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excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Clive Cohen

Peace activist at U.S. consulate:

A young activist hoping for peace joins several thousand others in front of the United States Consulate at Thursday night's rally. Despite

snow and rain, protestors continued to gather throughout the night.

Persian Gulf war brought home to York University

Josh Rubin
and Brent Poland
Thursday Jan 17 1991

As elsewhere in the world, York reaction to the American-led bombing of Baghdad remains mixed.

Throughout the university, groups of students could be found gathered around TV's and radios, listening intently to the latest news from the Persian Gulf.

A bomb threat in central square interrupted classes and forced an evacuation for a period of two hours.

Police cordoned off the elevator to the South Ross building and dusted a phone for finger prints near the area.

Security personnel and metro police refused to answer questions and would only say that a bomb threat had been called in.

Excalibur later learned that security received an anonymous phone call at 1:10 p.m. The male caller stated that a number of bombs had been planted around the campus and were set to go off at 2 p.m.

Police searched the Steacie Science building, along with Ross, the library and Curtis. Nothing was found and people were allowed to return by 4 p.m.

Student reactions to the gulf war covered a wide spectrum from support to outrage to sadness.

"We support the international effort to liberate Kuwait," said Menahem Neuer, program director at the Jewish Students Federation. "We are hoping and praying for our relatives and friends in Israel."

"The government acted in the right way and the opposition acted appallingly, with exception of John Turner, who broke rank and supported the government," said professor J.L. Granatstein of York's history department. "We are now learning the astonishing capability

of modern conventional weapons."

Arab students also expressed concern over the gulf war.

"I was expecting it," said Nouhad Kalmoni. "People are talking that the U.S. has already won; we will just have to wait and see"

For some York students, the reports of missile hits and destruction have an all too familiar ring.

"I was quite upset," said one Iranian emigrant. "It's quite unnecessary and I have experienced it before myself."

Some other students, however, were more resigned.

"I felt strange, but I expected it to happen," said third-year humanities major Robyn Cohen.

Jeff Denberg, a third-year political science major suggested that the gulf war is the fault of the United States.

"It's a selfish war; it's being fought over oil," Denberg said.

"The United States saw this as the perfect opportunity to establish credibility as a super-power," said Barry O'Neil, fellow of the Centre for the International and Strategic Studies. "Obviously George Bush feels that military power is more important than the back-lash that his government will receive for these actions."

For exchange student Maarit Julin, it is not a question of who to blame.

"When I found out [about the war], I started to cry," said the Finnish native.

Although apparently smaller than the anti-war movement here at York, there are some students who strongly support the bombardment.

"[Bush] had to do something now before it would have got worse," said Bruno Miranda, a third-year Math for Commerce major.

York students join in demonstrations

by Jeannine Amber

As their shock turned to anger York students took to the streets, joining thousands of others in anti-war demonstrations.

Wednesday night, only hours after the war began, thousand of protesters met in a show of solidarity in front of the U.S. Consulate.

Despite pouring rain, protesters marched from the consulate on University Avenue, to the Conservative party headquarters on Richmond street and then up Yonge street to Bloor, where they blocked the busy intersection.

One young man, leaning on a cane said, "I didn't think I'd be able to make it this far, but I have a nineteen year old uncle in the gulf, and I want him out of there."

Thousands met again Thursday, and more demonstrations are planned. While many at the demonstration are been too young to remember the Vietnam war, comparisons to the 1960s U.S. anti-war movement is inevitable.

York Political Science professor David

McNally said the war in the Gulf may be as important to students today as the Vietnam war was to students of the sixties and early seventies.

McNally also pointed out that students played a critical role in the anti-Vietnam movement.

With the ability students have to organize they have the potential to "provide a very powerful force for mobilizing and activating other layers of society into anti-war movement," McNally said.

A high school teacher who asked not to be named said, "Today's students seem to know enough about the Vietnam protest to know that they can play a substantial role in the move toward peace."

While young people are sent off to fight, thousands of their peers are fighting to have them brought back home.

The message that the anti-war demonstrators want to avoid is that they are against the men and women fighting in the war.

