

March 7th  
1992

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

excalibur

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tanya adèle koehake, "The Thinker"

Women reclaiming and healing our peoples our lands our lives

# 500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

excalibur

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escalator march 4, 1992

York elections. Men on one team. Women on the other...

# Uh, that would be forty-one to four

by Doug Saunders

When nominations closed for student government elections last Friday, two things were clear: it's still a boy's club, and nobody wants to join at the bottom.

Of the 20 council positions for the York Federation of Students, all but four are still available — and those four were won by acclamation. Most nominees are competing for the five coveted (and salaried) YFS executive positions.

And of the 45 candidates competing for 24 positions, only four are women.

"People with breasts can run in elections too, you know!" Elissa Horscroft, vice president of equality and social affairs for the YFS, shouted to a packed council chamber as Chief Returning Officer Stephanie Infurnari announced the nominees Friday evening.

Horscroft mounted a media campaign earlier this term to encourage women to enter the traditionally male-dominated realm of student politics.

"Obviously it hasn't worked," Horscroft said on Friday, "although a couple of the women who did run told me they were influenced by the posters."

The lack of nominees for council positions follows a year where attendance at council meetings ranged from slightly above to slightly below quorum.

Four council positions — Bethune, McLaughlin and Stong colleges and the Faculty of Education Student Association — were won by acclamation. The other 16 remain empty.

Other notable features in this year's election race:

• Three candidates — George Sanghera, Dennis Garces and Grant Wagman — say they'll be

campaigning without using posters.

Garces, who says the three "aren't exactly running on a slate, but we're kind of running together," said the decision was made for environmental reasons. "We don't think you need to kill a tree to run for office," he said.

Garces said they will make an exception for Sanghera, who is running for president, and allow him "a banner or two."

• Sheldon Bergson, a well-known Bethune College personality, nominated himself for all four vice-presidential positions. Bergson dropped three of his candidacies on Monday and is now running only for vice president of equality of social affairs.

"I wanted to keep my options open," said Bergson, who said he chose equality and social affairs because he would face only one opponent, Heather Dryden.

"I looked at the constitution and couldn't find anything wrong with what Sheldon did," Infurnari said.

• The YFS executive race appears to be divided into three campaign teams. Aside from the aforementioned posterless party — whose candidates have not announced a political position yet — and Bergson's one-person slate, the following groupings have formed:

Nikki Gershbain (president), Chris Waghorn (finance), Heather Dryden (equality and social affairs), Jeff Zoeller (internal) and Boris Cibic (external) say they are running together on a progressive platform.

Diamond Tobin-West (president), Ron Stubbings (external), Tony Tumillo (internal) and Paul Brienza (finance) have joined forces in what they describe as a "moderate" coalition.

Here are the candidates for the March 10-11 student government elections:

**President:** a four-way race features Nikki Gershbain, currently YFS vice president-internal, Joe Marcellino, a fourth-year political student who says he is "representing ordinary working students," George Sanghera, a former YFS commissioner and currently an Under-ground employee, and Diamond Tobin-West, president of the African Student Association and the Federation of Foreign Students, Clubs Coalition chair and general entrepreneur-about-campus.

**VP-Finance:** a three-way contest involving Paul Brienza, who ran for the same position last year and is involved with the Italian Club; Dennis Garces, a Vanier council member and former *Existere* editor; and Chris Waghorn, currently YFS councillor for the Creative Arts Student Association.

**VP-Equality and Social Affairs:** a duel between Heather Dryden, a third-year political science student with a degree in sociology, and Sheldon Bergson, former Bethune council member and current *Lexicon* business manager.

**VP-Internal:** a triple-header featuring Tony Tumillo, a fourth-year math student, Grant Wagman, Vanier councillor and former YFS speaker, and Jeff Zoeller, current president of Winters council.

**VP-External:** a head-to-head battle between Boris Cibic, most recently president of the York NDP, and Ron Stubbings, a fourth-year arts student.

**Board of Governors:** One of the two student seats on York's all-powerful Board is open. Competing for this two-year position are Mike

Bagley, chair of the Student Intramural Recreational Council; Chris Eecklor, senator and member of Founders council; and Cindy Reeves, former editor of the Bethune *Lexicon*.

**Faculty of Arts Senators:** the Faculty of Arts has eleven seats on the York senate. The following sixteen students are competing for them: Faisal Ali, Jerry Catena, Sameh Darwish, Michael Eric Dobson, Chris Eecklor, Afzal Hassam, Wayne Hazell, Sam Husami, Javed Khan, Jag Khurana, Ryan Maharaj, Ramakrishnan Selvarajah, Samuel J. Steinberg, Martin Traub-Werner, Grant Wagman, Andrew Weir.

**Student Centre Corporation Board of Directors:** the board which controls the student centre has three directly elected student representatives. Five students are competing for them: Monty Abdo, Sanjayan Jeganathan, Javed Khan, Adam K. Szweras, Ade Thomas.

**YFS Councillors:** The following people were acclaimed to YFS council positions: Rebecca Carman for Bethune councillor; Rhys Bowman for Faculty of Education Student Association councillor; Jim Ball for McLaughlin councillor; Mark Joseph McTaggart for Stong councillor.

The following positions remain empty: Atkinson councillors (2), Bethune councillor (1), Calumet councillors (2), Faculty of Education Student Association councillor (1), Founders councillors (2), McLaughlin councillors (2), Osgoode councillors (2), Stong councillor (1), Vanier councillors (2), Winters councillors (2).

Also still open are the positions of Faculty of Fine Arts senator and CHRY (105.5 FM) Board of Directors representative.

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## 25TH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL WEEK

### Pre-Tournament Events

Monday, March 9

"TUNE UP FOR SUMMER"

INTRAMURAL SNOW VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Courtyard, northwest corner of Student Centre  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10

INTRAMURAL SNOW VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT  
SEMI FINALS — TSN COVERAGE

Courtyard, northwest corner of Student Centre  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11

INTRAMURAL SNOW VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT  
CHAMPIONSHIP/MEDIA CHALLENGE

Courtyard, northwest corner of Student Centre  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Tournament Schedule

Thursday, March 12

Session 1

Game 1 12:00 p.m. • Game 2 2:00 p.m.

Session 2

Game 3 6:00 p.m. • Game 4 8:00 p.m. (York)

Friday, March 13

Session 3

Game 5 12:00 p.m. • Game 6 2:00 p.m.

Session 4

Game 7 6:00 p.m. • Game 8 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

Game 9 12:00 p.m. • Game 10 2:00 p.m.

Game 11 (Bronze Medal) 4:00 p.m.

Game 12 (Gold Medal) 7:30 p.m.

# Black students slam security with ID on their chests

by Jeannine Amber

**O**ne student is filing complaints and several others are organizing a public campaign after an incident Monday involving York Security and three Black students on campus.

Dwayne Morgan said he and two other students were talking at the rail on the Student Centre's third floor when Security approached them and demanded identification, with no other explanation but that the students looked "young."

