric Fellner

goes back to his small hometown to visit his dying mother (Kim Novak). There, he meets up with an old college buddy (Bill Pullman) who is destroying a cast iron building. Anderson eventually falls in love with his friend's wife (played by Pamela Gidley).

The characters are connected by the cast iron building — an old department store — and the events that transpired there 40 years earlier. It's a complicated plot, but the motivating emotions for all the characters are simple: lust and revenge. Unfortunately,



Pamela Gidley and Kevin Anderson star in Mike Figgis' *Liebestraum*. The film plays at symbolism, but doesn't allow the symbolism enough ambiguity to be interesting.

nately, the film delivers little of the exploration it promises.

No doubt director Mike Figgis is using metaphors to look at the dark

side of the human animal. We can sense the Bergmanesque themes of life, love and death. But where Bergman leaves much to the imagination, Figgis tries to say everything. The result is a film that leaves the audience nothing to discuss after it's over. The situation takes some interesting turns, but the narrative is so clearly set forth that everyone knows what will happen halfway through the film.

*Liebestraum* is too convoluted, and, at 112 minutes, far too long. Since we know the characters half an hour into the film, later scenes become redundant. Figgis may have been trying too hard to make a good film. He fills the story with characters that serve a metaphorical purpose, then disappear.

Dreams play an important part in the characterizations in the film, but their meaning is lost in their presentation and placement. We know they are supposed to be symbolic, but it's still difficult to connect them to the story's main character.

But don't let me mislead you. This is not Fellini, or the poetry at the start

of Bergman's *Persona*. Instead, the dreams are more commercialized, like in *The Wall* (if you can imagine that!). They feel gratuitous. Rather than use the ambiguity of the dreams to work for the story, Figgis attaches a specific meaning to them that is not clear or insightful.

Kevin Anderson's presence becomes irritating. His chubby face and Corey Hart expressions make you lose all sympathy for him. In her hospital scenes, Kim Novak is directed like she is in a Bergman film; unfortunately, this film's context doesn't allow for it. Rather than probing the mother's character, the film turns Novak's performance into a piece of melodrama.

*Liebestraum* does have high production values. The sets are beautifully designed and the lighting has a mystical quality. Some scenes are over-stylized, but, on the whole, the design effectively creates the intended mood. The film was shot by Juan Anchira, who also shot *House of Games* for David Mamet.

So go see *Liebestraum*, just don't listen to it.

## Van Sant's surreal search for home

by Garine Torossian

Director Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho* confronts the theme of searching for home and needing to find one's place in the world. Van Sant presents this theme in the most surreal way, with fantasy sequences, closeups, symbolic images, endless roads, tableau-like sex scenes, Shakespearean language and theatrical settings.

Winner of prizes at the Venice, Toronto and New York Film Festivals, the film begins on an infinite

## film

**My Own Private Idaho**  
directed by Gus Van Sant  
starring Keanu Reeves and River Phoenix  
produced by New Line Cinema

road in Idaho. It is an image to which we will return again and again. Mike (River Phoenix) stands there, then lies there, a victim of narcolepsy dreaming of his long lost mother.

*My Own Private Idaho* is about Mike's search for her, aided by his best friend Scott (Keanu Reeves), the son of the mayor of Portland. They

get by as male prostitutes. Bob (William Richert) plays father figure to Mike and Scott; he is also a Falstaffian character, paraphrasing from Shakespeare's *Henry IV* as his pupils listen, amused.

*My Own Private Idaho* consistently marks Van Sant's formal and stylistic freedom. Its surreal style highlights the eccentric way the controversial characters see things. Reeves and Phoenix are exceptional as young men whose lives are confounded and enriched by a colourful group of companions, customers and lost relatives, until their individual goals threaten to separate them.

Van Sant's imagination goes wild in *My Own Private Idaho*, a more visually daring film than his earlier *Drugstore Cowboy*. It confronts important issues, representing them in a most creative way. By the end, one is overwhelmed and inspired by its originality.



Scott (Keanu Reeves) and Mike (River Phoenix) take to the road in Gus Van Sant's latest film, *My Own Private Idaho*. By confronting important issues and representing them in a creative way, the film is overwhelming and inspiring.

## Jane Campion's latest contains lyricism and visual poetry

by Pedram Fouladiampour

Lyricism and visual poetry seem to be important tools used by emerging young directors for conveying ideas and telling stories. Recently we witnessed Emir Kusturica's lyrical depiction of human fate in *Time of the Gypsies* and watched Zhang Yimou paint the screen with exotic colours in *Ju Dou*.

Jane Campion (*Sweetie*) is no exception. *An Angel at My Table* demonstrates Campion's fluency with cinematic language.

The film portrays the life of New Zealand novelist Janet Frame. Author of 11 novels, four collections of short stories and a volume of poetry, Frame was born to a poor, but intellectual family. As a young woman, she was confined to a mental hospital, suspected of schizophrenia. It was there she started writing. With recognition of her first book, Frame was released from the hospital.

Campion, a native of New Zealand who was trained at the Australian Film and Television School, claims *Angel* is a "kinder, more humanist piece." The film is divided into three

## film

**An Angel at My Table**  
directed by Jane Campion  
starring Kerry Fox

episodes, each covering a specific period in Frame's life; each episode consists of smaller episodes and anecdotes.

Campion's claim of humanism is supported by the characters she portrays. From the start, young Janet enlists the affection of the audience, which will last throughout the film. Through meticulous delineation of her appearance and actions, a vision of young Janet is initiated in the audience's mind that contrasts with the hospitalized Janet.

*Angel* is a tale of an individual's creative maturity and how this process is accepted by those around her. Throughout her intellectual odyssey, Janet is an active observer whose interaction with the individuals around her is a progressive element of the story.

These well established bonds between human beings hold the episodic structure of *An Angel at My Table* firmly together.

## THE WINTER COMMISSION ON THE ATKINSON COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Winter Commission invites Atkinson students and interested members of the York Community to submit your views on how the Atkinson College Student Association can better fulfill its mandate.

The Winter Commission was called by the Master, Atkinson College, at the request of the Atkinson College Student Association (ACSA). Its purpose is to make recommendations on how ACSA can represent and promote the interests of Atkinson Students more effectively.

Among the issues that the Commission is investigating are:

- Identifying the needs and interests of Atkinson Students
- Improving communication between ACSA and the Atkinson/York Community
- ACSA's mandate and objectives
- ACSA's constitution and organizational structure.

The Commission welcomes your views, concerns, and suggestions.

Please forward written submissions c/o Maureen Brackley, Office of the Master, 120 Atkinson College



# Scorsese's film *Cape Fear* is gleefully subversive

by Mattia Magnatta

With all the critical acclaim accorded *GoodFellas*, director Martin Scorsese created his own career pressure — he directed a film to which all ensuing Scorsese pictures would inevitably be compared.

No longer. By challenging the traditional boundaries of the suspense-thriller genre Scorsese's latest film, *Cape Fear*, sets a new precedent.

The plot of *Cape Fear* is deceptively simple. Max Cady (Robert De Niro), who has just been released from prison, is literally on a mission from God, out to terrorize the lawyer, Sam Bowden (Nick Nolte), who he believes is responsible for his 14 year prison term. From this simple premise the narrative spirals outward, with Scorsese the giddy navigator.

Perhaps *Cape Fear*'s greatest achievement is the way in which it juxtaposes the schlocky "blood and guts" action with subtle psychological tension. This is due as much to Scorsese's dark revisionist sensibili-

**film**  
**Cape Fear**  
starring Robert De Niro and Nick Nolte  
directed by Martin Scorsese  
produced by Universal Studios

ties as to the Spielbergian notion of film as two-hour roller coaster ride. In the post-*Silence of the Lambs* world, the psychopath is not only capable of brutal physical violence but, to make matters worse, is well read, eloquent and charming.

De Niro portrays the "Bad Guy" writ large, an explosive amalgam of every memorable evil incarnation that has stalked the silver screen. The brutality of Travis Bickle (*Taxi Driver*), the seductiveness of Satan (*Angel Heart*) and the indestructible qualities of The Terminator are all embodied in the character of Max Cady.

Add a muscular, well-defined physique, a southern drawl and a thorough knowledge of law, philosophy and religion and the audience is presented with the quintessential Walking Nightmare.



Robert De Niro (left) and Nick Nolte star in Martin Scorsese's tense remake of the 1962 film *Cape Fear*. Scorsese takes the clichés of the suspense-thriller and, in a self-conscious manner, transforms them into a scary film.

In true manipulative fashion, only Scorsese knows where the picture will end up, and the path it will take.

Craftily employing suspense-thriller techniques such as weird, diagonal camera angles and abrupt zoom-ins

in a self-conscious manner, Scorsese transforms these banal clichés.

He then subverts the inescapable elements of the suspense-thriller: predictable plot lines and one-dimensional characters. In a reversal of roles, Bowden, the lawyer, finds himself forced to resort to illegal behaviour in order to eradicate Cady while Cady defends himself with due process of the law.

In one of the most tense and sexually charged scenes ever committed to celluloid occurs Danielle Bowden, the lawyer's daughter, meets Cady for "drama class." This especially long take not only showcases the exceptional talent of Juliette Lewis, but also demonstrates editor Thelma Schoonmaker's excellent sense of timing.

*Cape Fear* is infused with a Hitchcockian sense of suspense and tension due in large part to a rescoring of Bernard Herrmann's powerful original score and Henry Bumstead's meticulous production design; both men collaborated with Hitchcock.

Amid all this talent, it is easy to overlook Jessica Lange's brilliant performance. Don't. Everything in *Cape Fear* is included for effect, and the effect is gleefully subversive.

## Throughout his career, Scorsese's been challenging

by Stephen Balsky

Much cinematic garbage was churned out in the late 1980s and 90s; the number of box office bombs well exceeded the number of memorable films. Directors never cease to amaze me with their half-assed attempts to cash in on the popularity of stars by equipping them with a pencil-thin plot and inane dialogue.

One Hollywood director stands out, however, a man whose films consistently provide intense, often violent images with guaranteed blockbuster performances: Martin Scorsese.

Although his 1989 release, *Goodfellas*, was robbed of the best picture Oscar, his gritty portrait of a Mafia neighbourhood was graced by Joe Pesci's manic, brilliantly psychotic hood, Tommy. This performance nabbed Pesci the best supporting actor award, and was a stepping stone to his current starring role in *The Super*.

*Goodfellas*, like most Scorsese flicks, mixes fluid camera work and fast pacing to ensure viewer interest throughout. Scorsese's shots and angles enhance the paranoid fears and intensity that is so difficult to capture on screen: Ray Liotta's drug bust near the end of *Goodfellas* is one example.

*Taxi Driver*, Scorsese's homage to New York City slum life, was a 1970s masterpiece. Robert DeNiro (a Scorsese regular) put forth a mesmerizing performance as the emotionally tortured Travis Bickle. His one-man assault on pimp Harvey Keitel is bloody and repellent; but, at the same time, it is astounding.

**film**  
From *Boxcar Bertha* to *Goodfellas* and his latest, *Cape Fear*, director Martin Scorsese has displayed genius

The realism of *Taxi Driver* was the driving force behind John Hinckley's attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan. *Taxi Driver* is not for all tastes; it has been accused of being "too dark" to enjoy. I, however, find

this urban horror story a must-see for film fanatics.

A later Scorsese effort, *After Hours*, contains his characteristic kinetic camera and tense atmosphere. A paranoid yuppie, Griffen Dunne, is plunged into SoHo's dark side in the wee hours of the night and forced to deal with losing his wallet, a murder rap and an odd assortment of characters trying to track him down.

*After Hours*, being the closest thing Scorsese has done to comedy, has rich performances, ranging from Rosanna Arquette's sultry female lead to Teri Garr's bizarre comrade of Dunn's. *After Hours* is a neatly packaged, hip comedy that doesn't have the emotional intensity of Scorsese's other efforts, yet is still enjoyable.

Many critics panned the controversial *Last Temptation of Christ*, claiming it was sacrilegious, pretentious and draggy. It did not lack the trademark knockout performances, however, from Willem Dafoe and Harvey Keitel.

For video junkies, some of Scorsese's other works are available for purchase or rental. Among these are *Boxcar Bertha*, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Mean Streets*, *The Last Waltz* (his rockumentary on The Band) and the brilliant *King of Comedy*.

In a world where films are currently made as tax write-offs, it is pleasurable to know that there is at least one genius at work.

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# Books: the best film you'll never see

by Ira Nayman

A lot of people have a strange idea that art is created in a vacuum, that the magic of creation takes place in the artist's imagination, without reference to the real world. A more realistic view is that the real world is the raw material of art, that art is a way of taking the familiar and making it new again.

**book**  
**Prospero's Books: A Film of Shakespeare's The Tempest**  
 written by Peter Greenaway  
 published by Chatto & Windus/Little & Brown  
 168 pages

The screenplay of *Prospero's Books*, director Peter Greenaway's visually overwhelming adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, contains reprints and descriptions of paintings

which inspired the look of certain scenes. The fact that Greenaway, whose background is in painting, frankly acknowledges his sources in no way diminishes the film's achievement.