NDP member of parliament, Dan Heap stressed "this protest is not against men and women who were sent to the gulf — it is against

the people who sent them there."

Protestors in Canada, and those around the world are trying to send a message to world leaders: This war is not being fought with unanimous support. Nor is it being fought with the complicity implied by silence. There is a lot of anger.

Many people at the demonstrations said they found being involved was one way to deal with their frustrations.

As York graduate student Phil Jackson said, "we can only begin to overcome feelings of powerlessness by joining together with others."

In Toronto, unions, environmental and political groups, women's organizations and others have joined in opposition to the war. Both York and U of T have large Troop Out of the Gulf Coalitions which meet regularly on their respective campuses.

Saddam Hussein has called this the "mother of all wars."

Cherie McDonald from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, who spoke at Thursday's Rally said what the world is going to see in response is "the mother of all anti-war movements."

Bomb threats begin Thursday

After Thursday's bomb threat in central square, three more calls were received by York security.

At 8:30 p.m. Thursday night, a phone call was placed by a Vanier student claiming the residence hall phone had received a bomb threat.

The area was searched, but students were not evacuated.

At 12-midnight, the Cock and Bull pub phoned York security, claiming they had received a bomb threat.

York Security increased their patrols activity, but again no one was evacuated.

At 2:15 a.m., a Vanier resident was using the main washroom when he noticed a piece of tubing in a washroom and called security.

This time the building was evacuated and the metro bomb squad was called in. At 5:20 a.m. it was revealed that it was only a piece of old pipe.

At 9:40 a.m. on Friday, the Fine Arts building called York Security and reported another bomb threat.

The Building was closed for an hour. Founders college was also evacuated due to a bomb threat at approximately 10:20 a.m.

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OPINIONS



Clive Cohen

The number of protesters in front of the U.S. consulate increased steadily with escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf. Some students from Toronto area universities are playing an active role in the anti-war movement.

More protesters join ranks

by Jeannine Amber

As much as this is a military war it is also a war of propaganda.

George Bush speaks of military attacks, of success, of strategic targets but makes no mention of casualties.

Bush has made every attempt to dehumanize this war. But we must not forget that the fighting on both sides of the war is being carried out by young people whose participation may be more the result of force, misinformation and circumstances than choice.

There are no names or faces for Iraqi civilians, just talk of the "enemy" and the mysterious "New World Order" that we are supposed to be fighting for.

Many people won't start realizing what this war is really about until men and women start coming home in body bags. But by then it will be too late — thousands of lives will have been lost.

The involvement of students in the anti-war movement is crucial. This is not a war fought by mechanical troops but by people like ourselves who deserve a future.

George Bush says that he won't let his troops fight with one hand tied behind their backs. But both he and Mulroney, by ignoring opposition, have left the protesters of this war with both hands tied. The sanctity of human life is at stake. And all we can do is to take to the streets.

Demonstrations, Rallies and Meetings

- January 21, 12 noon, Caroline Egan will speak on the lessons of Vietnam. Check posters for room number.
- January 22, 12 noon rally in East Bear Pit
- January 26, 12 noon massive rally at City Hall
- York Coalition For Troops out of the Gulf meets every Thursday at 4:00 pm. The group welcomes interested individuals. 169S Ross.
- The Toronto Coalition for Troops out of the Gulf meets 7:30 every Wednesday at Trinity St. Paul Church 427 Bloor St. W. (at Spadina)

Unity commission quizzes reps

Courtesy of The Imprint University of Waterloo

The Spicer commission came to Waterloo Wednesday morning to ask students groups in Ontario to help gather opinions from Canadian students.

Kay McKinna, the newly appointed youth commissioner, began her cross country quest to find out how students feel about Canadian unity.

The representatives of Ontario student groups who gathered were in agreement on what the barrier to Canadian unity was: Brain Mulroney.

"He's dismantled the CBC, Via Rail . . . everything that held this country together," said a unidentified York student. "I really wonder if this government wants a united Canada."