When the students refused ("on principle," Morgan explained), the officers called in a back-up team.

Elissa Horscroft, vice-president for equality at the York student federation, said the incident was like "security was setting up an apartheid state at York. There was absolutely no reason for the student to have his card checked and that leads me to one obvious conclusion: they were Black, they were male and, in security's eyes, threatening."

To direct other students' attention to the harassment, several students

are wearing their I.D. cards on strings around their necks.

Roger Young, one of the organizers, said they just want to make sure people are aware of the situation.

"We are making flyers stating what happened and reasons why people should be concerned."

Another student working on the campaign, Jacen Brathwaite, added, "This could extend not only to Black people but to homosexual people, or people with long hair. It's not only a Black thing."

"What if I was walking to my car late at night and an officer asked for my I.D., and no one was around and the situation got out of hand?" questioned Young.

As Morgan asked, "Of the hundred people on the landing, why were we singled out? I guess that's the question."

Rob Castle, general manager of the Student Centre, said he approached the officers and told them he didn't think their behaviour was appropriate. Castle said he suggested the students were being uncooperative because they were offended.

"I would be offended too if I were asked for I.D. without a cause," said

Castle.

According to Castle, the university has a policy of being accessible to the general public. Security normally gets involved only "if the non-community member is causing a problem, but in this case there was nothing going on," he said.

Castle said he has never had problems with non-students in the building during the day.

Don Magee, York Security direc-

tor, said the officer who questioned the students acted inappropriately.

"He was entirely wrong in the action he took. The officer's supervisor believes he was wrong also," Magee said.

Magee said he spoke to the officer, who recognized he was wrong.

Magee said that other than the verbal reprimand he didn't feel the officer should be disciplined. "He's a good officer," said Magee.

The officers had received training in race relations, Magee said. He said York's race and ethnic relations officer Chet Singh gave them a two-hour seminar.

But Singh corrected, "I didn't do training. I did a seminar about the Race and Ethnic Relations Centre."

Singh said he will be working with security in the future to design an "appropriate" program for educating officers on race issues.

## "State of emergency" caled draconian

by Jennifer Lim

Activist groups are outraged after the university declared a "temporary state of emergency" in a move to gain tighter control over student behaviour.

In January York President Harry Arthurs amended Presidential Regulation number two, which outlines a code of conduct and behaviour to which all York students must adhere.

Prior to the amendment, a student accused of contravening the code of conduct would go through a tribunal process. The emergency order now allows the vice president of student affairs to suspend a student without a tribunal hearing, if the student's conduct is deemed to be "potentially or actually violent."

According to Arthurs, "there have been a number of harassment incidents and I was under heavy pressure by the York Federation of Students, staff and colleges" to make the amendment.

Members of the YFS denied this. "He was heavy pressure from us to deal with some incidents," Elissa Horscroft, vice president of equality and social affairs said, "but not in such an authoritarian fashion. In fact, YFS completely disagrees with the way this was handled."

Beth Hopkins, vice president of

student affairs, agreed with Arthurs. "The amendment was imposed partly because the university has seen an increase in disruptive behaviour by students."

But neither Arthurs nor Hopkins would cite any of the "disruptive" or "harassment" incidents which motivated the amendment.

According to Arthurs, such emergency situations require decisions "to be exercised immediately, and there are provisions subsequently made [in the amendment] for decisions to be reviewed."

Hopkins indicated that there had been several incidents last November and December which heightened the need for such measures. According to Hopkins the information is "confidential."

Livingston Weddburn, a member of the Pan-Afrikan Law Society, dismissed the excuse of confidentiality.

"There is no accountability for this drastic action," said Weddburn. "It is unprecedented to put the entire university in a state of emergency... this act is in breach of every fundamental democratic principle."

According to the new regulations, a student may be removed from campus, prevented from entering certain classes or speaking to certain

individuals, moved from residence, or asked to agree to medical or psychiatric assessment — all without a formal hearing.

Hopkins said that the presidential regulation prior to the amendment was "inadequate."

According to Hopkins the amendment allows the university "to provide the necessary legal actions and immediate response to an emergency situation."

But according to Weddburn the arbitrary nature of the decision is highly problematic. "In a state of emergency, every individual's rights are suspended by the whims and fancy of an individual who holds the power to decide."

Weddburn also said the students most vulnerable are "the most politically active students of whom [the university] does not approve."

A task force committee currently working on a permanent amendment to the regulation has until the end of April to propose an alternative amendment.

According to Horscroft, who sits on the committee, President Arthurs has the authority to decide if this amendment stands after the deadline.

A copy of the amendment was printed in the Jan. 22 issue of the Excalibur.



Follow the bouncing ball: Stephen Feinberg, York's vice president of academic affairs, tries to explain to the Senate how frugal York is with its tuition dollars. Feinberg tried to prove we should keep the student population down. Photo: Doug Saunders

## Winter-Summer cuts decried

by Doug Saunders

A last-ditch attempt by student and labour representatives to rescue the Winter-Summer session from extinction was rebuffed in the York senate last week.

The February-June session, which employs more than 70 faculty and enrolls around 1200 students annually, was "suspended" by the Faculty of Arts in a January budget-cutting move.

In last Thursday's Senate meeting, Canadian Union of Education Workers representative Doug Allen and York Federation of Students Vice President-Internal Nikki Gershbnain read speeches denouncing the move and calling on the university to resist government funding cutbacks instead.

"I think York University is missing the opportunity to involve themselves in a much greater fight against these cuts," said Allen, who said he represented the "about to be laid off faculty of the Winter-Summer session."

Louise Ripley, the Senate speaker, attempted to use procedural arguments to prevent Allen and Gershbnain from speaking. York President Harry Arthurs voted against allowing them to speak, as did student senate caucus chair Justin Linden.

Gershbnain "had the right idea but was voicing it in the wrong place," Linden said. "She embarrassed herself and the student body, and her display was very counterproductive."

Other senators claimed Gershbnain and Allen had no business debating the matter in the Senate, since it was actually the Faculty of Arts council which voted to eliminate the program.

In her speech, which she presented

on behalf of the York Coalition Against the Cuts, Gershbnain challenged the university's rationale for eliminating the session.

"We do not feel that the university administration has conclusively demonstrated that any substantial benefits will be realized through eliminating, or as it is euphemistically termed 'postponing' the Winter-Summer program," she said.

Members of the senate appeared to be divided over the financial benefits of eliminating entire programs in response to funding cutbacks.

Stephen Feinberg, vice president of academic affairs, presented a series of tables which demonstrated that every additional Arts student costs the university about \$30 — contrary to traditional opinion, which holds that additional students bring additional revenues to the university.

Many faculty and union members remained unconvinced by Feinberg's argument. History Professor A. Kanya-Forstner described his figures as simplistic and exaggerated and said there are "a number of students we can still bring in."

President Arthurs stood behind the decision and described it as an appropriate response to underfunding.