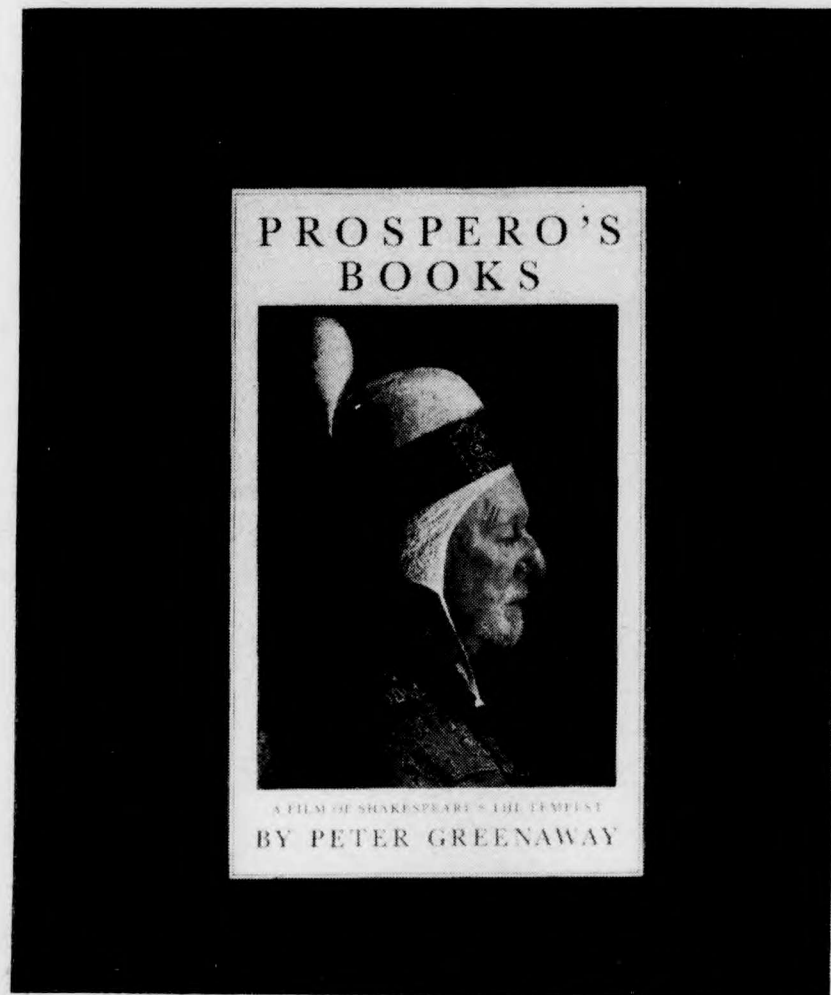
In fact, the book is an invaluable tool in sorting out the film's imagery, which often passes too quickly to be fully appreciated. This is especially helpful in the opening sequence, which, with dizzying speed, encompasses a tempest, a shipwreck, the introduction of the world Prospero has created and a look at some of the books he carried with him to his exile.

Greenaway also explains one of the technical innovations used in filming *Prospero's Books*: the computer paintbox. Filmed images, including live action, paintings and other illustrations and still photographs, were reduced to the size of television images, then fed into a computer, where they were combined and manipulated.

The results, a half dozen of which are reproduced in the book, were complex, surreal images with the texture of paintings but filmic movement.

Since the book enriches the experience of seeing the film, it is necessary to see it first. But Greenaway has a reputation as a maker of "difficult" films, which makes it nearly impossible for him to find a distributor. For this reason, *Prospero's Books* may take a year to get to the screen, if it ever does.

I really enjoyed the script for *Prospero's Books*, just as I enjoyed the film. Unfortunately, if you haven't seen the film, I can't recommend the book.



# A portrait of "a doer, not a thinker"

by David L. Mandel

John Sawatsky's *Mulroney, The Politics of Ambition* is a well researched, clearly stated treatise of a man who just happens to be our Prime Minister.

Mulroney's formative years are chronicled, from his youth in Baie Comeau to his eventual success in reaching the Prime Ministership. Sawatsky provides the reader with a basis for understanding Mulroney's strengths and limitations as well as his lofty ambitions; but, not in a sensational or irresponsible manner.

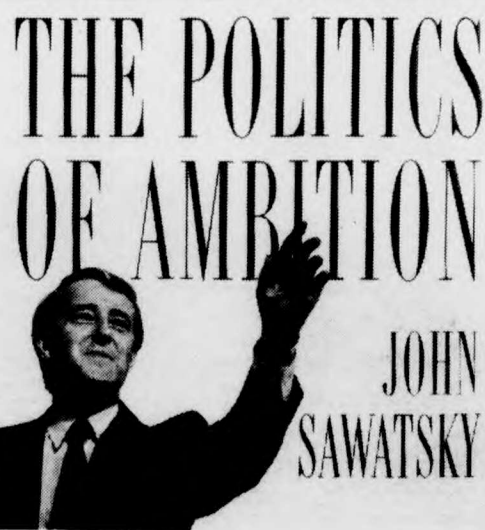
Mulroney's Baie Comeau was a remote and lowly-populated one-industry town. It was controlled at arm's length by an American Colonel who subtly and effectively wielded great influence. The effect was profound on Mulroney. Though at the time he would live free of Colonel McCormick's design, all of Mulroney's major characteristics and every decision he would later make could be traced back to the man who dictated the practices and the pace for the world young Mulroney knew.

Baie Comeau, we learn, was rife with social and political lines drawn between the different factions of the community. Mulroney learned how to move easily between and within interest groups. Living in the remote world of Baie Comeau, Mulroney learned young, and he learned well, the power afforded to the bridge-maker.

Mulroney eventually learned Colonel McCormick's tactic of isolating people to control them. Demonstrating good will through grand gestures, he demanded in return absolute loyalty and successful performance at key moments.

Sawatsky reveals how this young but exceptionally perceptive and able electrician's son masterfully sowed his seeds of charm, confidence and a conciliatory nature, to eventually bear the ultimate plumb-fruit of his ambitions: great financial wealth and the Prime Ministership of Canada.

Sawatsky is a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery who has employed his smooth and gripping style in four other books, all of a political slant. For *Mulroney*, Sawatsky and his team of researchers conducted over 600 interviews during a four year period, resulting in a very credible account of Mulroney's life.



**book**  
**Mulroney: The Politics of Ambition**  
 written by John Sawatsky  
 published by Macfarlane, Walter & Ross  
 \$34.95

Sawatsky portrays Mulroney as a shallow, opportunistic individual blessed with acute political instincts, an uncanny ability to mobilize these instincts in his own best interests and a seemingly disproportionate share of luck.

Mulroney's luck seems to have been so pervasive that even what would appear to be his greatest setbacks turned into what Sawatsky believes were his best-breaks. Mulroney's break with first time love Carol Stants left him free to pair with Mila Pivnicki. Sawatsky credits her for being the force which drove Mulroney from the doldrums following his failure to seize leadership of the Progressive Conservatives in 1976 to his success in 1983 and being Mulroney's singularly stabilizing life force.

Sawatsky further speculates that it was his defeat in 1976 that gave Mulroney the opportunity to mature and earn great financial wealth and public status. Combined with the political blunders, first of Joe Clark at the leadership convention, and later John Turner at the national level, Mulroney was poised to easily and successfully land the coveted Prime Ministership.

A biography should give the reader a true sense of its subject. If the author is successful and his work does reflect his subject's nature, his work is vulnerable to that subject's character. "[Mulroney] possessed extraordinary skill in communication, but he still needed a message to deliver..."

Sawatsky does not deliver a book on "how to become a Prime Minister," nor does he suggest a solution to or offer an opinion on the questions facing today's Canadians. What he does deliver in *The Politics of Ambition* is a thoroughly entertaining portrait of a man who is, "by nature a doer, not a thinker," and who just happens to be our Prime Minister.

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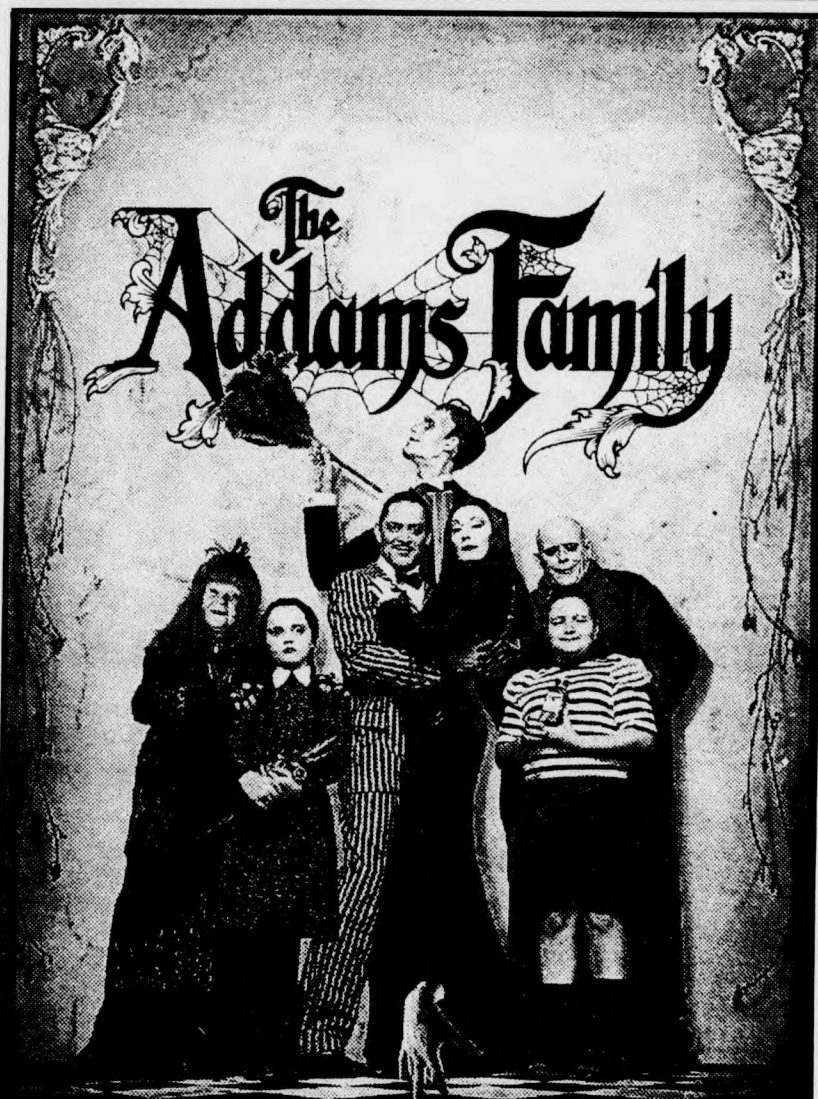
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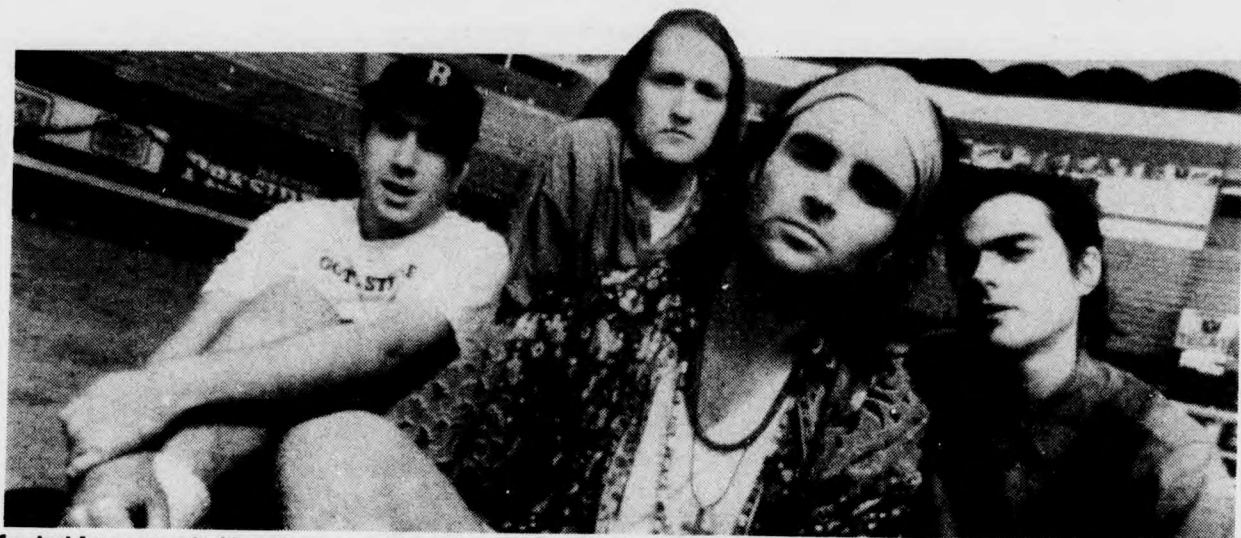
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Carnival Art, captured taking things easy at home (above), are a bunch of nice guys. Truly. Their songs even have interesting lyrics. If their music was up to the quality of their lyrics, they might actually be going somewhere. Which is really too bad, because they really are nice guys. Truly.

# Joan Rivers STILL Talking in books, on TV and at the O'Keefe

by David Mandel

## personality

Joan Rivers appears in Toronto for two shows at the O'Keefe Centre to promote her new book, *STILL Talking* and her new TV show

she contractually had. The Fox experience shook Rivers' very foundation.

Rivers talks about her husband and his suicide. His was the blow to bring the house down.

Rivers' story is not one of broken bands, broken promises and broken homes. It is one of survival and rebuilding lives; it was written to share with her fans, who she considers friends, friends, who she considers family, and family, who are an extension of herself.

Rivers is incredibly sharing and forthright. By writing of her life and career, she cleans house of misconceptions and half-truths. *STILL Talking* is sensitive, insightful and brave. No truth relevant to her story is omitted, and we are not victim to endless rhetoric.

Many "celebrity" autobiographies are written to cash in on their celebrity, or with an eye to setting an old score. For Rivers, the players have changed, and thus, so has the game: she has no score to settle, only a story to tell, and hope to give.

Rivers performs two shows (6:30 and 9:30) at the O'Keefe Centre on Nov 23, or you can see her on her syndicated program *The Joan Rivers Show*.

Joan Rivers is still alive and kicking.

After a much publicized departure from her late-night talk show, *Later with Joan Rivers*, Rivers is making a comeback with the publication of her new autobiography *STILL Talking*.

Rivers gives readers a look at the backstabbing and ego-games of Hollywood, where she says the indignities one suffers are in direct proportion to one's success.

*STILL Talking* covers the time from River's first autobiography, *Enter Talking*, to the present; the emphasis is on the three most important events in her life outside the birth of her daughter: her fledgling relationship with Johnny Carson, her failed television show and her husband Edgar Rosenberg's suicide.

Rivers talks about Carson: the two shared a "kindred spirit," and were "absolutely in tune (with one another) comically." She felt "grateful" to Carson for "making it all happen..."

Carson believed in River's talents and Rivers believed that Carson "was the one person in the business who understood (her) and wished (her) well." His icy cold reaction to Rivers' announcement of her own show, put the first crack in Rivers' foundation.

Rivers talks about the realities and controversies surrounding *Later With Joan Rivers* at the Fox Network: she explains its failure as a result of fierce in-fighting for artistic control, which

## November, hype and pusher Presidents

by Nina Kolunovsky

November is not my month. School, being broke and sub-zero temperatures do not fit into my concept of life, and November is the month when they all kick in. Not only that, but I am stuck having to write an unfavorable review of *Thrumdrone*, the debut album from a bunch of truly nice guys called Carnival Art.

Carnival Art is not bad. It's just that, after so much hype ("L.A.'s hottest new band", etc), they don't live up to expectations. Their music can only be described by two words

### music

Carnival Art  
*Thrumdrone*  
 Beggar's Banquet/Polygram

—blatantly forgettable; the only time the band sounds original is when they are doing a cover.