McKinna admitted that the commission may very well be "a white-wash, but it's up to you students to see that your point of view gets across," McKinna said. "What is in this report is what Mulroney sees."

One student even questioned the handout, saying that she had seen the same letterhead on Prime Ministers office's releases and should she concluded that the commission was biased in favor of the governmental views.

The mood was generally cynical and rowdy, with people pounding on

desks whenever Mulroney was criticised.

While McKinna did answer questions, her purpose was to ask the student representatives to organize sessions with the new discussion kit that premiered in New Brunswick last week.

While McKinna wanted students to use the kits and their fourteen questions "as a way of getting your point across", the kits will not be available as of yet. They are being fine-tuned after being criticized by the media for being overly general in their questions.

Goods and Service hotline set-up

by Jennifer Lim

York has set up a GST Hotline service.

"The purpose of this set up is to answer general question (about the GST) related to the York community," said chief accountant Glen Emond.

The telephone service is not provided for personal questions. It is catered strictly for the university's business affairs.

According to Emond, the GST hotline adds no extra costs to the university's expenditure.

Due to insufficient funding and the lack of qualified staff, the university is unable to provide students with a personal hotline.

"It will be a waste of money

training temporary staff to answer students' personal questions about the GST," said Ken Ho, a fourth year political science student. "The money may be better off somewhere else."

"There is a lack of knowledge about where students can go to get information concerning the GST," said Gabriella Donatelli, a first year arts student. "A university hotline would be a good idea."

The York GST Hotline extension is 44100.

The service is provided during normal business hours until the end of April, 1991.

All personal questions may be directed to a hotline set up by Revenue Canada at 973-1000.

COLUMN

The dissent of (wo)man

by Sue Pennypacker

Choice, or lack of choice, is a subject which I have talked about since the inception of this column. Thanks to the Gulf crisis, we are now faced with another aspect of choice — the choice to serve or not to serve in the military.

Traditionally, women have been barred from participating in combat. Many reasons are given for this exclusion: women are the weaker sex, women have children, women are too emotional, women are needed to keep the home fires burning, etc . . . All of these reasons are based on stereotypes of women.

War is a macho thing and it is thought that women are not tough enough. Unfortunately, the West now feels that it is time for another war. The United States media (something which we can't escape) is showing heart-wrenching footage of the

military exodus of troops to the Middle East. This time, however, more women than ever before are involved in this military exodus. I'm not sure if this is good or bad.

My feelings about women in the military are conflicting. To begin with, I don't feel that anyone should be involved in a military action. Idealistic, yes, but I can't help the feeling that violence is wrong. On the other hand, I'm forced to accept the reality of the situation. The military exists and violence exists. As such, I feel that women should be allowed to serve in combat roles if they are willing and able. My fear is that women serving in the armed forces may become the norm and this could make women victims of conscription.

Voluntary participation in the military is one thing; conscription (forced participation) is an entirely different issue. Men have historically faced the possibility of conscription, especially in highly-militarized nations like the United States. This, however, doesn't make conscription acceptable. People are forced to participate in violent life-threatening and life-taking activities. This is the ultimate violation of choice.

Here in Canada, conscription has not been as prevalent. Although it's unlikely that there will be a draft in Canada, it is certainly possible. What if the Gulf crisis evolves to such a point that more "bodies" are needed to continue the battle? Conscription of men and perhaps women could become a definite possibility.

One point that can't be ignored is

the fact that minorities are often exploited in times of war. During the Vietnam "police action," the men who were most often drafted were visible minorities and economically-disadvantaged and/or illiterate. Men who came from wealthy or influential backgrounds were often able to get out of active service. Just ask Dan Quayle.

Considering the way that women have been exploited throughout history, it's likely that women would be exploited by a draft as well. Essentially, the draft is an embodiment of systemic discrimination which destroys the small amount of autonomy that minorities possess. Women would fare no better under a draft than people of color and the economically-disadvantaged.

War is the last bastion of male supremacy. Although everyone confronted with war is affected, for the most part, warfare is controlled by men. It is the pinnacle of paternalism.