"Doing what we're doing is doing what we're expected to be doing," he said, "and I'll go a step further: doing what we're doing draws the attention of the people of Ontario to the crisis which we face."

Provincial funding increases reached a record low of one per cent this year, and the university has ordered across-the-board budget cuts in response. The Faculty of Arts expects to save \$750,000 by suspending the Winter-Summer session.

## The Task Force on Dispute Resolution and Non-Academic Student Discipline was struck by the President after the General Meeting of the University Disciplinary Tribunal in November 1991.

The mandate of the Task Force involves three general foci:

- 1) to explore alternative dispute resolution methods that focus more on resolution and education, and less on judgement and punishment;
- 2) to identify current problems in handling disciplinary matters related to sexual harassment and racism, residence life, and disruptive students (both within and beyond the classroom);
- 3) to suggest improvements in the way we handle disputes generally, and, specifically, in regard to Presidential Regulations 2 and 3 (please note that a separate Sub-Committee, chaired by Professor Fred Zemans, is already examining the need for changes to the UDT procedures).

The Task Force invites written submissions from interested groups or individuals. Please address your comments to V.P. Elizabeth Hopkins, Chair, Presidential Task Force on Non-Academic Student Discipline, S919, Ross Building. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Birgit Langwisch, Task Force Secretary, at 736-5275.

Submissions must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, 1992.

# AIDS establishment to address needs of HIV+ women?

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA — The American Centre for Disease Control's definition of AIDS is about to be expanded to include symptoms particular to women, according to a draft of the revised definition.

There have been no changes to the CDC's definition of AIDS since 1987, and AIDS activists have been lobbying for the inclusion of women's symptoms. A new definition is scheduled for release later this month.

"I'm very happy," said Linda Rowe, a Vancouver AIDS activist. "I'm HIV-positive, so I've been pushing for (the expansion of the definition) since Oct. 1989."

The definition, used to determine eligibility for family benefits and

welfare in Canada, has excluded symptoms specific to women but recognized by AIDS activists and counsellors. HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, is thought to cause AIDS.

While Kaposi's sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia are common to gay men, women rarely display these symptoms. Women more often exhibit upper respiratory infections, chronic, persistent yeast infection, human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer.

Symptoms outlined in the new definition include thrush, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), cervical cancer and chronic yeast infections which do not respond to treatment.

Darien Taylor, co-founder of the Toronto-based group, Voices of

Positive Women, said the failure to recognize these symptoms often leads doctors to misdiagnose, or simply dismiss women's health concerns.

"If you're a woman and have a constellation of symptoms that would indicate to activists that you're HIV-positive, it may often go unrecognized by doctors until it's too late," she said.

Miranda LaFaye (not her real name) said she became ill six years ago. Her doctor treated her for asthma and a throat infection, ignoring her other symptoms. She was not tested for HIV. It wasn't until 1987, after discovering her partner was HIV-positive that she was tested. The result was positive.

When she went to a Toronto hospital for treatment, LaFaye was given

a questionnaire asking her if she engaged in fisting, how often she had anal intercourse and if her partner ejaculated inside her.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "It was asking me questions completely foreign to my experience. I just stared at the page and I started to cry."

Women are not only misdiagnosed or diagnosed late in their illness, they are also underdiagnosed. Since women's symptoms are not the 1987 CDC definition, they die with AIDS-related complex (ARC), which is viewed as a point between asymptomatic illness and AIDS.

While the average life expectancy following an AIDS diagnosis for women is 15.5 weeks, it is 21 months for a white, gay man, according to a 1989 paper presented to the Fifth International Conference on AIDS.

This is attributable to misdiagnosis and the fact the women imply aren't being tested for HIV at the same rate men are, Taylor said.

Another problem facing women with HIV and AIDS is the lack of

clinical trials which test new drugs. In Canada, 40 trials are underway, but none of them are specifically directed at women.

Rowe said she wants to see some action.

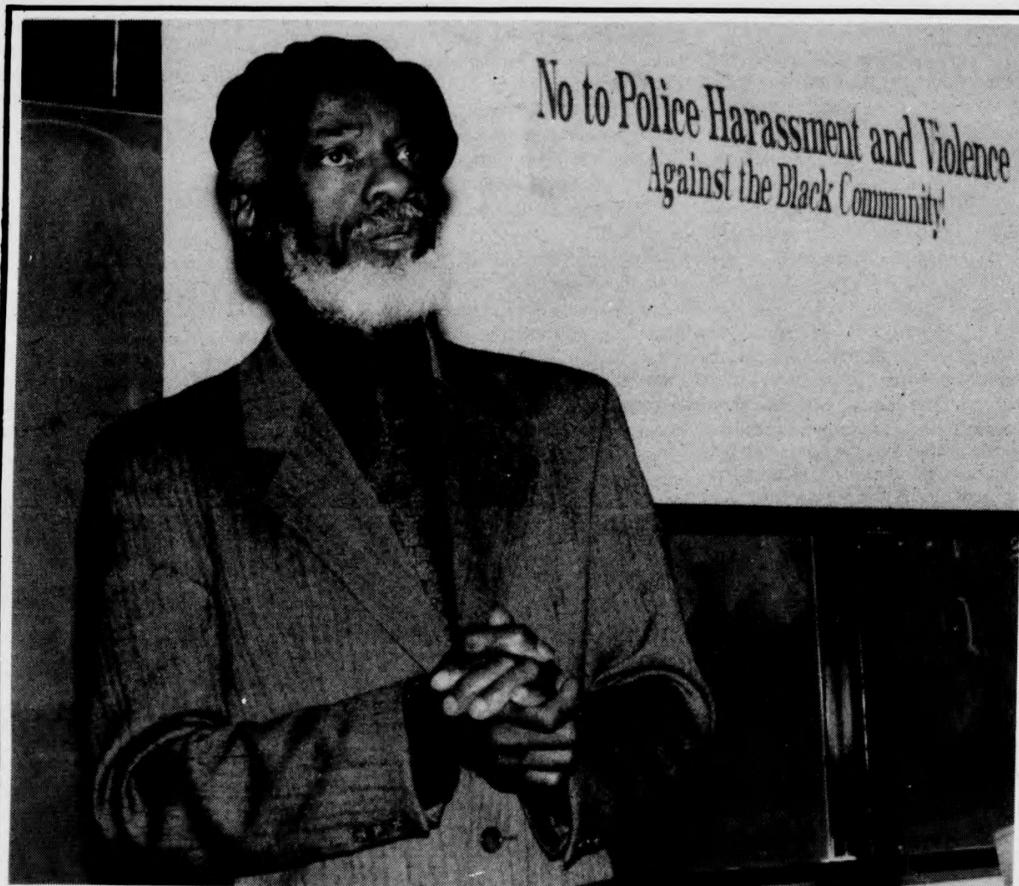
"I'm hoping to see clinical trials looking at yeast infection, PID and cervical cancer," Rowe said. "There are none specific to us (and) we need to know things."