The band's lyrics are interesting. They are obviously drug-induced, funny and original. Carnival Art does have a lot to say about originality, activism and the general oddness of the world around them. Unfortunately, their music does not have the power to carry their message.

"Guns and Roses are sheep because they have nothing worthwhile to say. Radio station producers are sheep because they are afraid to play anything new and different," says Michael P. Tak (vocals, guitar, lyrics).

Tak equates US President George Bush with drug pushers. He claims that Bush's "war on drugs" diverts money from those who really need it, like the people who work 80-hour weeks at detox centres, to such patently purposeless activities as trying to round up all the pot growers in USA.

In fact, I enjoyed my conversation with Tak more than I enjoyed listening to his music.

Carnival Art is currently on the road—opening for the Buzzcocks—in a small van with no soundman (he left in Atlanta with the group's blessing). Despite the claustrophobia and lack of roadies, they sound like they are enjoying themselves.

And any band that sees George Bush as a drug pusher deserves to be heard.



## TOP TWENTY

Compiled by Matt Galloway

1. Public Enemy.....*Apocalypse 91*.....Def Jam/Sony
2. Red Hot Chili Peppers.....*Blood, Sugar, Sex, Magik*.....Warner
3. Sons of Freedom.....*Gump*.....MCA
4. Digital Poodle.....*Soul Crush*.....DOV
5. Crust.....*Crust*.....Trance
6. Soundgarden.....*Bad Motorfinger*.....A&M
7. The Pixies.....*Trompe le Monde*.....4 AD/Polygram
8. Ministry.....*Jesus Built My Hotrod*.....Wax Trax
9. Lush.....*Nothing Natural*.....4 AD
10. Pegboy.....*Strong Reaction*.....Touch + Go
11. Dinosaur Jr.....*Whatever's Cool With Me*.....Warner
12. Coffin Break.....*Crawl*.....Epitaph
13. Del.....*I Wish My Brother George Was Here*.....Elektra
14. Nirvana.....*Nevermind*.....MCA
15. Hole.....*Pretty on the Inside*.....Caroline
16. Spirit of the West.....*Political EP*.....Warner
17. Me, Mom & Morgentaler.....*Clown Heaven and Hell*.....Chooch
18. The Hypnotics.....*Soul, Glitter & Sin*.....Situation 2
19. A Tribe Called Quest.....*The Low End Theory*.....Jive
20. Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprosy.....*Television*.....4th & Broadway/Island

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## Second defeat of year for York to Waterloo, Guelph sides

# Yeomen b-ballers find little homecourt advantage in weekend action

by Riccardo Sala

Mark Bellai and Clive Anderson have big shoulders, but you need more than an Atlas to carry the basketball Yeomen and get them to tangle with the big boys.

You also need depth. That was clear over the weekend when York suffered homecourt defeats to Waterloo and Guelph.

The Friday night game against the Warriors was a close one. Both sides exchanged the lead several times, with Waterloo pulling ahead late in the second half to a 87-79 win.

York's offence was led by the everpresent duo of Anderson and Bellai. On the defence, York had a hard time keeping the taller Waterloo off the board.

The loss was the second of the year to Waterloo for the Yeomen.

"I thought that we played hard the whole game. We let up a bit towards the end and didn't get the job done. We relied too much on some of our top players," York coach Bob Bain said.

Bain also commented on the officiating, especially a call in the last minute of play that robbed Anderson of a basket.

"I thought that the refereeing, especially at the end was very sloppy," he said.

Waterloo coach Don McCrae said, "(York is) pretty scrappy. The York team doesn't have great size but they sure have hustle."

"I was very pleased with the play of our two kids Mike Duarte and Sean van Koughnett. I

thought that they were the catalysts of our success. Duarte came up with five steals in the last eight minutes and that swung the game," McCrae added.

Saturday's game against Guelph was an 81-60 decision for the the Gryphons.

This was the second defeat of the season for the Yeomen against Guelph, which went to the CIAU finals last year.

"We didn't play very well. We got behind 42-19 at the half. It was our poorest half of the year," Bain said Sunday.

"We actually beat them in the second half," he added.

Overall Bain noted several things about his team's play Saturday.

"We didn't have the depth. The vets couldn't get going and the subs coming off the bench

couldn't get the job done," Bain said.

He singled out guard Wilton Hall for praise in the Guelph game, noting that Hall played a large role in York's second half redemption.

## sports

reviews • profiles • rankings • schedules

Another positive sign for the Yeomen in the two games was the return of guard Jeff Krupski from the injury list.

The Yeomen travel to Quebec this weekend for a pair of games against McGill and Bishops.

## Ottawa, Carleton, fall to volleyball Yeowomen in six matches

by Riccardo Sala

Volleyball Yeowomen had a successful weekend with a pair of victories over Ottawa and Carleton.

York played Ottawa, the better of the two teams, on Friday night. The Yeowomen shut out the Gee-Gees 15-11, 15-2, 15-8.

The Yeowomen had Ottawa's number for most of the night, though their opponents made it close at times.

Mosher noted afterwards, "We played well enough to win. We were a little bit tentative in the first game."

For Lionel Woods, Ottawa's assistant coach, the Friday performance was not one of the team's better ones.

"It was a poor match, there's not much I can tell you. We didn't play anything close to our potential," he said.

The Gee-Gees are, in Mosher's estimation, one of the top three teams in the OWIAA East Division, along with York and UofT.

Carleton was a different story. Forecasting the outcome of Saturday's match against the Ravens, Mosher felt that it would be an easier matchup than the one against Ottawa.

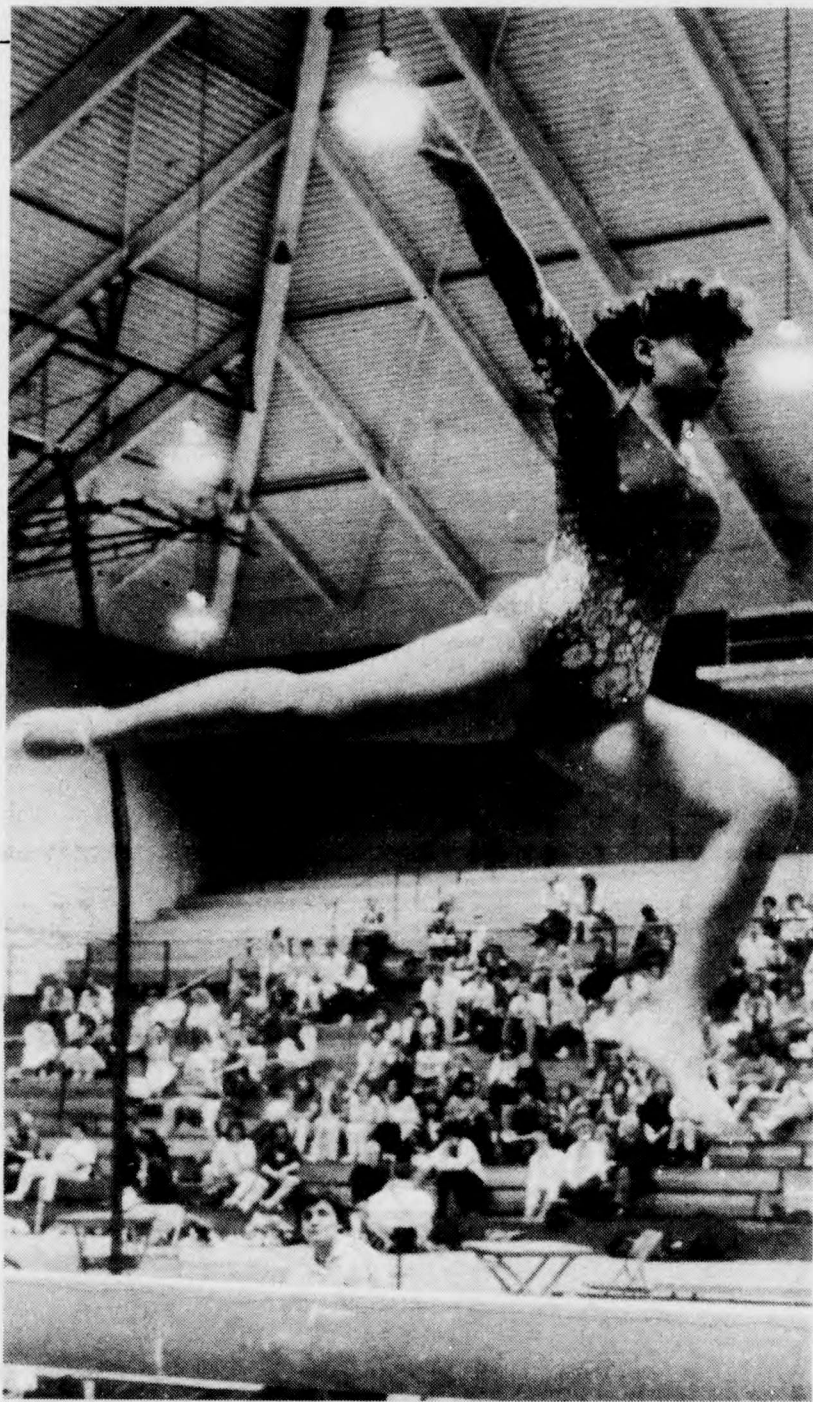
It was. The Yeowomen swept Carleton 15-2, 15-3 and 15-0.

"We didn't make too many mistakes," Mosher noted.

The Raven match also allowed Mosher the luxury of slotting some of his less used players into the lineup. With Mary van Soelen, a team leader, injured from the Winnipeg Invitational the weekend before, that left room for Amanda Agnew to see more action.

The Carleton walkover likely won't be repeated with York's next opponent, Uof T. That game takes place next Tuesday night at Toronto.

The Blues are one of the best teams in the province. Mosher feels confi-



Roberto Di Maio

**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** digging through the files we came up with this photo of Risa Litwin on the beams. The Yeowomen are back this year, having won the CIAU silver last season and boasting the addition of Olympian Janine Rankin to the fold this year

## Yeowomen gymnasts look forward to successful year

by Josh Rubin

Silver's nice, but gold is still a cut above.

That seems to be the motivation for the Yeowomen gymnastics squad this year.

Head coach Natasa Bajin is looking forward to the upcoming season, and with good reason; they took second spot at the national championships.

This season, with the core of the squad virtually intact, the Yeowomen would be still a force to contend with, but the addition of 19 year old Ontario native Janine Rankin makes them a good bet to take the gold.

Rankin, a Canadian national team member since 1985, is a veteran of three world championships and the Seoul Olympic games.

In 1984, Rankin was the all-round national and provincial champion in the under 12 age group.

At the 1987 world championships in Holland, Rankin unveiled a new mount for the balance beam, which has since been named in her honour.

The decision to come to York was one which Rankin had been mulling over since early this summer.

Rankin says she decided to compete for York after weighing several factors,

among them the new facilities at North York based Gymnastics Academy, which Rankin and other York Gymnasts have access to.

"The whole situation was better. There's the facilities and classes," said Rankin, who is also a York student.

Watching over Rankin's 30 hour per week training regimen will be long-time mentor Mary Lea Palmer, who has been guiding Rankin since the age of seven.

Palmer, who Rankin credits for much of her success, has been at most international meets with the gymnasts, and hopes for more success this year's Olympics in Barcelona.

It was no easy task for Rankin and her national squad teammates to qualify for this summer's games. While the team finished in sixth spot at the 1989 world championships, they grabbed the final spot for Barcelona in Indianapolis, winning 12th place by the slimmest of margins.

Rankin will bolster an already strong team that includes team captain Becky Chambers, who has recovered from a broken foot, and North Bay native Trista Bernier, a vault specialist in her second year with the team. Bernier was one of the top rookies in the league last year.

## opinion

# Where have all the fans gone? Ness asks...

By Mr. Ness

What the hell is wrong with University athletics?

Why is it that York Varsity athletic teams are having a hard time drawing fans?

The defending OWIAA championship winning Yeowomen hosted one of the best volleyball tournaments of the year at Tait McKenzie in October and the fan support they received from our 45,000 strong student body was pathetic.

Last year the Yeowomen field hockey team captured the gold medal at the OWIAA championships, yet both this year and last year fan support

was dismal. The situation has been the same for the soccer Yeowomen, this year's OWIAA quarterfinalists.

The gymnastics and track and field teams are also poorly supported by the student body.

This neglect of varsity athletics is not unique to the women's teams or low profile sports, it also affects old favourites such as the Yeomen basketball squad. Once upon a time they had a fan base that made basketball at York an event.

The men's soccer and volleyball teams often play at home to empty stands.

Most varsity sports are feeling the pinch from university cutbacks.

Too bad they are also feeling a cutback from fans.

York's athletic department has aggressively gone after the fan this year with various types of promotions sponsored by outside sources. All York students get into home games free if they show their student cards. Groups are encouraged to participate in the Marriott Cup Spirit Challenge where two of the prizes are a trip to England and a laptop computer.

I don't think the problem lies with varsity athletics. The problem lies with the student body. Students have to take a more vested interest in their varsity teams. Maybe with a little more fan support York's sports teams can go all the way to the top. York has very good varsity teams, let's show them that we also have excellent fans.