The so-called experts make all of the decisions and the people pay the price. As such, I reject the idea of war as a noble fight for justice and democracy. I can't even imagine a society in which women, men and children are military automatons.

Forcing people to participate in military actions is ironic in that men and women create new life and are then asked to take it away. While I can't protest an individual's choice to go to war, I can certainly disagree and I can protest the possibility of conscription.

No blood for oil.

Cyrano by F.W. Cameron



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EDITORIAL

Don't worry be happy

What's all the crying about anyway? These days, beatnik activists with their protest placards and peace parades remain completely unaware of what has made North America great.

It's as if they've never heard of the struggle for freedom and democracy as they persist in calling out their insipid slogans and writing their bleeding heart editorials.

And what have these nouveau-anarchiste been led to believe? They'll tell you the Gulf war is unnecessary and inhumane. An example of inane willingness to go to war should someone trample the delicate toes of U.S. interests. A murderous policy implemented by a country eager for cheap oil. A failure of politicians and their diplomacy. Madness . . .

But don't you believe it — you who have faith in the principles of the red white and true!

As the realists say: No pain, no gasoline. Onward to Kuwait liberation. Saddam's decimation can only bring peace and stability to the Middle-East.

Let's face it: a competent U.S. military will uphold international justice as it has done before so meticulously in Panama, Nicaragua, Chile, Cambodia and other American stomping grounds.

Frankly though, it chills my heart to see these students demonstrators. Heavens knows they've got essays to complete, tests to prepare for and potential employers to impress. Yet somehow, they seem eager to postpone their education to light candles, express their growing fear and anger and generally make a nuisance of themselves to the law-biding, war-supporting general public.

Really folks, wake up. It's a shame the way so many of you are wasting your time, but I guess we were all once young and impulsive. Aw hell, you kids go on, have some fun, would ya?

Perhaps the worst of all are the aging hippy profs. It's really surprising to see the 60s left-overs directing students toward civil disobedience, instead of teaching them the skills of getting ahead.

And really there's no need for the din. Tuck away your bad memories folks, President "read-my-lips" Bush promises no new Vietnams and very few casualties. He's promised.

So now I've spoken my peace. The pinkos will call me a redneck, but that's because they can't recognize a patriot when they hear one.

After watching the play-by-play war action on TV with some beer and pizza nearby. My conscience remains clear. Hell, this war will even top the Super Bowl. As long as I have gas to drive to the beer store.

Correction

In last Monday's issue of *Excalibur*, we incorrectly stated the amount of the Goods and Services Tax. The correct amount is seven per cent.