"Is PID more prevalent in women with HIV? If so, should we be testing for HIV" when a woman is diagnosed with pelvic inflammatory disease, she said.

But according to Robyn Sussel of the Canadian HIV Trials Network, it is difficult to set up trials geared to women because there are so few who have been diagnosed with AIDS.

"Logistically it's a nightmare and there's too few (women) to make it statistically relevant," Sussel said.

According to Oct. 1991 statistics from the federal Department of Health and Welfare, 179 women and 2,972 men have died of AIDS since 1979 in Canada.



## Dudley Laws speaks at York

Last Thursday, a forum was held on the subject of police harassment of the Black community. Speakers included Dudley Laws and Dari Meade of the Black Action Defence Coalition, and Judge Stanley Grizell. The theme of the event was summarized when Meade quoted Franz Fanon in saying: 'Each generation will either fulfill its destiny or betray it.' Photo by David Sutherland.

## Concordia scourges sexist degree terms

Canadian University Press

MONTREAL — Concordia University graduates will soon be able to choose a degree with a gender-neutral title, but several university senators say the move doesn't go far enough to combat sexism.

Following a 21-1-5 senate vote Feb. 7, students may now opt for a Baccalaureate rather than a Bachelor's degree, or a Magisteriate instead of a Master's degree. The degrees will still be referred to as B.A.s and M.A.s.

Although most senate members support the change — which will be reviewed in five years — several said it isn't sweeping enough.

Sociology professor John Drysdale said the university should lead the way in the elimination of sexist and gender-exclusive terms.

"If we're really convinced that one set of terms is sexist, then it's up to us to change the terms, not to merely give students a choice between a sexist set of terms and a non-sexist set of terms," he said.

It is not clear which type of degree the university will grant if a student does not indicate a choice.

The policy will come into effect in 1993, and alumni may request a degree with the new title once it kicks in.

Last year, Concordia rejected Carolyn Gammon's requested for a Mistress of Arts.

Ken Huck, a student who requested a baccalaureate for his spring graduation, said he thinks the policy is "watered-down."

"Having an option is good, but the default position should definitely be that you get a gender-neutral degree," he said.

Gerald Auchinachie, English department chair, opposed the policy. He said he didn't find the degree titles sexist.

"I've seen so many women with Bachelor's degrees that I don't associate it with gender-exclusiveness," he said. "As well, I don't believe objective reality is driven by words. I'm not sure this is going to change much."

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# Discrimination on campus

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to the attention of the staff and readers of the *Excalibur* and York University in general the sexism involved in the hiring practices of the Blueberry Hill restaurant in York Lanes. I have responded at two different times to their "Help Wanted" ad. The first time I was told there were only grill positions open, and they were only hiring men for that. The second time I was informed that they had just hired two "girls for the cashier," and were



faces when they first see me. I am of mixed race. Everyone has their opinion and they are usually far from shy about sharing their views... embrace your Black heritage, embrace your White heritage... Which way do you go? Since February is Black History Month, I feel that it is the perfect opportunity to remind all the ladies and gentlemen out there with the attitude problems that we are all brothers and sisters. We all search for some kind of belonging. Looking back on a rich Black history is very important in order for us to be proud of our heritage. I want to embrace all of my culture without bias. It gives me a sense of history. I refuse to turn my back on any part of my heritage. I was born on the African continent under the African sun and spent more than half of my life there. Africa is in my heart because it is my place of birth but I still have an undying thirst to learn about all of my ancestors.

In learning about the past we cannot forget about the present. As a friend of mine stated, one cannot move forward with your eyes cast behind you. Canada is here and now and we need to deal with the present along with present attitudes. Some of us are dangerously close to reverse racism and it scares me to see the intimidation (however subtle it may be) which sometimes rises to the surface. We are here to learn and to teach. Black History Month is a time to be proud of our accomplishments and our heritage but don't forget that we need to do some learning. Unity is

strength. Don't close the circle on people who have something to contribute because this is our chance to make an impression and to make a difference.

Natalie Cox.

## College system a good thing

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your article in the Jan. 22 issue, "Why the YFS should be abolished." It would be appear from the position of the writer that he belongs to a faculty other than the Faculty of Arts. If he were a student in Arts he would realize that the overwhelming size of the faculty makes the idea of a Faculty of Arts Student Association absurd.

The college system at York was designed to reduce the alienating effects of an institution this size. The elimination of the college system would cause an even greater amount of apathy than that which already exists at York. There are approximately twenty-three thousand full-time undergraduate students currently attending this university. The idea that one centralized student government could fulfil the needs of all of these students is not realistic. The college system creates a mixture of students from all faculties which caters to the

needs of all of the students' common interests. By separating the students into faculty governments, the students are essentially deprived of involvement with others of differing areas of study.

In short, the college levy, amounting to \$28.50, is an insignificant portion of the tuition fee. For example, at Founders College, this money goes toward social events, cultural events, and subsidizes the F.U.S.E. (weight room), the Arthur Haberman Art Gallery, the Reading and Listening Room, and the Cock and Bull Pub. All of these services cater to both commuter and residence students, fostering a wide range of interests.

The article in question referred to the abolition of college councils rather than the abolition of YFS. In future, please entitle your articles more appropriately.

Sincerely yours,  
Markus Fairbairn,  
President, F.C.S.C.  
Garsen Yap,  
Vice-President, F.C.S.C.  
Joe Thornton,  
Director, Arthur Haberman  
Art Gallery.

## Debate not covered in Excal

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Sam Putinja's article (Feb. 12) about former NDP cabinet minister Peter Kormos' visit to

the Student Centre (Feb. 5) in which Kormos harangues the Ontario NDP for their so called "conservative policies".

I find it disquieting that the *Excalibur* would decide that it is appropriate to devote so much column space to the visit of a discredited politician who managed to attract an audience of "25-30". Only the week before (Jan 30), over 500 people purchased tickets for \$5.00 each to attend a debate on campus. Not one word of it was mentioned in the *Excalibur* or any other campus newsletter for that matter. The debate in question was one in which the morality of a capitalist vs. a socialist social system was explored. Five student organizations sponsored this event.

Perhaps the editors decided in advance that because reporting on the debate would entail presenting both sides of the question, it would be safer to ignore the debate altogether to avoid dealing with the fundamental moral issues at stake in our society today.

Could it be that while Peter Kormos spouted statements that were in total agreement with the views of the editors, the rational viewpoints of the debaters that held forth capitalism as the moral social system were not?

All that the editors have accomplished by ignoring this important event at York University is to point up their moral cowardice and intolerance to viewpoints other than their own.

Regards,  
David Aucoin.

# Letters

now only looking for "a couple of guys for the grill." Neither time was I offered an application form or to hand in a resume.

I have worked in all labour positions in restaurants and I can tell you sex is no indication of ability. Will York allow this practice to go on with its stated mission of equal opportunity hiring?

It is also upsetting to note that both times I was given this information by a woman.