**Fax**  
**TO:** The Excalibur  
**FROM:** University of Toronto  
Blue and White Club

Dear Sirs/Madam,

After your humiliating defeat in the annual Red/Blue Bowl football game at Varsity Stadium last month you have an opportunity to get even when the Yeomen Hockey team visits Varsity Arena on Friday, Nov. 22 (7:30 pm)

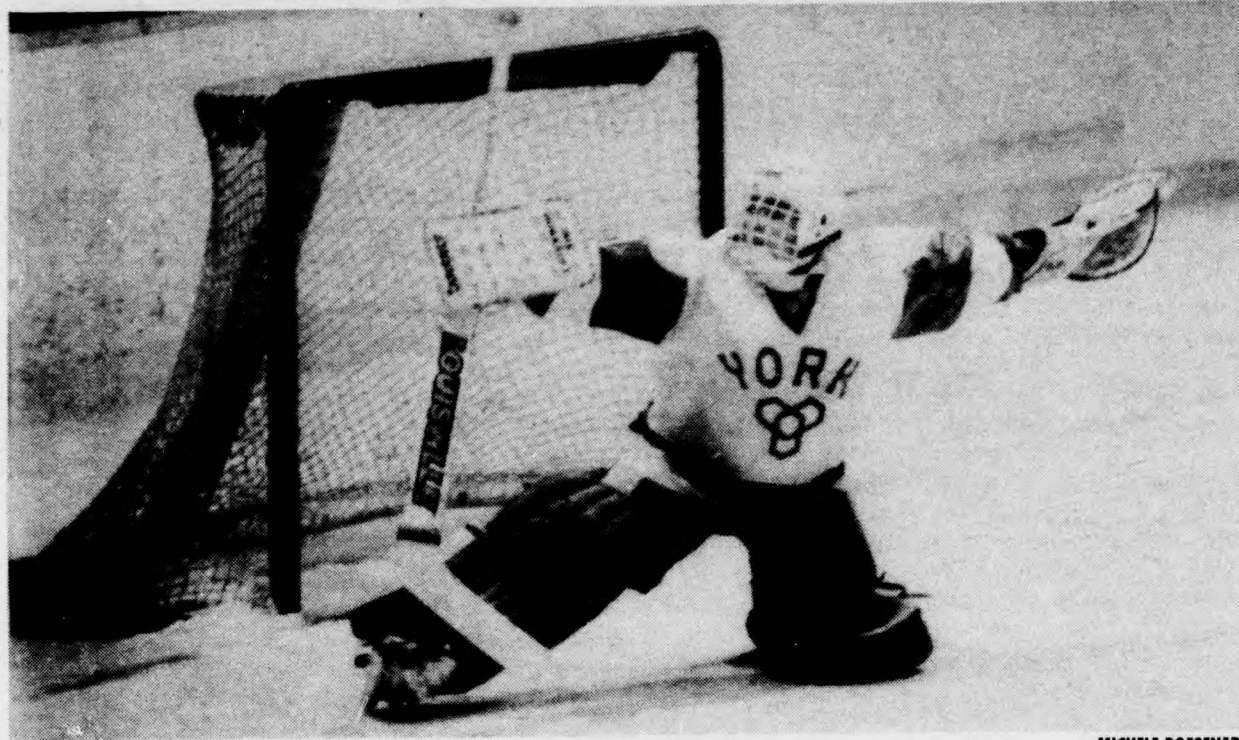
On behalf of all UofT students we would like to challenge the York fans to outdraw and outcheer the home fans at this annual classic.

Both schools currently have strong hockey clubs and this game will not only go a long way in deciding playoff positions but will allow one side to have bragging rights until the next time.

Let's work together to put college hockey back on the map and fill the arenas like the good old days.

You have been challenged!!





MICHELE BOESENER

Although they were outplayed by Guelph, Strong goaltending by York's Jill Garred kept them in the game in 3-0 loss

## Hockey Yeowomen lose tough one

by Haniff Nana

The flu bug has bitten the Yeowoman hockey squad.

Last Thursday, the stricken Yeowomen, playing with just three regulars on the blueline, were shut out 3-0 by the visiting Guelph Gryphons.

Despite getting outshot 24-14, York remained within reach for most of the game, thanks mainly to some strong goaltending from Jill Garred.

All three Guelph goals were the result of Gryphons getting wide open shots in the slot.

Garred also faced a multitude of screen shots, as the temporary blueliners were unable to clear Gryphon forwards from in front of the net.

Garred's only soft spot were the two goals she let in through the five hole.

Although the strong Guelph side outplayed York, forwards Andrea Flint and Michelle Campbell played

their usual feisty game, their determined play created some good scoring chances.

The Gryphons will be a force to reckon with in the OWIAA this season, especially with rookie sensation Nancy Deschamps, who notched the final goal.

With her deft stickhandling, she spun away from one York defender and dazzled another with some impressive moves.

Deschamps' performance wasn't finished, as she was able to hold onto the puck until she was able to fire it past Garred.

York's loss was disappointing, as it followed their win over Queen's the weekend before.

But head coach Deb Adams is still optimistic, saying Guelph loss didn't faze her.

"We just have to shrug it off and continue on from here," she said.



MICHELE BOESENER

Joann Jakovcevic goes up for the easy hoop while teammate Jennifer Cushing looks on

## Fireworks at Tait Classic

by Peter Mallett

Hoop enthusiasts will have a smorgasbord on their hands this weekend as the Yeowomen host the Tait McKenzie Basketball Classic.

The six team invitational tournament will tip off Friday and conclude with the championship game Sunday at 7 pm.

The tournament will give York coach Bill Pangos an idea of the competition his revamped Yeowoman squad will face this season.

York will be out to even the score when they take on Waterloo at 8 pm Friday.

In an earlier game against the Athenas this season, the Yeowomen were edged out by only two points, despite having dominated most of that game.

Pangos promises this time out the Yeowomen are "going to get revenge."

According to Pangos, the club will need strong performances from OWIAA all-star center Joann Jakovcevic to come up with a good showing this weekend.

Other key players for the Yeowomen include guards Cathy Amara and Jennifer Cushing.

Cushing is hoping that her hard

work in the gym will pay off this season with an increased field goal percentage.

### York Varsity Athletics Schedule November 20-26

<b>Wednesday November 20</b>
HOCKEY Yeomen at Queen's — 7:30 pm
<b>Thursday November 21</b>
TRACK & FIELD Red & White Team Competition
<b>Friday November 22</b>
BASKETBALL Yeomen at McGill — 8:00 pm Yeowomen at Tait McKenzie Classic — Tait main gym (Friday to Sunday)
HOCKEY Yeomen at UofT — 7:30 pm Concordia at Yeowomen — Ice Palace - 7:30 pm
SWIMMING Yeomen at Toronto Open — 6:00 pm
VOLLEYBALL Yeomen at Guelph Invitational (Saturday also)
<b>Saturday November 23</b>
BASKETBALL Yeomen at Bishop's — 8:00 pm
<b>Tuesday November 26</b>
HOCKEY Yeowomen at Guelph — 7:15 pm
VOLLEYBALL Yeowomen at UofT — 6:00 pm Yeomen at UofT — 8:00 pm

### York wins in four sets

## Men's v-ball win tough one against Laurentian

by Daniel Naccarato

The Yeomen volleyballers faced some stiff competition Saturday but they were up for the challenge.

York's third match of the season against Laurentian was a four set win for the Yeomen on homecourt.

The scores were 15-11, 11-15, 15-6 and 15-13.

"I thought that we played pretty well, except that we let them (Laurentian) get back into it. We seem to play better when we're behind, but it's easier if we stay ahead," York's Djordje Ljubicic said after the game.

The Yeomen started out slowly in the first set trailing 6-4. A timeout by York coach Wally Dyba seemed to wake up the players.

Kills by Adrian Adore and Ljubicic and good defence at the nets put York in front, with the Yeomen holding the lead for the rest of the set.

Laurentian bounced back in the second set to a 10-4 lead. While the Yeomen did narrow the gap, they were unable to come back, and they lost the

set 11-15.

The Yeomen came out flying in the third set, taking advantage of good net play by Adore and Don Clearwater. They took a quick 7-1 lead and continued their strong play throughout the set to win easily 15-6.

The fourth set was filled with exciting play from both teams and the lead changed several times. An early 5-1 York lead quickly became a 7-5 Voyageur advantage.

York came back and with the score tied 13-13, a kill by York's John Young and a Ljubicic gave York the win.

York rallied around the strong play of Adore standing out with important points throughout the game. Adore amassed nine service points and 23 kills.

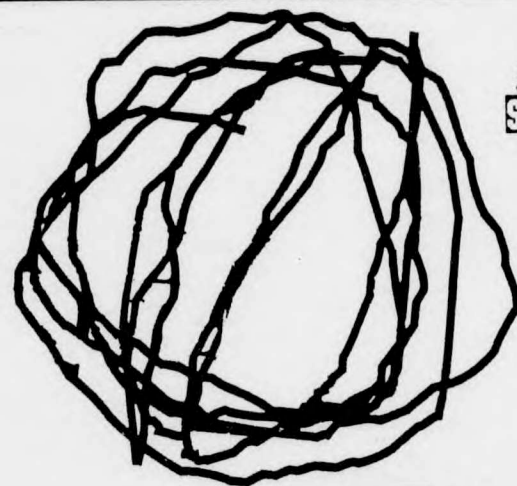
service points and 16 kills.

Dyba deflected the post game comments to Ljubicic:

"Realistically, I think that we can win the division. We just have to improve on the basics and reduce our unforced errors. If we do that, I think that we've got a good shot," he said.

**BROOKS**

## TAIT McKENZIE BASKETBALL CLASSIC



Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
 November 22-24, 1991

Tait McKenzie Centre  
 York University

Yeowomen vs. Waterloo  
 Friday, November 22, 8 p.m.

Free Admission to York Students with ID

## SPIRIT CHALLENGE EVENT!

OVER \$2000.00 IN PRIZES TO BE AWARDED!



University Women's Basketball at its best!



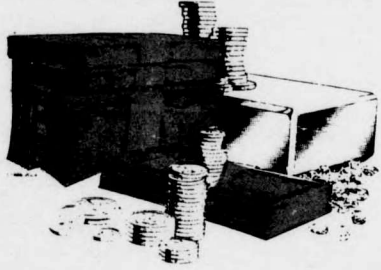






By David Gardner  
Volume IV:

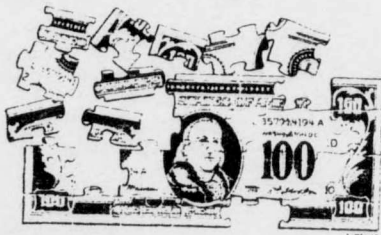
Now well into the school season and fast approaching Christmas, it may well be that the average student's cash flow situation has diminished to a tight-wad trickle. Purposefully pouring salt into your proverbial wounds, The Riddler offers these three stumpers about what else but...Money.



1. Which would you rather have, half a dozen dozen dimes or a dozen and a half dimes?



2. Katherine and Kelly were debating the major purchase of some candy. They found out by looking at the prices that they could get three tiny bags of jelly beans and two tiny bags of chocolate chips for 24 cents, which was under their limit (and weekly budget) of a quarter. They could also get four tiny bags of chocolates and two tiny bags of jelly beans for the same 24 cents. How much did each tiny bag of chocolates cost?



3. After a rather successful Stratford Festival heist, I decided to reward my three septic sidekicks, Puzzle, Ponder, and Perplex (in descending order of age and IQ) with the only gift they could possibly understand: money. Now, no offering of The Riddler comes without a cerebral exercise, so I told them this: "The oldest gets one-half the money, the middle gets one-third of the money, and the youngest gets one ninth." Not able to think in quantities less than dollars, I told them that the results must be in bills. How'd they divide the dough?

**Solutions to Volume III:**

1. The OTTF stands for one, two, three, four, the next four places, then, are FSSE.
2. 1, 2, 3
3. She burrowed just 4 inches. The key to this one is to picture the books on the shelf, bindings out.

# Food for thought.



## Buy one. Get one free.

To the dealer: William Neilson Ltd. will reimburse the face value of coupon plus regular handling fee provided you accept it from your customer on purchase of item specified. Other applications may constitute fraud. Failure to send in, on request, evidence that sufficient stock was purchased in previous 90 days to cover coupons presented, will void coupons. Coupons submitted become our property. Reimbursement will be made only to retail distributor who redeemed coupon. Valid only on Crispy Crunch single bars (50g).



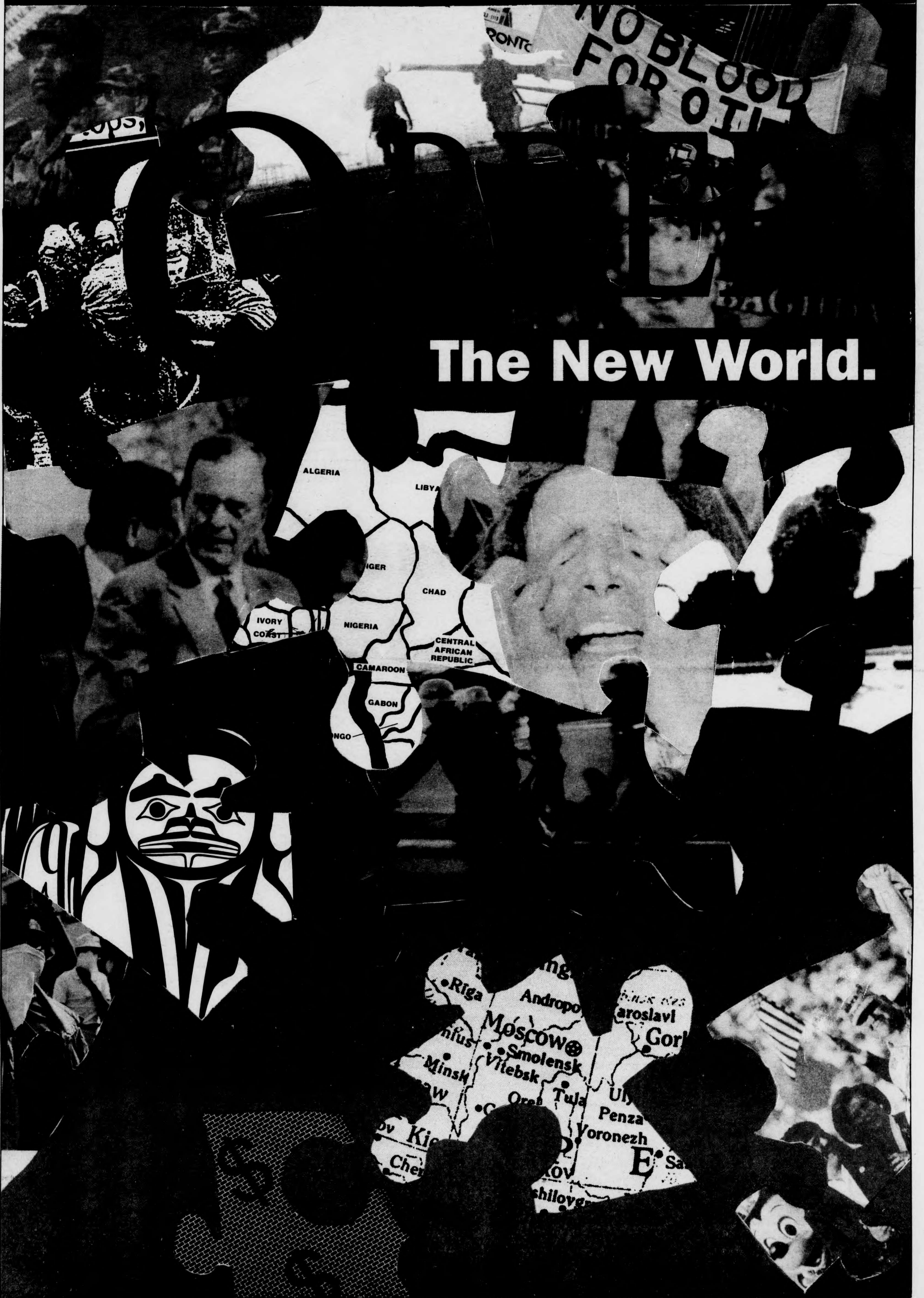
Offer expires: Dec. 31, 1991

For redemption, mail to: William Neilson Ltd., Box 3000, Saint John, N.B. E2L 4L3  
Cashier: Please fill in selling price



## Canada's #1 Candy Bar.





# The New World.



## editorial

# Oligarchs and Conservatives: notes from an immigrant

by Marco Fonseca

I left Guatemala in 1985 without really knowing what I was embarking upon and ended up in Canada. A few years later I have come to find myself in the middle of what might be said to be one of the greatest crises in Canada's history.