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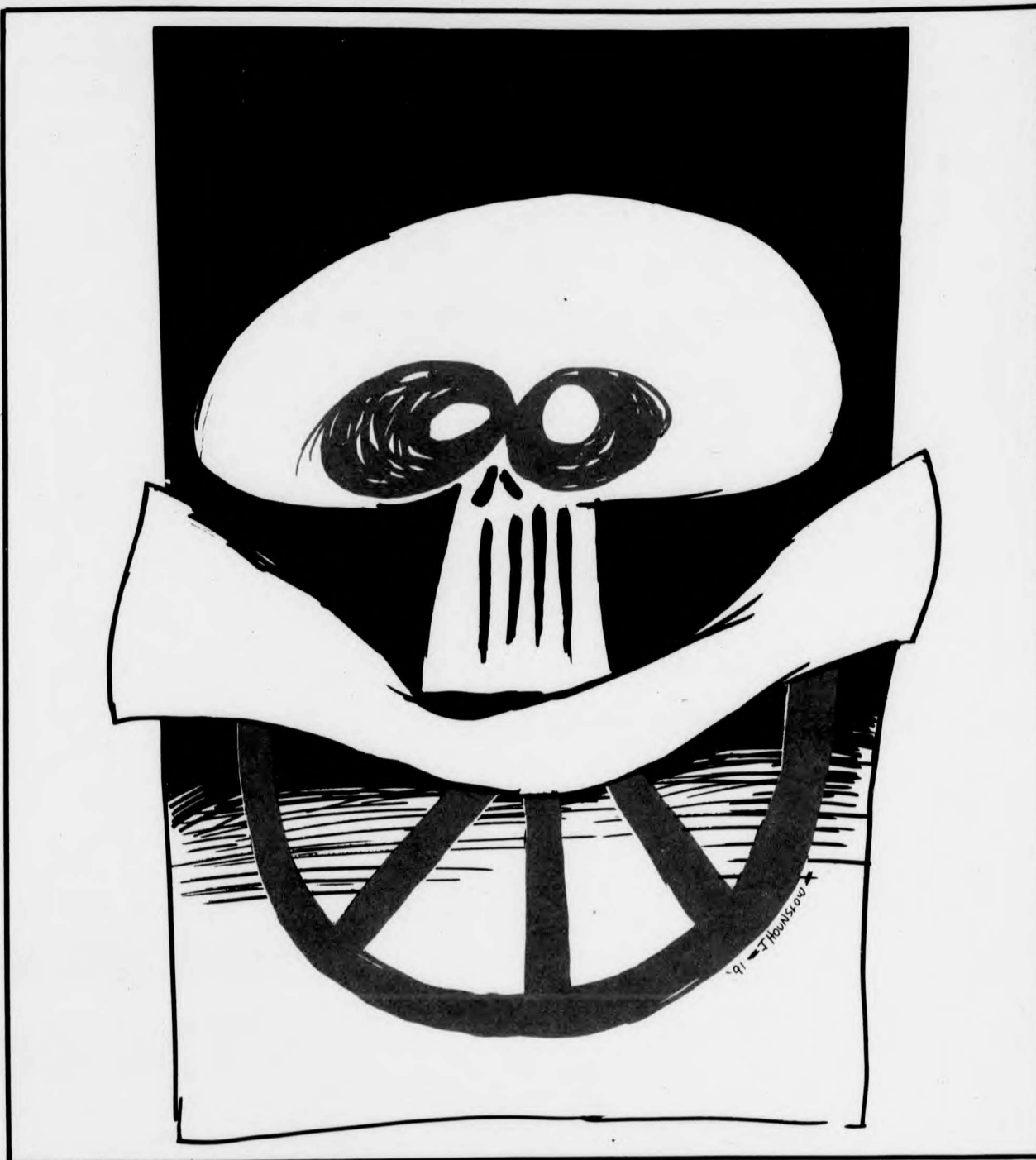
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Offensive schedule

To the editor,

This is a copy of the class schedule that was attached to the door of our classroom. With the anniversary of the Montreal massacre and the current situation regarding women's rights, this sort of propaganda is alarming.

I am requesting that you print a copy of this in *Excalibur* and comment on this type of harassment. Please request that an investigation by security and the people involved with printing these schedules is undertaken to possibly shed some light on this slander.

Thank you,
Name withheld at editor's discretion

Support for Gulf troops

To the editor,

I used to wonder, around the same time each November, what would happen once all of our veterans, who had fought so hard for our freedom in the two World Wars, finally died. Would we still remember, or would we forget them, like a single poppy lying in the road the day after Remembrance Day.

Now I think I finally understand. We must all stand together, black, white, pink and blue and cast aside our differences. We must become one nation, in the truest meaning of

the word — Canadian! And support our men and women in the Persian Gulf.

Oh, it is not the issue, that would be much too easy. What is at stake is a way of life we all hold so dear. We know the word simply as freedom.

So let's stand together hand in hand and be proud to be over there that we are behind them and realize what they stand for. For they are my brothers and your sisters, our sons and daughters and every Canadian's children.

Let us raise our hands to show support, because God knows, they'll need all the help they can get, lest we forget . . .

Malcolm Thomas

Centre backs membership

To the editor,

We feel, as a women's collective, that it is our responsibility to officially publicly indicate our position in the current web of tumultuous politics commandeering our university.

As a service to the York women's community, we are funded by students, and thus we have a vested interest in ensuring that the political climate at York enables us to effectively and efficiently perpetuate our service and programs.