Sandi Lee.

## A call for unity in Black history

Dear Editor,

Black or White? That always seems to be the question I see crossing people's

Every Monday is **Comedy Night!** Show starts at 9:00 p.m. **NO COVER!**

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# editorial



## No bottom rung for women

What do politically-minded women at York do? They do not, apparently, run for election.

A surprisingly and disappointingly small number of women are involved in this year's student government elections — about 7.4 per cent of the candidates, on a campus where more than 60 per cent of students are female.

At the close of a year that has seen women holding many prominent positions at York — York Federation of Students president, editor-in-chief of *Excalibur* and two of the four YFS vice-president positions — the situation is perplexing.

The reasons are ominous and the implications huge.

Not having women in positions of power at the student level means issues like campus security, child care, sexual harassment, date rape, employment equity and curriculum content may not get the attention they deserve.

But why is this happening, and why now?

Obviously the problem isn't at the top, which is currently pretty estrogen-heavy.

It's more important to look at the grass roots — the places where women get their political training, apprenticeship, indoctrination.

Look at the colleges. Supposedly the training-grounds

for aspiring student politicians, most of the college councils have descended into an inextricable morass of macho jousting. Most women take one look through their council-room doors and abandon their political aspirations forever. Who wants to hang out with those kind of guys?

Some of them will inevitably flee to the women's centre — a traditional boot camp for grassroots politics, women-style. But lately, the women's centre has been about as political as the badminton club.

Far from encouraging women to enter politics and challenge the system, the women's centre collective has turned in on itself. If its members realized what power they have, maybe they'd take advantage of it.

And the YFS, despite its women-positive stance, is not exempt from blame. Far from it. If you are an ordinary woman student and you want to learn the political ropes, where would you go in the YFS? It has no volunteer system, no women's caucus, no training seminars.

The fact is, the political ladder at York doesn't have a bottom rung for women. Either you start at the top — usually through connections with the Young Boys' Network — or you're left out.

And that's where most women students are: left out.

## excalibur

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## EXCALENDAR

### Wednesday March 4

General Staff Meeting at 4:00 pm

(All are welcome)

Introduction to Newswriters Workshop at 5:00 pm with Big Chris and Big Jay and Big Jen

### Thursday March 5

Editorial Board Meeting at 2:00 pm

Black Writers Caucus at 3:00 pm

### Monday March 9

Women's Caucus at 5:00 pm

### Wednesday March 11

Freedom of the Press at 2:00 pm with

Staff Elections at 4:00 pm

### Thursday March 12

Staff Elections at 4:00 pm

"Men who teach only men are called scholars. Women who teach only women are called political agitators."

— Dale Spender

# A magistrate's guide to mammaries: Boy tits good, girl tits bad ...so watch it!

by Michelle Huang  
Canadian University Press

"Anyone who thinks male and female breasts are the same is not living in the real world." -Provincial Court Judge Bruce Payne, in convicting university student Gwen Jacob of indecent exposure after going topless in Guelph last summer.

So, what is the difference between men's and women's breasts in the

**bearpit**

criticism • condemnations • diatribes • manifestos  
• rants • discoveries • speeches • ideas • dialogues  
• polemics • dissertations • epistles • monologues  
• proclamations • accusations • declamations  
• declarations • defences • demonstrations • blatherings

"real" world of modern, western civilization?

The difference is that:

Women's breasts are, generally, larger than men's. And when they are not, many flat-chested women — and even those who are not — feel pressured to have them artificially enlarged by operation, often at horrifying risk to their health. Some implants are now leaking chemicals into recipients' bodies, and suspected of causing cancer and infectious diseases.

The trouble is that no one knows for sure what exactly the hazards are because some implant manufacturers didn't bother to properly or thoroughly examine the risks before selling them to cosmetic surgeons to pump up women's chests. And many doctors — who seem more interested in cashing in on poor self-image than

their patients' health — didn't investigate either.

Doctors and scientists who did warn of the dangers were, up until recently, ignored and shunned by their colleagues. In fact, the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, Inc. in the early 1980's described small breasts as "deformed" and "diseased." All in the name of beauty — a male conception of beauty.

Some women's breasts are "too big," and these women are often the object of even more lewd stares and comments and unwelcome pinches (by men) than the woman with an "average" chest. Such women often deal with the harassment also by having surgery — to reduce their breast size.

Moral of the story: breasts are naturally too small, too big, or the wrong shape — they almost always need artificial enhancement.

Men bare their chests when and where they like, while it is only acceptable for women to show a little cleavage, but not too much; wear tight shirts, but not too tight. And, of course, there are specific contexts in which it is appropriate (and encouraged) that women be topless — ie. in pornography and strip shows.

In his decision to convict Gwen Jacob, Judge Payne said, "The female breast... is part of the female body that is sexually stimulating to men, both by sight and touch, and is not therefore a part of the body that ought to be flagrantly exposed to public view."

In other words, even though a man's bare chest is erotic to many women (and some men), women must control the urge to hoot, pinch, and grab, while men can't be expected to exercise the same self-discipline. Therefore, the onus is on women to prevent men from becoming "sexually stimulated" and committing sexual

harassment or sexual assault by changing our behaviour — ie. covering our breasts; wearing not-too-short, not-too-tight skirts; not getting too drunk or too sexually assertive.

Whether or not the female breast is erotic is a question the courts waver back and forth on — depending on what the charge is and against whom it is laid. In 1984, New Brunswick's Court of Appeal reduced a sexual assault because a man scuffling with a 15-year-old girl managed only to grab her breasts, not her genitals. Judge J.C. Angers called the female breast a "secondary sexual characteristic", equating it with a man's beard. One certainly would not be charged with sexual assault for fondling a man's facial hair, and there-

fore, the judge concluded, the accused was not guilty of sexual assault.

Judge Payne, in recognizing there is a significant difference in men's and women's breasts, is in touch with reality but isn't interested in changing it. He convicted Gwen Jacob on the grounds that she violated community standards. The community standards Judge Payne invoked and upholds are those that make women's breasts a fetish; that treat them as dirty and shameful; that tell women our breasts can and should always be improved; and that put the responsibility of unwanted advances and sexual assault on the woman.

Michelle Huang is a staff writer for the Varsity



## The door marked "Men Also"

by Darren Wilson

This article may come as a surprise (pleasant or otherwise) to some readers. Preconceived notions aside, the truth is that women's issues and feminism have a strong effect on today's men (as they should). However, a realistic male perspective remains largely elusive in today's society.

I do not wish to make any sweeping generalizations concerning the status of men or regarding feminism; I can only speak for myself. But in doing so, and in voicing my own beliefs, perhaps I can express some thoughts and feelings that may be shared by other men.

It is my mother whom I credit with my starting to question the established gender roles of society. My mother is a feminist. Not a radical feminist, but a feminist nonetheless. I do not feel that one can be an open-minded, free-thinking individual in today's society without being a feminist (or an equalist) to a certain extent. But I must also equally acknowledge my father, whose struggle to change within himself and to question "the system," set an example of which I am proud to follow.