I left a country where millions of people are starving to death in great part because a handful of oligarchs and soldiers consider themselves the final judges of what's good and bad for the country. In their judgement, they are following the wisdom and advice of the world's business and finance institutions.

Those people believe the future does not lie in the hands of concrete, living human beings and their real needs but, rather, in the direction in which the world market might want to take us. Of course, that entity known as "the market" is certainly not some kind of invisible hand producing good things like progress or development out of the atomistic interaction of countless individuals, as the oligarchs and soldiers would have us believe. Rather, it is the subtle disguise of capital in its endless pursuit of more capital regardless of human and ecological life. Those values are at the root of my home country's underdevelopment, dependency and endemic repression. But for those who rule the country I left a few years ago the monopoly of people, goods, capital and services is just common sense, their sense. It has led to war.

To my surprise, when I came to this country I realized that those behind the Conservative project of "change" in many instances had the same values and ideas as those behind the most reactionary soldiers of my country. In fact, in many instances they are exactly the same.

Just as the oligarchs and soldiers of my home country have recently enshrined in "their constitution" their own privileges, the Conservatives of this country want to do exactly the same now. They want to petrify in constitutional law what has been the somewhat limited "customary law" of big business in this country for generations.

If industries find it too restrictive in one place they will be able to freely move to another (something many people cannot do); if any province wants to alter local or provincial economic policy they will not be able to do so (something the provinces could make use of in case of questionable business practices); if polluters want to keep polluting this planet they will certainly be able to do so because they will do it on their Private Property.

Meanwhile, some of the most fundamental rights of the people of Canada are clearly being left out of the constitutional debate. I am talking about medicare, education, housing and so on.

Where I came from the realization that we did not have anything to lose but a whole bunch of chains has led the people to wage a bitter and awful war for more than thirty years and they are still fighting.

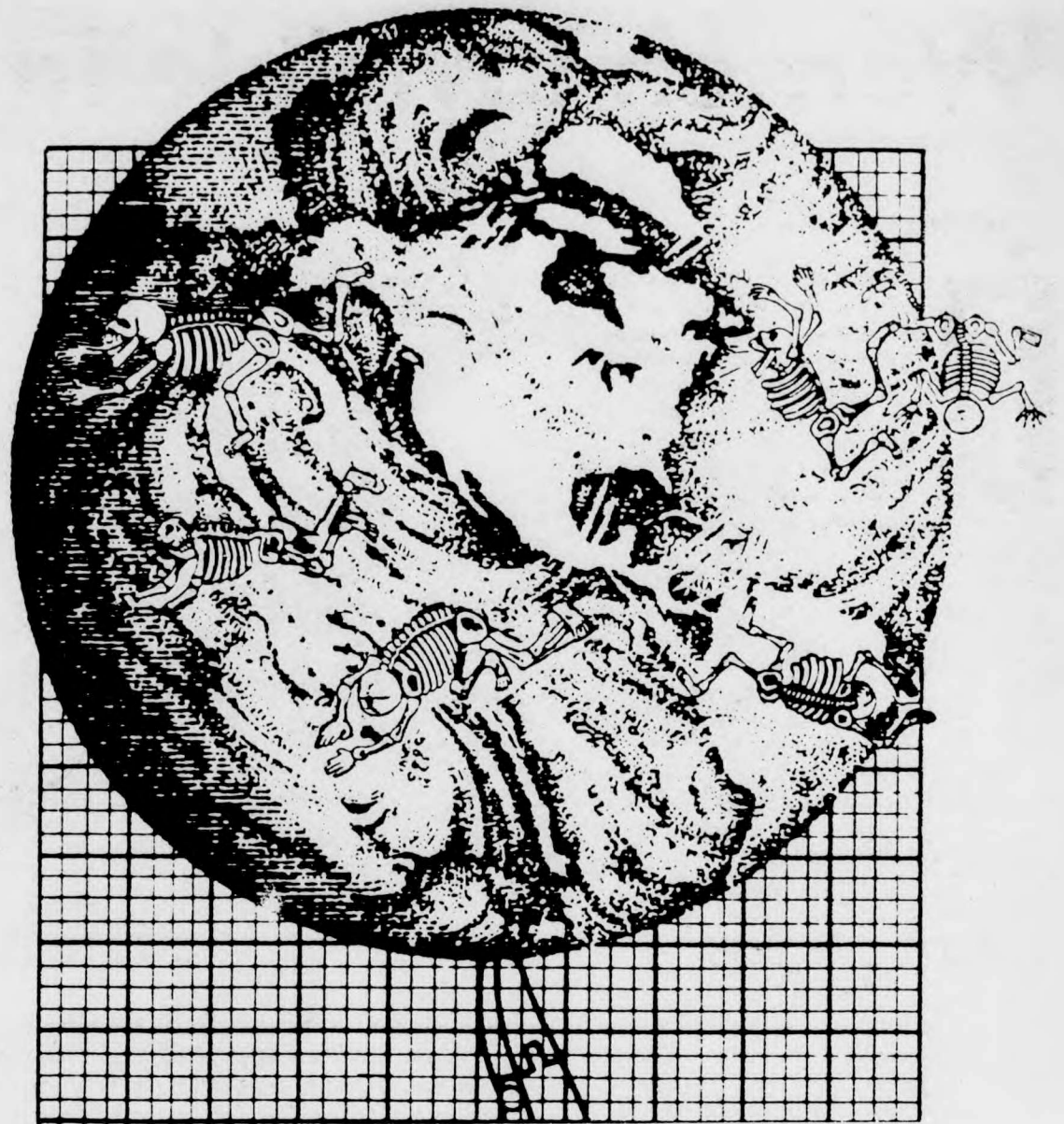
Natives in both countries have been fighting for almost 500 years to get rid of their own chains. Unfortunately, although non-Native Canadians have a lot to lose, I have not found the same spirit for "real justice" either in English or French Canada except in a very few people. I have been able to see some of the efforts being made in this country towards equality and fairness, but it seems as if those efforts are being overshadowed by the Conservative agenda setting the fundamental course of the nation.

The world is certainly changing, but does it have to change in the present direction? After the economic crusade in the Gulf War the world elites — to which the Canadian establishment can be properly said to belong — came up not with a new idea but with a renewed one: the so-called New World Order.

In reality, however, it seems to me to be nothing but a renewed attempt to universalize what the Conservatives and oligarchs are doing in my two countries. It is in fact the Old World Order revitalized by a U.S. president used to working in the shadows of imperial geopolitics and economic interests and enthusiastically embraced by Canada's Conservatives (present in many political parties, but especially in the one in power).

They call it "external challenges of globalization and technological change." But at the heart of this whole process is the absence of restrictions to the freedom of industry and its unrestricted growth. It is the world order of transnational corporations.

I had to leave Guatemala because physical and social life became almost impossible. And now life is also becoming impossible for some of us in this country and it is just getting worse for many others. Does it have to be that way? I believe it does not. But I also believe that unless people begin to realize that life is much more than just owning things, much more than just consuming things, and much more than just producing more things it will be almost impossible to change direction.



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**NEW WORLD ORDER SUPPLEMENT**



# Women invisible in global relations

by Sandra Whitworth

**F**eminists share a conviction that international relations are as much about population control policies as they are about nuclear deterrence; as much about sex trade workers serving foreign military bases as about the arms trade; as much about foreign domestic servants as about international crisis management; and as much about sex specific international labour legislation as about the foreign policies of so-called "great" powers. In short, feminists claim that international relations are about what affects the lives of women throughout the world, which, because of the primacy given to the "high politics," go largely unnoticed.

The "New World Order" has been ushered in as a re-statement of the centrality and expediency of military violence in resolving international conflicts. As riveting as the Cold War may have been, even superpower posturing did not capture our imagination like the real thing, and Desert Storm gave us precisely that. Real wars are exciting, frightening, and for some, even beautiful. One U.S. fighter pilot described Baghdad on the first night of that aerial bombardment as "lit up like a Christmas tree." We can be impressed by the logic of the strategic game and horrified by the deaths of hundreds of innocent lives, all in one thirty minute news broadcast.

Wars are important. Only in war do we see clearly and explicitly the tools of violence available to the state. Desert Storm illustrated what a 'monopoly of force' really means. Of course, the marginalized, the dissenters, the minorities have long understood this. But the violence used to silence these groups are exercised quietly and covertly. During the Gulf War, by contrast, the overwhelming power of the state showed itself in our living rooms every evening.

It is the power and violence of the Gulf



In more than 80 countries throughout the world, women are force-injected with Depo Provera, an intravenous contraceptive. Depo Provera is given to the most vulnerable women: Third World women, Black women, poor women, disabled women. Like all intrusive birth control methods, it allows men to maintain sexual power over women, assumes women's responsibility for birth control and assumes women's availability for sexual intercourse. Depo Provera makes it difficult for women to say 'no.' Image by Catherine O'Neil from Depo Provera: From stories to struggles, published by Women's Health Interaction, 58 Arthur Street, Ottawa K1R 7B9

War that has created this "new" world order. The ability of international organizations to promote peace, if not altogether discredited, has been severely disabled. The new world order arrives with words like precision bombing, Patriot missiles, collateral damage, offensive military capability and pre-emptive strike. It comes with a whole ensemble of expert analysts who use these words with ease, as they do the entire world view associated with them, that of realism or *realpolitik*.

The language and form of analysis associated with realism suits the drama of war well. Its simple precepts—that states seek

**"Feminists claim that international relations are about what affects the lives of women throughout the world, which, because of the primacy given to the 'high politics' go largely unnoticed"**

to enhance their power in the anarchic international system—permit us to develop expectations about how state leaders will and should act in situations of conflict. Realists never doubted that the UN was unable to promote peace and cooperation in any lasting sense; the anarchic nature of the system precluded that. And while realists may disagree amongst themselves about different phases of the conflict, basic principles of realism were confirmed by the events of August 2nd to February 27th—for realism is never more salient or more compelling than during war.

All of the ways in which feminist concerns have been rendered invisible in the past thus remain unchallenged. The Gulf War, and the analyses made of it, re-tell a familiar story: the most important elements of international relations revolve around the activities of states, diplomats and generals. By this view, international relations are gender neutral. It is this attitude which may make feminist struggle even *more* problematic in the new world order. Realists never claimed to intentionally promote the sexism which is inherent in their analysis. Rather, we are told, they seek to describe the world "as it really is." It is not the categories of realism that are sexist, but the world they seek to describe. It is not that relations of domination between women and men do not exist, but that they do not exist in relations between states. The new world order embodies these myths as much as the old, and having been created

out of the ultimate confirmation of realist precepts, these myths will be all the more difficult to shake.

This setback affects all of us. The feminist project is not simply to add our questions to international relations discourse, but by doing so to transform its agenda. The realist disposition toward international relations always justifies the resort to force witnessed in the Gulf War and other conflicts like it. By this view, states will, and must, seek to preserve themselves in the anarchy of international relations. As such, international relations will always be prone to the violence from which our "new" world order has been created. For realists, one need only look at the world as it "really is" to acknowledge the accuracy, and perhaps tragedy, of these claims.

But as feminists argue, nothing is natural—everything has been created and must be maintained. This is as true of the vision of international relations handed to us by realists as it is of relations of inequality between women and men. Only when we understand that international relations is about much more than states, power and

anarchy might we break out of this vicious circle. Only when legitimacy is accorded to the issues raised by feminists and other critics, may the resort to force finally become illegitimate.

Sandra Whitworth is with the Dept. of Political Science at York University.

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Women in cotton factory in Tiraspol, Moldova. Photo courtesy Novosti Press Agency/Canadian Woman Studies

For an excellent and very readable feminist analysis of international relations, see Cynthia Enloe, **Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics**, (London: Pandora Press, 1989). It should be obvious that the issues raised here are as much concerned with racism as they are sexism. Indeed feminists can claim no monopoly in our attempts to expand the IR agenda, and rather are part of a larger project including those active in anti-racist struggles as well as all groups critical to the mainstream of international relations.



# The 'New Europe' gets **STAGEFRIGHT**

By Sam Putinja

For the last few years Europeans have been feeding themselves a high-cholesterol diet of propaganda. In the mid 1980s the European Community (EC) decided it would finally move towards the long-held dream of full economic and political integration. "Europe 1992" was presented as a project without parallel which would transform Europe and its relation to the rest of the world. Now, with only months to go until 1992, it seems this high-cholesterol diet has led to Eurosclerosis.

With virtually seconds to go until curtain time it seems the New Europe may have stage fright. Two events in particular have called into question 1992 and just what it is all about.

One of the events was the war in the gulf and the other, more important one is the change in Eastern Europe and the disintegration of Yugoslavia. Iraq and Yugoslavia have forced the Euro-architects to look at aspects of 1992 which they previously never had considered.

The twelve nations of the European Economic Community have been hit in the face with the fact that they are actually a minority in Europe, albeit a minority whose wealth far exceeds that of the majority. Europe consists of more nations than just the 12-member EC or the other western countries such as Finland, Switzerland and Austria. How about Poland, Hungary or Slovenia and Croatia? What plans if any does the EC have for these countries?

For long the focus within the EC has been with internal regulation. The creation of a unified market of over 350 million people will require standardization of laws concerning matters such as commerce, labour and transportation. No doubt such matters are important. Yet there are other responsibilities that



Europe will incur after 1992. Such an economically powerful organization of states must look at its political role in the world. Sadly, if Yugoslavia or Iraq are any indication it seems Europe is failing miserably.