We find our position potentially threatened by those individuals that have tried to discredit our current student government and the democratic referendum postulating that the YFS should opt for neutrality in "sided issues."

We, at the Women's Centre, have experienced and suffered first hand

the denigrating effects of a paralyzed "non-political" government. Women's issues, racism, homophobia, tuition hikes and budget cuts go unaddressed, unchallenged, and unchanged. A "non-political" policy is politics; perpetuation of the status quo is a traditionally conservative and viable politics.

We assert that the York student population was not intentionally misled, that last year's YFS government largest voter turnout in York's history) ran on a platform of advocating OFS/CFS membership, thus they are, if not *obligated*, justified to fulfill their promise.

To nullify this democratic process on the justification that the opposing side was weak, uncommunicative, and ultimately unsuccessful is to not give students credit for their critical skills and force them involuntarily to suffer the costs of another referendum.

We are especially concerned with the multiple reported discrepancies about "creative" solicitations for signing the anti-referendum banner. We urge all students to recognize that the purpose of this petition is explicitly to *nullify the results of the old referendum and hold a new one*, not a protest of racism, or tuition hikes, or any alleged "illicit" OFS/CFS practices.

Please be aware that any information implying that our collective is somehow in support of or in association with this petition or any individuals related thereof, is erroneous and misleading.

The York Women's Centre maintains its support of York's membership in OFS/CFS as determined by the initial referendum.

by consensus,
the York Women's Collective

PUB NIGHT

"GEE... WISH I COULD GROW A MOUSTACHE."



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MOLSON CANADIAN

WHAT BEER'S ALL ABOUT



ARTS

Bagpiping novelty for the ruling class

Jazz at the Bermuda Onion

by Garth Hagey

Rufus Harley
Bermuda Onion

In traditional dress (sorry, kilt) of the MacPherson clan, Rufus Marley, the world's only jazz/piper, played his bagpipes for an audience of the posh set at the Bermuda Onion.

Having Scottish blood running through my veins and a love for jazz, I had to see this strange combination.

Disillusioned can only begin to describe my feeling at the end of the set.

Rufus' mediocre quartet, and they were bland too (like white Wonder Bread), slugged through traditional jazz tunes. Rufus himself played a soprano sax and occasionally brought out his bagpipes.

When he did bring out the mighty Scottish screamers he would play an interesting riff and then sit down in the audience for a few minutes

before getting up to play the same riff again.

After a half hour of this it made me wonder what Rufus really knew. But what made me wonder even more, was the audience applause after every performance regardless of how he did, for the same minute and a half too.

The questions and answers were even worse because he outrightly claimed ignorance of the instrument and Scottish traditions.

Having only visited Edinburgh last year (he's been playing for twenty), and when asked where he was on Robbie Burns day he dumbly replied "Who's Robbie Burns?"

This might have been excusable if he had dazzled us with his fusion of jazz and the bagpipes, but as it was Rufus kept on mentioning how we "Might wanna see me back in my office, if you wanna buy my records. You know I wouldn't wanna miss out on picking up a few dollars."

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ARTS CALENDAR

compiled by Trevor Campbell

GALLERIES

From Jan. 16-Feb. 17, the I.D.A. Gallery, in the Fine Arts Building, Phase 2, presents *Get Real*, an exhibition of photographs by Philip-Lorca di Corcia, Nan Goldin and Jack Pierson.

The Art Gallery of York University (N145 Ross) presents a *Matrix Area Show*, from Jan. 21-25. For gallery hours call 736-5169.

The Glendon Gallery presents *Zones*, an exhibition of works by Shirley Yanover, Sylvie Belanger, and Ginette Legare. The show runs from Jan. 16-Feb. 15.

Glendon College's *Maison de la Culture*, located at 2275 Bayview Ave. (at Lawrence), features photo montages by Pierre Guimond on Jan. 17-Feb. 14. Gallery hours are Mon.-Fri., 12pm-4pm, and Thurs. 6pm-8:30pm.

THEATRE

The Theatre Department presents *The Farm Show* by Theatre Passe Muraille and Paul Thompson from Jan. 21-25.