Despite my liberal upbringing coming to York was a shock to say the least. I was astonished at the

atmosphere of hostility towards men, not just in the campus media, but also as propagated by students, student groups and faculty alike within the York community. I was even more appalled at the apparent lack of acknowledgment of men who genuinely make an effort to change themselves and their environment every day of the year, not just as a token gesture on Women's Remembrance Day. Maybe my childhood wasn't so average after all.

Militant feminism was not something I was exposed to in my average suburban public school education. Although I studied the women's suffrage movement in history class, and participated in debates on abortion, I had never been subject to "male-bashing" before.

For me, this was a great load to bear at an age when I was coming into full awareness on my own. Institutional discrimination and the victimization of women were around centuries before I was born. How can I, and my generation, be held responsible for our ancestors' ignorance and injustice? Pointing fingers is not a solution. I don't think many feminists who continue to do so realize the damage they may be inflicting on future generations of young men and women. This is where an anti-feminist backlash can start.

Changing the spelling of

"women" to "womyn" and the call for the advancement of "herstory" are, in my opinion, petty and inflammatory actions which do nothing to promote the equality of women in our society nor advance the cause of feminism, serving only to antagonize men (the etymology of the word "history" makes no reference to gender).

These two examples just scratch the surface. Acts of radical, militant feminism are largely regressive and counterproductive, and undermine the more legitimate efforts of the struggle for equality. Perhaps more important, the credibility of feminism itself is undermined, and men are put on the defensive.

The change towards equality has begun. But keep in mind that we have the inertia of generations upon generations of inequality to overcome. Change will not come instantly as all of us hope it will. The momentum generated by radical feminists of the past thirty years is more than enough to carry us through the next thirty. But we must start working together to educate and promote positive, constructive change for the future.

Men can no longer be excluded from the process of change. Men are as much a part of the future of equality as women are. That is what equality is all about, isn't it?

If women want men to change, please support men who do.

**excalibur**  
ELECTIONS  
1992

**Wednesday, March 11**  
4:00 pm

- Editor-in-Chief
- Managing Editor
- News Editor(s)
- Arts Editor(s)
- Staff reps. to the B.O.P.

**Thursday, March 12**  
4:00 pm

- Features Editor
- Sports Editor
- Letters Editor
- Photo Editor
- Issues coordinators

**Come out and vote.**  
**3rd floor Student Centre**  
**in the Common Room**

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• submissions for the Mar. 11th issue are due Thursday, Mar. 5 and no later. • submit all ads to YFS Office #336 Student Centre, c/o Jim Hounslow

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present:

## Hispanic Week

Thurs. March 5

Fiesta Dance with South American Music Band

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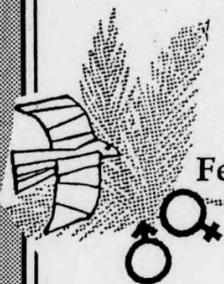
## The Need For A Better Dialogue:

### GAYS AND LESBIANS AND CHRISTIANITY

Speaker- Rev. Jim Ferry

March 5, 1992

5 pm- 307 Student Centre  
Common Room



A two-part study series  
February 27 & March 5

3 pm- Meditation Room  
Scott Religious Centre

co-sponsored by the student christian movement (SCM) and the bisexual, lesbian and gay alliance at york (BLGAY)



## YORK UNIVERSITY OUTING CLUB

The York University Outing Club is a organization for York members who enjoy getting together for various sporting and social activities. Our events range from mountain climbing, to movie watching. YOC club members are informed of upcoming events in monthly club newsletters and at the general meetings held every month.

### What's Happening:

We're in the middle of a great ski season! Our St. Anne trip was a success. We have day trips to the Ontario slopes every week. Banff, Vermont, and Quebec were the agenda for reading week.

We're also busy planning some exciting spring events. How does white water canoeing and hiking sound? We welcome you to attend our next outing or meeting.

### Where We Are:

Drop by the YOC office, 348 Bethune, on Wednesday's between 3pm and 8pm and Phil will tell you more about YOC. Or call Heidi @ 467-5560.

## Health Care Cards and Refunds

are still available at the  
yfs office  
336 student centre

CARIBBEAN STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION  
is hosting their

## Annual Culture Show March 28th

For further info. contact CSA,  
316 Student Centre.

It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens.

BAHA'U'LLAH  
Association for Baha'i Studies

## The York Debating Society

• encourages all those who are interested in enhancing their public speaking skills and in learning how to survive in the forum of parliamentary debate to come out and share their wisdom. Communication skills may be the difference between success and failure after you graduate. So come out, experienced or not, and learn how to make the walls of York reverberate your oratorical sublimity.

Weekly meetings are held on Monday in room 115 Winter's College from 4-7pm. For more info. call Royal at 333 Student Centre.

## University Students Get a Crash Course in Driving Skills

The fastest class on four wheels returns to York U.  
March 19, 21 & 22.

It's the  
**Labatt's Road Scholarship,**  
a free, two-part course on advanced driving techniques which teaches car control manoeuvres such as obstacle avoidance, skid control and panic breaking while delivering a very important message - that drinking and driving can never be mixed.

Coming to Curtis Lecture Hall I March 19, 4:00pm  
Sponsored by BACCHUS York, Student Affairs and Health and Wellness York.

## The Contact Club

We hold jams on  
**Monday**  
between  
**6 & 8pm**  
Tait McKenzie  
judo room (4th floor)  
for info. call Judy at  
638-7695

## We Want to Help

Have things become too much for you to handle?  
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No details necessary; just write your name or initials.

send internal mail to:  
Prayer  
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334 Student Centre

Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

**YORK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**

Wednesday March 4, at 12:05pm, in the Scott Chapel. For information contact the office at 452 Student Centre, or phone 736-5369.

**NEW RAPE SHIELD LAW: AN EFFECTIVE RESPONSE?**

Wednesday March 4, at 12 noon, in room 104 Osgoode Hall Law School. A panel discussion with Judy Rebrick, President National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Maureen Forestell, Criminal lawyer, and Carol-Anne Wright, Women's rights activist. Hosted by the Law Union and the Women's Caucus

**THE UNSEEN DANGER**

Ambient and Indoor Air Pollution: Old Story - New Insights. A Lecture by Dr. Jack Spengler of the Department of Environmental Health at Harvard University's School of Public Health. March 4, at 4pm, in the University's Senate Chamber, 9th floor, Ross Building. Admission is free. For more information call Carol Francis at 736-5586.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

York/Seneca, Open House. You are invited to an information session for Early Childhood Education Programme. Meet with faculty and students, on Thursday, March 5, at 4pm in room 291 Behavioral Science Building. Bring a friend. For more information contact Professor Janice Johnson, ext. 66214.

**SCIENCE FICTION AND CANADIAN NOVELS**

The English Students' Association presents a lecture by Professor Allan Weiss. Thursday March 5, at 12 noon, in Sylvester's (201 Stong) All are welcome.