Far from pursuing a foreign policy independent of the United States and its conception of the New World Order, it seems as if Europe will still continue to be the lapdog of America. The Gulf War seems to indicate this.

Europe did not present a united response to the war. Great Britain, seeing a

great opportunity to ignore its domestic economic woes and show its admiration for American foreign policy, quickly moved into the Gulf. On the other hand, Germany, whose economic prowess Great Britain would have much to learn from, stayed out of the Gulf at least militarily. Of course one could add that unification kept Germany too busy to seek adventure overseas. Nevertheless, it is ironic that countries with many economic problems are the first to go to war.

Why is it that the economic strength of Germany and other EC nations cannot be translated into diplomatic strength? Why, with the collective economic strength of the EC, can it not challenge the global agenda of the United States? Perhaps it is better to ask whether the EC really wants to challenge the United States. Does Europe have anything to gain from the United States' leadership in the world?

Since the start of the war in Yugoslavia, the United States has remained ominously silent. Left on its own, the European Community has been helpless. Despite repeated attempts at a solution the EC has failed shamelessly. One wonders if Washington is not secretly laughing as the EC blunders in its own backyard. However, there can be no doubt that the people caught in the fighting in what was once Yugoslavia are not laughing. Nor are the other peoples of the East who are seeking to rebuild their countries. Many are now probably wondering what the EC is all about.

The European Community is failing to meet the expectations it has set for itself and for others. During the last part of the Cold War it seemed that the EC provided some kind of a middle way between the United States and the Soviet Union. Europe seemed to rest between the ideological extremes of the superpowers. Europe's political and economic structures depicted a kind of Third Way between Communism and Capitalism.

One hoped that this middle position could have been extended into foreign affairs. However, regardless of Europe's growing economic strength it still did not challenge the United States in global matters. Nicaragua, for example, was not spared the full wrath of the United States.

Despite Europe's economic strength it is still not challenging the repressive

control the United States has over the global monetary system. The Third World will not get a better deal from Europe. There is a reluctance on the part of European leaders to challenge the New World Order.

How long can this go on? How long can the EC ignore the call from Eastern Europe? How long can the EC ignore the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia or other new countries?

Sadly, it seems that for the moment Europe will still be divided. Eastern Europe will not see any economic miracles on the scale of which occurred in the West in the postwar period. At most Eastern Europe will be a periphery of the EC which provides skilled but cheap labour for industries in the West.

For years, Yugoslavia has served as a subcontractor for the French auto maker Renault. Poland has served similar purposes for Fiat, the Italian firm. Considering that Renault is owned by the French state, one wonders if there is a connection to be made between this and France's refusal to recognize the aspirations of Slovenians and Croats. Does France have something to gain by keeping Eastern Europe out of the EC?

Instability in the East is leading many to leave for the West. This is leading to the tightening of the EC's borders with the East — and is causing increasing unemployment in the West, currently averaging 10 per cent. Immigration from the Third World is also a concern for the EC and has caused growing xenophobia and racism in many countries.

Europe's future development will depend on that of the New World Order. The EC must take an active role in shaping this. It cannot ignore the aspirations of its eastern peoples. It must include them in an equal partnership. Nor can the EC ignore the plight of nations in the Third World. Western Europe cannot continue to be a rich enclave in a world of poverty and domination.

Many observers within and outside the European Community see 1992 as a progressive project which could serve as a model for other regions of the world. If 1992 is to be truly progressive then it must move beyond its current parameters. Europe should be more than just a market of millions of consumers. The world needs a progressive force to counter the instability of the New World Order. Washington is not that force.

“**W**hy, with the collective economic strength of the European Community, can it not challenge the global agenda of the United States? Perhaps it is better to ask whether the EC really wants to challenge the United States.”



# Just another U.S. State



5 new world order supplement  
excalibur november 20, 1991

**M**any Canadians already consider free trade one of Ottawa's worst moves. But according to David Orchard, head of Citizens Concerned about Free Trade, it was also one of Washington's long-term plans.

Canada has long been part of the U.S. "Manifest Destiny" agenda, Orchard says. And all it took to make it happen was a little pressure from American-based multinationals on the unscrupulous Mulroney government.

And, Orchard says, Mulroney already seems to think of Canada as just another American state.

by Alex Roslin  
and Peter Clibbon  
Canadian University Press

**Roslin & Clibbon: Do you think Canada's sovereignty is threatened by free trade?**

David Orchard: Absolutely. Since this deal was signed, Canada has agreed with every foreign policy move of the United States. We're now as likely to contradict the U.S. on the world stage as the state of California.

For example, the Americans are saying they want to move the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia 30 miles south. They want to build a naval base for nuclear submarines in the Dixon Entrance, and are seizing Canadian fishing boats which go into the area they're claiming. The boats are impounded and the Americans sell their catch. Canadian fishers actually have to pay \$50,000 to get their boats back.

Mulroney has just abdicated all defense of our territorial integrity.

**Do you think free trade was forced onto us by American multinationals? Or, was Brian Mulroney himself the main proponent of the deal?**

Many people say Brian Mulroney was desperate for the free trade deal and went down and begged the Americans for it. We don't agree with that at all.

When Mulroney was running against Joe Clark for the leadership of the Conservative party in 1983, he said free trade was a danger to Canadian sovereignty and

we'd hear no more from him on the subject. But, eight years after he was elected prime minister, he called his first press conference — not in Canada, but in Washington at Ronald Reagan's side — and announced he was starting negotiations on free trade with the U.S.

The background to this is interesting. In 1983 the U.S. ambassador to Canada, Paul Robinson, called the head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce to his home in Ottawa. Robinson told him that the Americans had just signed a free trade deal with Israel, and that they'd like to do one with Canada next.

But Robinson said it couldn't look like the Americans are calling the shots, or there would be a backlash among Canadians. So, Canadian companies must pick up the ball and make it look like the free trade idea is coming out of Canada.

And that's when we saw business associations pushing for free trade, like the Canadian Petroleum Association and the Canadian Manufacturers Association.

But what's funny is that they call themselves Canadian. They're about as Canadian as the Dallas Cowboys because they're made up of mostly American multinationals operating in Canada.

## Manifest Destiny

**So, the Americans were the ones who pushed for the deal.**

Yes. The idea of an economic union between Canada and the U.S. has a long history, and it used to be called "Manifest Destiny." This is the idea of incorporating Canada into the U.S. to ensure free access to Canadian resources. It goes back 200 years.

We actually have the distinction of being the first country to be invaded by the United States — in 1776, when Benjamin Franklin took over Quebec City and Montreal. They invaded again in 1812.

After that, the Americans turned to commercial means of seizing Canadian resources. When the Americans purchased Alaska from the Russians in 1867, they said it wasn't Alaska so much they wanted as everything between Alaska and the U.S.

**But if free trade is only in the interests of the Americans, why would a Canadian prime minister be so enthusiastic about the idea?**

Our position is that the Canadian government no longer represents the interests of even Canadian business. The Mulroney government simply works directly for the

American multinational corporations which control half of the Canadian economy.

There are all sorts of examples. Mulroney has started to dismantle the institutions which hold the country together — the rail links, the CBC, the social programs. There's growing animosity between the English and the French, between the Whites and Native people. Meech Lake was a further attempt to balkanize and split up the country.

A Conservative government in Saskatchewan signed a deal not long ago to build the Rafferty-Alameda dam to provide the Americans with water. But when the Canadian government and the people of Saskatchewan said there has to be an environmental study of the dam, the province said, listen, we signed a deal with Washington, and that overrides Canadian law.

## Trade Harassments

**Do you think free trade has created an economic crisis in the country?**

That's no question. Mulroney promised that free trade would give us "jobs, jobs, jobs." In 1988, he said free trade would create 250,000 new jobs.

Instead, we've lost 500,000 jobs in the first two years of this deal. Twenty per cent of our entire manufacturing capacity has pulled out of the country.

Mulroney said free trade would mean cheaper prices for consumers. Every home was supposed to get \$800 in their pockets from free trade. Instead, inflation has risen and we have a brand new tax, the GST. Prices have actually gone up.

Before the GST we had a tax on manufacturing corporations, but those companies told Mulroney: "either you eliminate the tax or we're going to leave Canada and go to the U.S." You and I can't go to the United States. So, Mulroney got rid of the manufacturing tax and imposed the Goods and Services Tax on consumers.

Mulroney also said free trade would finally give Canadian companies secure access to the richest market in the world, the United States. But in fact we now have more trade harassments by the U.S. than we did before we signed the deal. The Americans want Canada to remove subsidies on West Coast fish, lobsters, beef, meat, potatoes. There's a whole long list. Canada didn't get a thing out of the free trade deal in terms of giving Canadian

continued on page 8



# Earthly Motives

## Recent theories challenge our view of the world's constitution

Suddenly everyone's talking about the Earth. The so-called new world order, the global environmental crisis and the opening of international trade have put our planet back in the centre of our thoughts. But, David Black asks, just what is the Earth?

Two competing theories offer an explanation. Globalist theories say the Earth is one big market; more recently, the Gaia hypothesis compares the planet to a single living organism. As Black observes, neither view is completely down to Earth.

by J. David Black

Nanabush, the mischievous bird spirit and star of Canadian playwright Tomson Highway's *The Rez Sisters*, is a character as old as drama itself. As a trickster figure, the Ojibway Nanabush represents the raw power of nature, gently mocking the women of the reservation for their obsessive bingo-playing.

Tension between "nature" and "culture" is, like waiting for a jackpot, a fundamental part of the human experience. With our customs, institutions and technologies, however, North Americans make life less of a gamble today than it has been in thousands of years here. Not until an earthquake rattles our windows or our drinking water is poisoned by pesticide run-off does nature enter our lives as forcefully as Nanabush did the first peoples'.

Not surprisingly, their cultural response to nature has been different both in degree and in kind. Living

closer to the land, first peoples historically have used weather patterns, landscape features and animals — Nanabush is alternatively a saucy seagull and a spectral nighthawk — as symbolic media for their most important cultural messages.

Christian mythology, to contrast, begins with a symbolic rejection of nature — the Fall from the Garden of Eden. Small wonder that, with the bitter taste of the deadly fruit in their mouths, missionaries declared aboriginal spirituality a heresy, and classified people who claimed spiritual kinship with bears and owls to be less than human themselves.

Where we try to "naturalize" culture, the first peoples "enculturated" nature. That is, instead of borrowing images and objects from nature and informing them with culture, we are far enough from our hunting and gathering past that we fabricate things in culture which, ironically, depend for their credibility on claims to being "natural."

Among these things are some of the goods, images and fabled technological advances that make our times (recalling the famous Chinese curse) "interesting" ones in which to live: Mickey Mouse, all-natural foods, artificial intelligence and, the latest, computer-generated virtual reality.

"Mouse," "foods," "intelligence" and "reality" all suggest natural or commonsense sources. But the content of these phenomena is not of the same order as the cave paintings of deer left by early American peoples.

We are kept at a 'civilized' distance from nature by one metaphor, one economic system: the market — that idealized network of producers, distributors and consumers in self-regulating exchange.

There is a world view called "globalism" which extends that network and its homogenous consumer tastes and advertising images to the entire world. Not only does it separate our 'culture' from nature; globalism also defines our relationship with nature in a rather costly manner: the welfare of the market is equated with the welfare of the people it serves. Terms like "deficit," "competitiveness" and "Gross National Product" carry as much influence on how we understand and act in the 'natural' world as do "democracy," "freedom" or "social responsibility."

Opposing the globalist philosophy is one which views the world first as a green and blue whole, and only secondarily as a network of fruit and spring water franchises.

The Gaia hypothesis, named after the classical Greek earth goddess, envisions the Earth not as a web of factories, banks and shopping malls but as a single, living organism.

Drawing heavily on Native American spirituality, the Gaian view assumes the world lives not by competition alone, but by co-operation at a bio-chemical and an almost spiritual level. Many species do compete with each other for resources, but evidence suggests that some species have supported each other over the eons in making the atmosphere hospitable and the soil fertile. In other words, life plays an active role in making the planet cozy for itself, rather than being merely a Darwinian accident of the remote past.

Whether we regard the planet primarily as a market or a commons has direct consequences for our everyday attitudes, and for our work toward a better culture — a culture which respects its roots in the Latin word meaning "to till" the land.

We need to assess the globalist and Gaia world views and their organizing principles in order to bring these lofty theories down to earth. We have to ask ourselves whether these theories offer practical solutions to global environmental problems. And we have to ask ourselves: what are the concrete consequences of failing to dream big?





## Globalism: A Planet for Sale

Despite the short-term thinking notorious among corporate managers and the instant gratification promised to consumers, the market has a history. Though the first markets may have appeared in ancient Greek city states, today's *global* market originated in negotiations held between world powers after World War II.

In 1948, leading industrial nations founded the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to foster economic integration and freer trade between states. As a result, tariff barriers dropped between capitalist powers even as the Berlin Wall went up. During the last thirty years, states have slowly stopped regulating their economies, and the global market has become a self-sustaining reality.

Dwarfed by multi-billion dollar capital flows and companies with assets greater than those of many countries, the individual becomes a passive consumer in a planetary supermarket, according to globalist theories. Citizenship is defined in terms of what one can or cannot buy. Though one citizen of a country theoretically has the same legal rights as another, consumers are only as equal as their incomes.

The less income we enjoy, the nearer we are to the demands of nature — like it or not. Nature makes itself known in market-oriented economic theories in the form of scarcity. Scarcity, we are told, is the reason why one good or service is more expensive than another.

In market-oriented economics, nature is no benevolent Gaia. Instead, "natural" scarcity makes people hungry enough that they will work, starves off those unable to compete, and rules that the victims of disease and poverty have simply lost their case in the court of natural law.

As Canadian economic writers Eric Kierans and Walter Stewart warn, to abdicate responsibility to the market is to make for a future where only money is green and only markets free.

"A world market," they write, "would provide the opportunities for ever larger accumulations, since only the large corporations could operate efficiently therein and competition would be limited and defined by them. What it would not provide is any ethical, moral, political or national basis on which to make the agonizing decisions that govern us."

## The Gaia Hypothesis: A Planet of System and Spirit

With the benefit of scientific hindsight, Gaian theorists have confirmed experimentally what first peoples knew long ago — the systemic integrity of nature. Global temperature, the rate at which oxygen is absorbed by plants and animals, the balance of alkalines and acids, and other life-essential processes are all held to depend on a world-wide co-ordination of almost supernatural sophistication.