On Jan. 21-26, the Samuel Beckett Theatre at 110 Stong College presents *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. A play by David Mamet, directed by Tom Carson. Admission is \$3 and the show starts at 7 pm. Some scenes may offend.

TRIPS

The Fine Arts Department is preparing for its annual *New York Trip* on Feb. 20-25. Call Dawn Abercrombie at extension 55135 for details.

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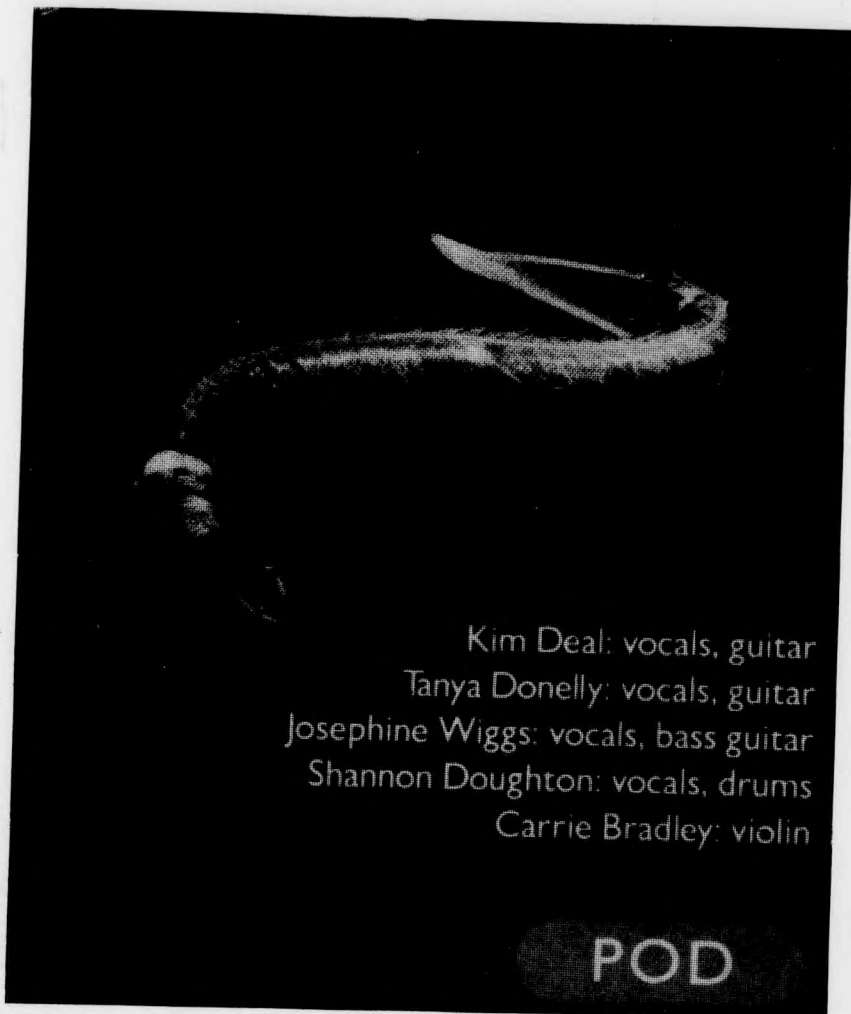
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AURAL SECTION



Kim Deal: vocals, guitar
Tanya Donnelly: vocals, guitar
Josephine Wiggs: vocals, bass guitar
Shannon Doughton: vocals, drums
Carrie Bradley: violin

by "The Aardvark"
The Breeders

POD
Vertigo/Polygram
Breeder: (n) 1. One who breeds. 2. Derogatory term used by lesbians to describe heterosexual women. 3. Derogatory term used by heterosexual women to describe the role the pro-life movement assigns all woman. 4. An all women rock band which just released an album called **POD**.

Strange tempos (and strange, abrupt tempo changes), sonic guitar chords and the heavy use of the snare drum suggest that The Breeders have pretensions to psychedelia. Especially the snare drum.