**A BRONTE DAY**

Saturday March 7, in the Harry Crowe Room, 109 Atkinson. Hosted by the Atkinson College Department of English and the Office of the Master. 2pm to 5pm: lectures by Frances Beer, Ann Yeoman, Wei Ping Lu, and a reading from the letters. 5pm to 7pm: a Bronte movie extravaganza. 7:30pm to 11pm, in O04A Atkinson: a buffet supper with entertainment. Admission is free.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TELETHON**

The York Centre for Feminist research is hosting a fundraising telethon on March 8. Please join us for fun and to support a cause that can make a difference in your life! Call 736-5915.

**SCARAMOUCH**

The York Fencing Club presents the 1950 fencing classic in funky technicolour. Romance, action, bad acting and gut-wrenching suspense in the DIAR Screening room, Ross 045 (basement). Monday March 9, at 4pm.

**OPEN HOUSE AT THE NATIVE RELATIONS THEME AREA**

Monday March 9, from 9am to 3pm in room 220 Lumbers Building. This will be an excellent opportunity to see our Native-related resources and have some yummy refreshments. Videos will be showing in room 225 Lumbers all day, and Dianne Longboat will be speaking on Native Values and Health in room 306 Lumbers. All welcome. Any questions, call 736-2100, ext. 33281.

**ENVIRONMENT DAY AT GLENDON COLLEGE**

The environment: Is it worth it? L'environnement: Ce la vaut-il encore la peine? March 10. Show your support by coming out! There will be speakers throughout the day in the Salon Garigue in York Hall. Ne le manquez pas!

**SENATOR KEITH DAVEY**

The Institute for Social Research invites students, faculty, and staff to the Third Annual Goldfarb Lecture. The senator will deliver this year's lecture "Polls, Pals and Political Parties". Thursday March 12 at 3:30pm in Moot Court, room 101 Osgoode Hall Law School. For further information, please contact John Pollard at 736-5061.

**THE WISE VIRGINS**

Performed by the York Dance Ensemble, choreographed by professor Anna Blewchamp, directed by Holly Small. Friday March 13 at 8pm, and Saturday March 14 at 2pm and 8pm, at the Betty Oliphant Theatre, 404 Jarvis St. Admission is \$15, or \$10 for students. For information and reservations please call the Dance Department at 736-5137.

# drop EVERYTHING

**A VISION IN THE DARKNESS**

The Toronto OUTLOOK Committee, in honour of International Women's Day, presents a documentary on the life of 87 year old Lea Roback, a Jewish, pacifist, union and feminist activist in Quebec. Sunday March 15, at 2pm, in the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Ceanbrooke Ave. Tickets are \$4 advance, \$5 at the door. For tickets or information call 533-6682, or 767-8296.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DAY**

Monday March 16, in the Student Centre, there will be over 30 exhibits from Environmental groups. 4pm in room 306 Lumbers Building there will be a panel discussion on the relationship between humans and animals. Any questions, call Kim at 736-6548.

**BULLETS AND BALLOTS: THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN TRINIDAD**

Seminar with guest speaker Dr. Selwyn Ryan, Director of the Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies. Tuesday, March 17, at 3pm in the Founders Senior Common Room.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ACTION WEEK**

Tuesday March 17 until Friday March 20. Hosted by the Bachelor of Environmental Studies Students of York. A series of environmental awareness activities and events including speakers on pro-active development, singing Rainforest activists, and Native Crafts. For more information contact Beth Lawrence at 449-4913, or drop the BEST Office at 318 Bethune College Tuesdays at 5pm.

**VOCAL EYES - THE ARTIST AS CITIZEN**

The role of the artist in society will be examined by five distinguished panelists at the fourth annual Wendy Michner Symposium, Wednesday March 18, from 2pm at Winters College, Room 201.

**WILD HUNTERS: PREDATORS IN PERIL**

Monte Hummel and Sherry Pettigrew will be speaking about their book: Wild Hunters: Predators in Peril. Thursday March 19, at 2pm in room 306 Lumbers Building. Hosted by the Faculty of Environmental Studies.

**INDO-CARIBBEAN STUDIES: NEEDS AND DIRECTIONS**

A conference at 10:30am with keynote speaker Professor V. Ramraj, U of Calgary. Thursday March 26, in Founders Senior Common Room (305). At 4pm in the Founders Dining Hall: a performance of the play "Kala Pani", which deals with the experience of Indo-Caribbean Women.

**GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON VIOLENCE & CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Tuesday, April 14, York Lanes Suite 305B. Sponsored by the La Mars Research Programme in Violence and Conflict Resolution.

**RECOVERY NOT DISCOVERY: 500 YEARS OF INJUSTICE AND RESISTANCE**

Student Christian Movement National Conference 1992, May 3-10, Scarborough. For more details contact the York Student Christian Movement, room 214, Scott Religious Centre, 736-2100 ext. 77275.

**Drop Everything for your campus announcements. Leave submissions in the Drop Everything envelope in the Excalibur Newsroom, 120 Student Centre, c/o Catharine Soukoreff. Deadlines are Thursdays before Wednesday Publications.**

**LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN AT YORK**

General meetings every second Wednesday at 5pm in the Women's Centre, 328 Student Centre. For more information contact Lucy at 736-2100, ext. 20494.

**VANIER GAMES ROOM**

Wargames, RPG's, TAG. General meetings Thursdays at 4:30pm in Vanier College Junior Common Room. For more information call 748-6772.

**THE YORK UNIVERSITY GREENS**

Meeting every second Thursday at 5pm. Join us for stimulating discussion and much more. February 27, March 12, and March 26, South Ross 537. Call Tina at 727-8348.

**WEN-DO**

Organizing a six-week Women's self defense course. Thursday afternoons and evenings. If interested call Heidi, 736-7902.

**FIRST NATIONS STUDENTS**

We want to get to know each other to share information on education and social events. We are the First Nations Law Students. Please leave your name and phone number at the Environmental Studies/ Native-Canadian Relations Theme Area, 736-2100 ext. 33281.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

A few hours a week can make a difference to someone with a developmental handicap. For more information call Joanne Fine at Metro Association for Community Living, 225-7166.

**YORK ELITE COMPUTER HACKERS**

A Membership Drive. Not for the computer novice. We don't do outings. We don't give out pizza. We do know pointers. Contact our bulletin board at 658-3958 (data line).

**LE CERCLE FRANCAIS**

Is a club designed to promote the French, Quebecois and French Canadian cultures. Future activities are: Improv night, Poetry night, French Restaurant dinner, and weekly Wednesday movie night. Any interested parties can call Louise Chaput at 736-5086, or leave message on the door at 410 Student Centre.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

If you are planning to apply to the Faculty of Education or are just interested in working with children, the York University Volunteer Centre has numerous positions available at the junior, intermediate, and senior levels. For more information drop by the Volunteer Centre at B449 in the Student Centre; or contact us at 736-2100 ext. 33576.