Though the pages of the Gaian literature celebrate the authors' favourite green spaces, a subtle anti-humanism enters their arguments as a byproduct. Little room is made in their universe for the special responsibility human beings have to solve the problems they have created. The prescription is that Gaia will outlast *homo sapiens*, and heal itself. In Gaian theories, nature assumes a consciousness denied to human beings.

Because the Gaian hypothesis is not first an economic theory, it is concerned less with cultural decisions about "value" and more with what is valuable. Economic development doesn't merit mention in the Gaian literature. Instead, the "valuable" includes all species and non-species elements of world ecology.

Gaian theorists are more aloof when they write about how we can work towards a more organic planet. Joseph Lawrence, author of *Gaia: The Growth of an Idea*, cites the Green Party movement as an example of how Gaia might be taken to the streets. James Lovelock, whose *The Ages of Gaia: A Biography of a Living Earth* is perhaps the most popular of the Gaia books, denounces what he terms the "three C's" of environmental destruction — cars, cattle and chainsaws. But both offer only the most tentative and, occasionally, controversial solutions.

For example, Lovelock believes agriculture a greater enemy than industry due to chemical run-off and soil degradation; he favours nuclear power over fossil fuel and hydroelectric generation because the latter's polluting potency is, for him, greater; and he worries over the effects of global ecology — particularly the moisture and oxygen-producing Amazon forests — more than acid rain or ozone depletion.

The Gaians prefer ethical explanations over arguments critical of how social and economic injustice harms the planet, and this qualifies their argument's quality. Gaian notions depend greatly on deep ecology — an environmental philosophy which, in placing the ecosystem at the centre, sometimes dismisses human solutions. Social ecology — which relates environmental problems to things like income equality, Third World debt, and class — is sidestepped in the process.

## A planet for the saving

Gaia's long-term is a human eternity, and even her short-term — a geologic phase, for example, like our

present Phanerozoic period — is 600 million-odd years longer than the average mortal lifespan. Gaian solutions depend on the Earth's long-term regenerative powers, and operate independently — or even thrive on the extinction — of the time-bound human species.

Where the Gaia hypothesis fails to satisfy immediate needs, however, the globalist view is too ready with a smile and a promise of short-term gain without regard for the long-term pain of corporate control and reckless consumerism.

Markets are not "level playing fields" or neutral trading areas, but a cultural ordering of nature that if left unchecked will turn air and water — termed "free goods" by economists — into mere products for sale.

Nor are trade and investment merely neutral phenomena. They shape our policy and personal decisions directly. Moreover, the international division of labour (the pattern of distributing different kinds of work around the world) is pressing the underdeveloped world into a wage slavery most of us would not accept in our own communities.

All of this suggests that we might look through the eyes of Nanabush as we get busy recycling, bicycling to work, or attending environmental action meetings in our communities. Unafraid of opinion and convention, the Ojibway culture hero dared to look afresh at the world, tempting people to be creative within their traditions and connect the smallest acts with their larger destiny.

Our cultures, indeed, would be well-served by the addition of startling and ecologically sensitive alternatives to those metaphors and methods that dominate us. For conceding production and distribution to spiralling economies of scale means more than giving up control over how business operates, labour is organized and products enter our lives. It means surrendering our collective imagination at a time when global crises make reconciling culture and nature a trick worthy of Nanabush.

J. David Black is a graduate student in Social and Political Thought at York University.



## Free trade

continued from page 5  
companies more access to the American market.

### How angry are people about free trade?

The media and politicians would like everyone to think that the free trade issue has gone away. But we find when we go across the country, that people are still interested in free trade because it concerns Canada's independence. They are worried that if we don't have an economic border with the United States, soon we will lose our political border also.

It's true people are getting angrier since the deal was signed, but people were opposed to free trade before, too. In the last election, Mulroney only got 43 per cent of the vote. The problem was there were two opposition parties which fought each other instead of Mulroney, so he won the election.

A Decima poll recently said that 60 per cent of Canadians are opposed to current free trade talks with Mexico, and 65 per cent want free trade with the U.S. cancelled.

### Grassroots Opposition

Is it even possible for a movement to arise here that could successfully oppose free trade, considering how much of Canada is already in American hands?

There is already a movement. In the 1891 election and in the one in 1911, around 52 per cent of Canadians voted both times against economic union with the U.S. In the 1988 election, the numbers actually increased, with 57 per cent of Canadians voting against free trade.

This is especially striking when you consider the unprecedented campaign waged by the deal's supporters during the election. The Mulroney government itself spent \$30 million of taxpayer's money pushing for free trade. American business stepped into our election in an unprecedented way and spent \$20 million through their subsidies in Canada.

On our side, we had a few thousand dollars sent in by citizens across the country. It was completely a one-sided battle, and yet more Canadians voted against free trade than at any time in our history.

If the NDP and the Liberals had worked together, they could have won up to 210 seats in the House of Commons and defeated free trade.

### What alternative does Canada have to this free trade agreement?

There are alternative visions to running a country, you know. We're the second largest country in the world, and we have resources that other countries can only dream of. Instead, we have Canadians eating out of foodbanks while our resources are being pumped out from under us by American corporations.

Mulroney is saying it doesn't matter who owns the economy, as long as they provide jobs. Well, I'm a farmer. You can't tell me it doesn't matter who owns my farm. I know that if someone else owns my farm, they get to say jump, and I get to say how high. It's exactly the same story for Canada.

The first thing we have to do is stop giving Americans control of our economy. We must take positive steps to regain control of our resources and economy.

Of course, the Americans are not going to say, oh, you want your country back? Here it is. The Americans don't take kindly to people or countries that want control over their economy back. Take Chile as an example.

What we think will work is if the NDP and Liberals form an electoral coalition in the next election when they win. It would be much harder for the Americans to destabilize an alliance of two major political parties with broad support from Canadians.

We're at a stage that if we don't form a strong alliance against American business, we're going to simply become a territory of the United States, like Puerto Rico or Hawaii.

# Global reflections: Images of a global crisis

by Mike Glaister

## Flux

THREE DAYS. In three days the leader of the largest country in the world was deposed and reinstated.

"The skies are clearing..."  
"The coup is officially over..."

A country with one of the largest arsenals in the world.

"...coup disintegrated in six hours."

One of the largest armed forces in the world.

"The troops are... pulling out of Leningrad"

Three days.

"The future of the Soviet Union is still in flux."

The future of the world is still in flux.

## New World Math: Yeltsin = Asshole

AT THE END of the crisis Russian President Boris Yeltsin was quick to blame Gorbachev totally for the coup. Perhaps I'm in the minority but I seem to remember two other factions wrestling for power at the same time. Blameless Boris was one faction... the Russian hardliners were the other faction.

You have Gorbachev trying to administer reforms while politically fighting off the advances of the Hardliners on one side and Yeltsin (pro-reform, anti-Gorbachev) on the other.

Actually, I'm kind of surprised that the coup didn't happen sooner (it may have succeeded). I notice that Gorbachev and Yeltsin are closer than two peas in a pod... for now.

## New World Math: Schwarzkopf = Cool

HE CAME OFF as a straight-from-the-hip kinda guy. He wasn't scared to make his views known: from the notorious "luckiest man in Iraq" joke to his comments that the multinational force should have finished Iraq.

Of course when you have the United Nations and the world's strongest power behind you...

## New World Math: Schwarzkopf = Sex

A FEW WEEKS ago there was a survey involving American women. It asked them who would they like to be stranded on a desert island with. The number one choice was actor/director Kevin Costner, the second choice was Stormin' Norman Schwarzkopf! Get a load of this: you're on a moonlit, deserted beach discussing battle strategy with Norm. Fun? Wow!!

## Resurrection

LATVIA AND THE Baltic states, St. Petersburg, the Ukraine... the U.S.

## Killing Blow

U.S.S.R., MARX, STALIN, the Warsaw Pact and the Cold War. Ghandi, rest in peace. Oh yes... les Forces Armees du Canada for the most part relegated to support capabilities... rest in peace (pieces if the government has anything to say about it).

## Owning Up

YUGOSLAVIA IS AT civil war. At last count (when this passage was written) four ceasefires have been violated. The government is one step from crushing the "rebellion" staged by Croatia. U.N. is threatening sanctions. By the time the sanctions have any effect Croatia won't exist. It's do or die time for Croatia, Yugoslavia and the U.N.

## Owning Up 2: Permanent Vacation?

ARISTIDE, THE FIRST democratically-elected president, is on the lam, victim of a coup. He is currently calling on aid to reinstate him. Few nights back I was watching his supporters demonstrate (in front of the Haitian embassies) calling for action.

The Organization of American States will establish sanctions against Haiti. I believe a more personal touch will be needed.

I'm betting the new leaders have already started withholding fuel and other supplies. They should be able to hold out for an extended period of time (like months). The general populace on the other hand... nyah.

Get a lawn chair Aristide, suck down a cold one, for until you shake the right hands you're on extended vacation.

## Colder Comfort

THE COLD WAR really sucked, but it did serve a purpose in the roughly 40 years it existed. It kept the big two superpowers, America and the U.S.S.R., at bay.

Currently, in the midst of breakaway republics and severe military cut-backs (literally cutting its forces by 2 million bodies), the Soviet (soon to be Russian) Union is rapidly losing its prominence.

The big two has become one. I don't believe there is another country that is an adequate match for the Americans except possibly China. The U.S. is in a position to drastically affect world affairs.

I won't miss the Cold War or its offspring M.A.D. (Mutually Assured Destruction) but there was comfort in knowing that there was some kind of balance to keep things from getting hot. Cool things down if you will.

## New World Order: Now

- Soviet Union's left with several potential troublespots... among them the Asian and Muslim states

- Yugoslavia and Croatia... crumbling

- Racism boiling in Germany, still struggling with unification... the immigrants are being kept at facilities to "protect them from the public"

- French nationalism takes an ominous turn

- Freedom in communist states... freedom to think, freedom to do, freedom to hate

- South Africa breaking down the barriers... slowly

There's more of course, all of it fast, electric but nothing different... the players have changed but it's still the same old song.

FREE WITH EVERY 'NEW WORLD' ORDER





# Visions of democracy



NARIN SILVER

"There has been no radical change in any Western government's mentality."

**Dickson Eyoh**

by David Bulengo

**An outcry for democracy is erupting across Africa today. Already, we have seen multi-party elections held in Benin and Togo. The impact of this political shift on Africa — and the effect of global political changes on this political shift — is rarely discussed in the media.**

**Dickson Eyoh, the coordinator of African Studies at York University, says the struggles for democracy in Africa are a result of popular reaction to oppressive authoritarian states and the present economic crisis in Africa.**

**David Bulengo: What is the current political trend in Africa?**

**Dickson Eyoh:** Going back to the late seventies, the landscape was one of a well-entrenched authoritarian one-party state with the odd mixture of military regimes.

Currently, we have seen the rise of the democracy movement.

**How did this mass struggle for democracy originate?**

One has to look at it historically. In a sense that this can be defined as the "second independence."

At the height of the African independence wave [during the 1960s] everyone was preoccupied with the issue of state-building. People soon realized that the benefits of independence were cruel. The economic crisis of the seventies and eighties and the structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund brought about various socio-economic problems which re-emphasized the call for democracy.

**The struggle for democracy is not unified. There seem to be different groups with different concepts of democracy. Could you discuss this?**

To simplify this enormously, there are two perspectives. To the right, people are argu-

ing that democracy implies the creation of institutions common to liberal democratic forms of government. This notion is closely affiliated with the ruling class and the promotion of capitalism as a mode of economic development.

To the left, people are arguing that liberalism is not the only form of democratic

expression. Instead, what they are looking for in democracy is accountability and representation which can be implemented through various institutional arrangements. Thus, the meaning of democracy here is first and foremost a process governed by internal forces and directed by popular forces in society.

**Which concept is gaining more ground?**

The liberal concept seems to be gaining more ground [than the left-wing populist concept] due to external pressure from the International Monetary Fund and the failure of deliverance from socialist regimes.

**In what position does the New World Order put Africa?**

Within the international framework I think Africa is going to be increasingly marginalized both economically and politically. One just needs to look at the response of Western governments to the former communist bloc in terms of the transfer of aid.

**Do you think that the existing struggles will determine whether Africa becomes an appendage of another major power?**

At this moment in time it is difficult to say. It all depends on how the world is going to be structured.

**Are democracy and development compatible?**

Democracy is not just a matter of voting and not voting. Democracy implies a whole range of things and it also provides a scope for people being involved in making choices about their lives and how to organize the economy and society. Therefore, I would argue that democracy is compatible with development and it opens up a higher

potential for much more effective economic development.

**For many years Western powers have backed repressive regimes in Africa. Why are they now supporting the struggle for democracy?**

There has been no radical change in any Western government's mentality. The West has never really supported democracy in Africa. Their support for democracy in Africa is contingent on who they get into power. One need not even go to Africa to see this. Just look at the present situation in Haiti.

**Africans have suffered heavily under the hands of corrupt and repressive governments. Can one predict that governments will now become more accountable to their people?**

The new democratic struggles in Africa have clearly pointed out that Africans will no longer be passive victims of domination. Therefore, one can conclude by saying that the next generation of African leaders will have to behave differently from previous rulers.

**Is tribalism a major concern among Africans involved with the struggle for democracy?**

The concerns of tribalism amongst Africans are legitimate and are an integral part of the debate. To enter a debate without understanding the relationships and responsibilities of different communal groups is a mistake because the issue will not have been solved and will therefore continue to prevail.

**Some Africans perceive a one-party rule as a protection against tribalism. How do you feel about this?**

That is nonsense. This is an argument which has been used to rationalize authoritarian forms of government. Look at Kenya for instance. One-party states have ruled but the issue of tribalism still remains unsolved.

**Considering the present social and economic difficulties in Africa, do you see the role of African intellectuals to be a significant part of the struggle?**

It is difficult for me to generalize for all African scholars. In the current democratic debate, there is a significant role for African scholars. However, the present economic crisis is so intense that many intellectuals have remained captive to external models of thought and have therefore failed to generate an indigenous framework. Thus, it is necessary to note that those scholars involved in the debate need to move beyond this point and create a new autonomous framework which is suitable for Africa.



# News World Order

*Somewhere between the headlines and the soundbites, history is being made — but the way the media works, you may never know it.*

by Gamal Abdel-Shahid

For those unfamiliar with some evils of the current "New World Order", let me give you a brief introduction.