But, the production on **POD** is pretty grungy and the playing is really rough. Call it psychedelia by way of the garage.

Made up of five female British musicians, The Breeders use their songs to tell women's stories from a female point of view. This doesn't make them feminists, necessarily, although the name of the band, not to mention a hilarious cover of The Beatles' phallicentric "Happiness is a Warm Gun", suggests that they may be.

Kim Deal's scratchy lead vocals don't impress me, but you can get used to anything if you have to. **POD**, despite its retro aspirations, is a lot of fun to get used to.



Army Justice

by Paul Meiorin
New Model Army
Impurity
Capitol/EMI

Impurity is New Model Army's fifth album, although I'd be surprised if anyone reading this would know or care. That doesn't matter anyway because NMA have always forged ahead in their post-punk British angst with a certain *Vengeance* (which was not surprisingly their first LP).

The production of **Impurity** has the live raw sound that most bands achieve only on their debut release. NMA have retained that kind of youth and energy over 10 years of their history.

The first single, "Get Me Out," is destined for CFTR's top six at six or at least for a spin on CHRY once a week. There really isn't a need to convince a fan to buy it. By this time, I wouldn't doubt they already have it.

For those who have never heard New Model Army there are a lot of reasons to buy this new release. (Anyone who can't put up with anti-establishment lyrics may stop reading now.) If you sometimes like your music delivered with a spiteful voice, bold lyrics and a kick, but you've heard enough heavy metal-slick production (ie. Whitesnake, Motley Crue) and if you like music that keeps you entertained and simultaneously enables you to pay attention (unlike "Pray" MC Hammer's single), NMA's **Impurity** is for you.

The cassette and the C.D. have an extra track, giving **Impurity** twelve strong songs. You can't get stiffed in Canada though, because the album wasn't released on vinyl here.

I listened through the album several times hoping to use excerpts from the lyrics to help describe what I said above. But the lyrics are best captured in the music where only New Model Army can do them proper justice. And Justice is what it's all about.

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Graeme Kirkland

Correction

**Faculty of Education
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Information Sessions**

Thursday, January 24
4:00 pm Curtis Lecture Hall I

The York University Faculty of Education offers a CONCURRENT teacher education programme in which candidates can pursue their academic and professional studies simultaneously.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Faculty of Education's CONCURRENT programme, its admission requirements and process or general information, you are encouraged to attend one of the above sessions.



General Motors of Canada Limited is proud to announce the appointment of Paul Cortissoz, a 2nd year Political Science & History student at York University as the 1990-1 G.M. campus representative.

Paul's function on campus is to generate additional awareness for General Motors and in particular, their G.M. graduate program which offers a \$750 discount to University and College graduates.

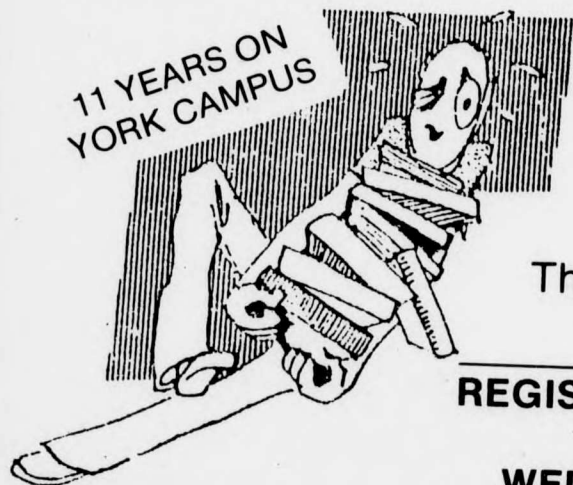
1990-1 marks the first year of the General Motors Campus Representative Program.

Five other campuses in Ontario also have a rep: Western, University of Toronto, Queen's, University of Ottawa and McMaster. G.M. has recognized the importance of the first-time buyer market and hence, the increased emphasis on campuses.

For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities at York or the G.M. Graduate Program, please call Paul Cortissoz at (416) 494-2150.

As part of remuneration, the campus representative is being presented with a \$1,500 scholarship by General Motors.

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