Starvation of shocking proportions occurs in the Sudan, Somalia and the Horn of Africa, where over a million people have already died in 1991; disease and malnutrition devastate Iraq in the aftermath of a war that left over 500,000 people dead and threatens to kill far more. Civil war rages through Yugoslavia, Georgia, Zaire and Liberia — to name a few. Extreme nationalism, often manifested in brutal and violent forms, is again on the rise in Germany, Russia, France, India and the United States. Daily the economic conditions of the lives of most people in the world are reaching horrifyingly low levels.

In the face of these horrors, why is there such a degree of apparent consent in our society?

In an attempt to inform the general public, mainstream media simplifies and "packages" serious news events — like the examples cited above — to make things more appealing to the public. Media giants such as *USA Today* and CNN simply blurt out headlines, so decontextualized and dehistoricized that they are effectively meaningless.

Debate in these forums, as well as in the more "respected" media institutions such as the *Globe and Mail* and the CBC, is non-existent. For example, recent media coverage of the mid-east "peace" talks has centred on the relationship between Arabs and Jews and their historic attempts to speak to one another. Are we so naive to think that "Arabs" and "Jews" are two masses of homogenous and undifferentiated people who all think and act the same?

Furthermore, by dehistoricising the talks, nobody questioned what factors — other than a sort of 'natural or inherent dislike' of one another — prevented these talks from taking place earlier. The mainstream media made no attempt to explain the underlying reasons for the convening of this peace conference — namely consolidation of U.S. capital and strategic interests in the region. By doing so, the media has taken a set of rather complex issues and simplified them to an extent that they are meaningless to an informed observer.

But are they meaningless to the general public? No, and this is precisely the tactic employed to create consent and apathy within our society.

Two questions arise: First, why it is that the media does this; and second, does the mass media even intend to do this? Media corporations are private institutions that exist to make profits. So rather than engage in the very costly exercise of educating people and informing them, the owners of the media choose the profit-maximising route.

There is an immense cost involved in stationing reporters around the globe who, instead of simply gathering government-issued press releases, actually investigate the real reasons why things occur as they do. We know that institutions such as the *Globe and Mail* have horrifying imbalances with respect to the number of correspondents in the United States versus the number in the Middle East (one), in India (none) or in the Caribbean (none).

Moreover, reporters in Canada and the U.S. act as spokespeople for Ottawa and Washington by rereading government statistics and stories without any analysis. Can one expect balanced and objective coverage to come out of such an arrangement?

Further, since these institutions are solely dependent on advertising revenue, any process that would anger or scare advertisers is avoided — such as critical examination of Canadian or U.S. policy in countries where these companies may have financial ties. There is also little interest in questioning the practices of major corporations. It seems very clear that advertisers are not interested in catering to a critical or questioning audience, but rather one which accepts facts and information unquestioningly.

Those seeking to question the practises of mainstream media soon find they are not welcome. For instance, witness the serious reprimand in 1988 of CBS anchor Dan Rather after he attempted to ask then presidential candidate George Bush about his involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal. And witness the marginalisation of writers and reporters at the *Globe and Mail* who attempt to "rock the boat." These instances point to a serious attempt by media institutions to essentially drown out criticism and narrow the terms of its public debate.

Thus it becomes evident that the horrors of the New World Order take place and are presented to us by a subjective voice which seeks to create a consenting audience, not one which seeks to inform an audience wishing to question and reexamine the world we live in. In light of this, one must give little, if any credibility to the mass media in trying to understand the New World Order.



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# THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

new world order supplement  
escalibur november 20, 1991

by Tim Hughes and Duncan Moore  
Canadian University Press

Following two world wars and the failure of the League of Nations, various countries met in San Francisco in 1945 to seek a structure to ensure world peace. Since its inception, the United Nations has gained diplomatic ground internationally in such areas as keeping the peace, facilitating democracy and strengthening human rights. These achievements, however, are tempered by crucial shortcomings. Financial dependence on wealthy member states, the paralysis of the Security Council by powerful nations, and the limiting principal of a states' sovereignty are typical of the problems the United Nations must overcome to be impartial and effective.

## Peace and democracy

Peacekeeping has become the UN's diplomatic cornerstone. One of the most prominent UN peacekeeping forces was created in 1964 to put an end to intercommunal violence that had erupted in Cyprus.

Following the subsequent military intervention of Turkish forces in 1974, violence was again halted through UN-sanctioned negotiations. A 180 km buffer zone was created to keep Turkish forces and the Cyprus National Guard apart. Since 1974, UN peacekeeping forces have ensured violence would not flare up again, allowing citizens of Cyprus to go about their lives without the fear of war.

Similar peacekeeping forces have successfully operated around the globe from Angola to Syria, Iraq/Iran and West New Guinea.

Many people in emerging nations owe their first opportunity to cast a ballot to the UN. A recent success story is Namibia. Under South African control for the last 70 years, Namibia was oppressed by the South African government's apartheid laws.

In November of 1989, Namibians went to the polls for the first time, through their own will and the assistance of the UN. The electoral process was supervised and controlled by the UN Transition Assistance Group, preventing voter coercion. This operation involved over 8,600 people from 124 nations, assisting Namibia in gaining its independence March 21, 1990.

Since 1955, the UN has supervised or observed elections and referenda on some 40 occasions. In many of these cases, people in non-autonomous territories voted for the first time to approve national constitutions, elect representatives to constituent assemblies, or decide their future political status. On several occasions the inhabitants of disputed territories have expressed their opinions through plebiscites under UN supervision, for a peaceful resolution to the dispute in question.

## Rights and wrongs

The UN treads lightly, however, on the issue of human rights. The organization has accepted a mandate to act only as an advisory body, not to force nations to act on human rights abuses. Respect for national sovereignty is extremely important to ensure nations continued participation in the UN, but leaves no means, save diplomatic pressure, to encourage a nation to correct its wrongs.



Consider South Africa and the Blacks, Canada and Native peoples, and China and Tiananmen Square. All these countries have come under pressure from the international community in UN debate, but progress has been minimal.

In spite of the slow-grinding gears of the UN, some important steps have been taken in the name of human rights. In 1948, member nations passed the Genocide Convention. A reaction to the horrors of World War Two, the Convention defines genocide and declares the international community's support for the prevention of such brutal acts in the future.

Other significant conventions that have followed include the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1979), and the Convention against Torture (1984).

The most recent human rights convention to take place was the Convention on the Rights of the Child, completed on November 20, 1989. This 54-article convention seeks to guarantee children the right to life, name, nationality, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It represents an unprecedented attempt to address the problems of child abuse and neglect in an international treaty, and pays special attention to protection of children who are refugees, disabled or who are oppressed as minorities. As a provision of this convention, governments also committed themselves to providing primary health care and basic education.

The details of these conventions were inspired by the General Assembly's pas-

sage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. Containing 30 articles which spell out basic civil rights, as well as fundamental economic, social and cultural rights, the Universal Declaration has been widely accepted. It is considered to carry the weight of international law and has been used by many new countries in their founding laws or constitutions.

## Divided nations

Although the UN has seen the fruits of accomplishment over the years, it has suffered inherent problems. The most troubling among these is economic blackmail by the U.S. — which provides over 25 per cent of the UN's general budget. The U.S. has held back its obligatory payments when confronted with decisions that conflict with its self-perceived interest.

A 1960-64 peacekeeping mission to the Congo was aborted on the basis of insufficient funding when money promised by the U.S. was not received.

According to the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security, the United States is responsible for roughly 50 per cent of the approximately \$1 billion debt the United Nations currently faces.

Bullying by major economic powers within the UN has also contributed to the heightening of international tensions and created conflict among member states. The best example of this is the Suez Crisis of 1956. Development funds had been promised to Egypt from the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. and Great Britain. This capital was pro-

vided to keep Egypt on a tight string to western whims. Concern over Nasser's political goals caused the U.S. and Great Britain to suddenly withdraw their funding.

The International Monetary Fund, claiming its promised aid was conditional on British and U.S. support, denied funds to Egypt. As a backlash to U.S. and British influence in the IMF's decision, Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, a trade route vital to the British and French. The ensuing conflict brought the world to the brink of large-scale international conflict.

Another shortcoming of the UN has been the failure of the Security Council to ensure peace. Founded in 1948, the Security Council has only five member nations — England, France, China, the U.S.S.R. and the United States. However, it has the final word on major strategic decisions, and wields considerable influence over the General Assembly.

This was demonstrated during the Persian Gulf war, when all five Security Council members agreed to launch a U.N.-sponsored attack on Iraq, against the protests of numerous U.N. member states.

Shortly after its establishment, the Security Council became frozen in the political winter of the cold war. Despite the assumption that the permanent members of the council would have peace as a common goal, the political chasm between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. served to effectively paralyze the actions of the Security Council. Thus the Security Council remained asleep in its duty to halt the atrocities of Vietnam and Afghanistan.

The recent collapse of the Soviet Union as a superpower raises the fear that the Security Council has become another tool of the White House and its self-serving new world order. Which is the greater of two evils, a Security Council frozen in helplessness, or a Security Council justifying every U.S. action?

The lofty vision of the UN has another tragic flaw. It is unable to change situations, damned by its own principles to simply return affairs to the status quo. It is virtually impossible for the UN to alter political conflicts without the involved countries' assent. The success of the UN's involvement in Namibia could not have occurred without the consent of South Africa and the people of Namibia, for the UN must respect national sovereignty.

A current example is the UN's inability to do more than condemn the actions of the Haitian military following its overthrow of the democratically elected President Jean-Baptiste Aristide. To endorse military intervention without invitation would violate the UN Charter and international law.

There is no denying the UN has had many failures over its 46-year history, for its ideals are extremely difficult to achieve. Considering the organization is hindered by financial dependence on individual states, manipulation of its decisions by world powers, an ineffective Security Council, and the concept of state's right to sovereignty, it is clear the UN has succeeded only in a limited fashion.

Peacekeeping initiatives, democratic voting, and conventions on human rights must be seen together with the sobering fact that there is much to be accomplished in perfecting the impartiality and effectiveness of the United Nations as an international forum for the peaceful settlement of disputes.



# Clubs page

the clubs page is a free forum for clubs recognized by the YFS  
 submissions are due one week before the distribution date of  
 the paper; the deadline for the Wed. Nov. 27th issue is  
 Thurs. Nov 21 - ads don't have to be typeset - just scrawl them  
 down on a piece of paper, include any graphics and logos, and  
 submit them to the yfs office (not excal), 336 student centre  
 c/o Jim Hounslow

**Clubs space is available in the Student Centre**  
 apply before Nov. 29  
 Occupation is guaranteed for the remainder of the year. Open to  
 all active & recognized clubs. Applications are available at the  
 YFS, #336 Student Centre. Due Fri. Nov. 29

York University Portuguese Association  
**Y.U.P.A.**  
 Cordially invites you to their  
**CHESTNUT DANCE**  
 Friday, Nov. 22  
 8:00pm  
 FIRST PORTUGUESE CANADIAN CLUB OF TORONTO  
 722 COLLEGE ST.  
 (College & Crawford)  
 Tickets in Advance at 124A Winters College  
 Members \$5 Non-members \$6

The New World Order  
 of BAHĀ'U'LLĀH  
 "Soon will the present-day order  
 be rolled up and a new one spread  
 out in its stead."  
 Dr. David Smith  
 Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m.  
 Ross S537  
 Sponsored by the Association for Baha'i Studies

York Vietnamese Student's Assoc.  
**Orientation Day**  
 Thursday, November 22nd  
 5pm to 9pm  
 201 Sylvester's Common Room,  
 Stong College  
 Refreshments and Entertainment  
 For more info. drop by 209 student Centre

**FOR THOSE WITH  
 THE ONE TRACK  
 MIND...**  
 UNITED SNOWBOARDERS OF YORK  
**HAS ARRIVED!**

**Contact Improvisation**  
 Energetic Exploration through Improvisational Movement  
 It's Physical  
 It's Kinetic  
 it's Spirited  
**Come check out The Contact Club**  
 We jam on Mondays between 6:00 and 8:00pm  
 at Tait McKenzie  
 in the Judo Room (4th floor)  
 for more info. call Judy at 638-7695

**I.V.C.F. INTERNATIONAL  
 FRIENDSHIP ACTIVITIES**  
**CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION  
 &  
 POTLUCK SUPPER**  
 Sunday, Dec. 1, 6:00pm  
 Stong College, Room 201, "Sylvester's"  
 Taste the joy and wonder of the biggest celebration of the year. Learn  
 the meaning of Christmas. please bring a dish of food from your own  
 culture, if possible. Well enjoy each others cooking!

**Mass Communication Student Federation Christmas Party  
 Tues. Dec. 10th**

**at Happenings Restaurant**  
 1117 Finch Avenue W. (Finch & Chesswood)  
 Tickets: Single/\$25 Couple/ \$40  
 For tickets call:  
 Nancy Cottenden 694-7281  
 Before Nov. 29th

The Osgoode Hall Objectivists  
 will be presenting a live talk by  
**Dr. John Ridpath**  
 Associate Professor of Economics and Intellectual History,  
 York University  
 on  
**Ayn Rand**  
 and the History of Individual Rights  
 Wed. Nov. 20, 12:15pm  
 Room 204, Osgoode Hall

**YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS  
 AGAINST DISCRIMINATION**  
**Next Meeting:  
 Wed., Nov. 27, 5 pm  
 Room 311b, Student Centre**  
 Come out and voice your opinion. We  
 need your support. Help us put a stop to  
 racism, sexism, anti-semitism, homophobia,  
 and other forms of prejudice.  
 New members are always welcome!

**B.Y.O.B.**  
**Be Your Own Boss!**  
 Health and Wellness York &  
**BACCHUS York**  
 announce **ALCOHOL ACTION**  
**Dec. 2 & 3, 11-2pm**  
**East Bear Pit Central Square**

**S.E.D.S**  
 Students for the Exploration & Development of Space  
**General Meeting  
 Wed. Nov. 20,  
 5:00pm**  
 Room 315 Petrie  
 Science Building  
**Guest Speaker: Mike DeRobertis**  
 York university, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy  
 S.E.T.I.  
 Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence  
 Come out and hear the Truth!

Want to meet people from around the world?  
**F**ederation of  
**I**nternational  
**S**tudents  
 Wed. Nov. 20th  
 5:00-7:00pm  
 GSA Common  
 Room,  
 430 Student Centre  
 Invites you to unite with others and broaden  
 your horizons. International Students-come  
 voice your problems and concerns.  
 You will be heard.

**WE  
 HANDLE  
 MORE  
 INQUIRIES  
 THAN  
 411**  
 Make your own inquiry today! Join the  
  
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