**YORK BY CYCLE**

We're in hibernation, but there is progress. New ring posts are in the university Common, so use them and the planners will give us more. There is now also an indoor location for locking bikes. Those on our phone list will be contacted when the snow thaws for good. For information call Mel or Ed at 322-9440, or Dave at 423-0587.

**DO YOU CYCLE IN TORONTO?**

Metro by Cycle wants you to answer their survey. Phone Dave at 423-0587.

**STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT**

Weekly Meeting: Mondays at 3pm in 214 Scott Religious Centre. Ecumenical Worship Tuesdays at 1pm in Scott Religious Centre Chapel. Anglican, United, Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Quaker...Join us for ecumenical worship.

**ENVISION YORK**

Meetings: every other Monday. Lumber's 3rd floor lounge. Contact Colette Boileau, 467-8592

**THE WRITERS READ SERIES**

A student run workshop designed for poets, prose writers, musicians, drama students and anyone else interested in giving readings of their work outside the classroom. Held Mondays from 4-6pm and the first Wednesday of each month at the same time in Vanier College Senior Fellow Common Room. For more information contact Zaf or Fil in the Vanier Student Council Office.

**THE YORK DEBATING SOCIETY**

Weekly meetings on Mondays from 4pm to 7pm, in room 115 Winters College. For more information contact Royal at 667-1872, or 736-5969 ext. 31303, after 8pm. We practice impromptu parliamentary debate and public speaking. For those who are more serious there are numerous tournaments throughout the year. This semester's tournaments include the North American Championships at McGill University, and the Canadian Nationals at Western.

**YORK FENCING CLUB**

Holds practices on Mondays at 6pm in Tait McKenzie Upper Gym, and Wednesday at 6pm in the Double Squash Court in Tait McKenzie.

736-5239

# Excalibur

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drop everything

# When supermom's a superdyke

by Alisa Gordanooer  
Canadian University Press

VICTORIA—Cynthia, Sheila and Carrie face more problems than most mothers. Along with runny noses, dirty diapers, tantrums, chicken pox and the monster under the bed, they have to deal with being lesbian mothers in a homophobic society.

They fall into a kind of political gap. This society is uncomfortable with lesbianism in the first place. When lesbians choose to have children, an activity closely associated with heterosexuality, straight society pretends they don't exist. And because motherhood is not an issue for most lesbians, lesbian mothers often receive little or no support in their own community.

"There's still a lot of strong societal attitudes -- that lesbians are not real women. That real women want to have babies and stay home and take care of their men," says Sheila.

But society is rapidly changing, and the stereotypical nuclear family of a father who works and a mother who stays home with the kids is now far from the norm.

Some studies indicate that two of three marriages will end in divorce. More and more single women are choosing to have children on their own. Along with biologically-related parents and children, definitions of family now commonly include step-parents and half-siblings, families with only one parent, and families with adopted or foster children.

But much of society is slow to accept a definition of family that includes two moms or two dads.

Cynthia, Sheila, and Carrie are all "out" as lesbians, and it affects how they are accepted by friends and family, in the workplace, and in society at large.

"It's bad enough for single women, single moms," says Sheila, "but for a lesbian who's out as a mom...when you've got a kid, you feel protective. You're responsible for your kid as well as yourself."

**"Much of society is slow to accept a definition of family that includes two moms or two dads"**

## Alternative families

Carrie says that although she is not completely "out" at work, she doesn't hide her lesbianism in her day-to-day life. When her son was born, she and her partner appeared on CBC television as part of a program on alternative families.

"I try to be out in that way. I try to let people know we're doing it, we're out here," she says.

Cynthia describes herself as "not super-politicized."

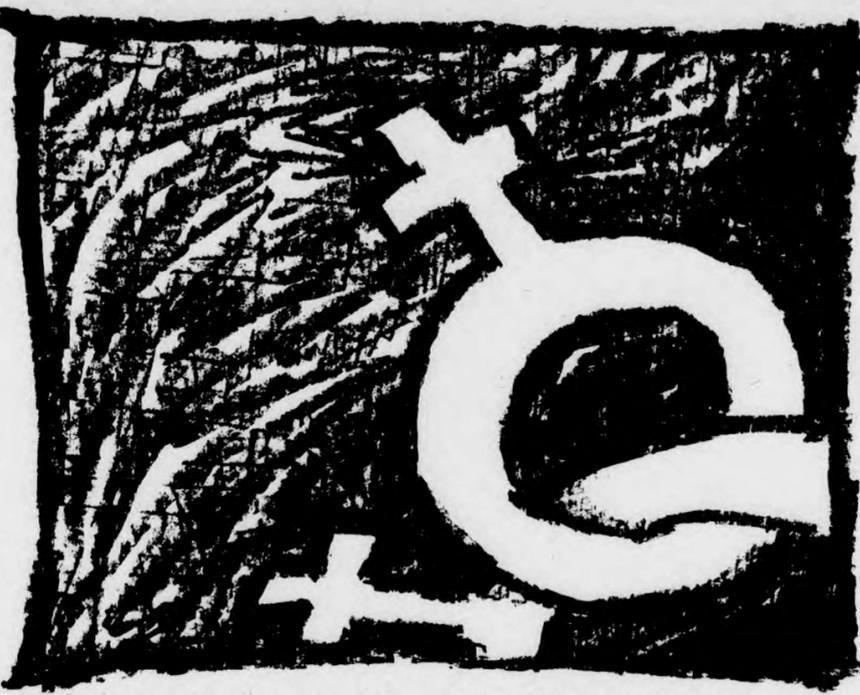
"I'm just doing my thing. When I got pregnant, I didn't feel like it was a big political stand."

Pregnancy in itself may not be a political statement, but lesbian mothers stand out in both the lesbian and straight communities. The straight community has difficulty accepting that lesbians can be mothers, and some members of the lesbian community sometimes have trouble accepting that a mother can be a lesbian.

Once, Cynthia was talking to a woman at a gay bar who asked why she hadn't seen her there before. Cynthia explained she was usually at home with her daughter. "She got pretty freaked out," Cynthia says.

Carrie says the lesbian community in her area is generally not that supportive. "They're living their own lives, and that doesn't include kids."

Like other lesbians and gay men,



Cynthia, Sheila and Carrie face the subtle heterosexism that pervades the social structure. When a child is enrolled in school or daycare, the forms must be filled in with the names of both parents -- mother and father.

"On the consent forms, I put down my partner's name. That's the problem with filling out these forms. You're put in a position to erase the existence of your partner, or come out," says Sheila. "You're putting yourself, or your child, in a potentially dangerous position."

"We kind of worried what was going to happen at the playschool," says Cynthia. "But when we were first there, looking around, we said 'we're her parents' and that was absolutely fine. We were really lucky. It could have been a big problem."

## In search of sperm

When they decided they wanted children, Cynthia and her partner ran into problems right away. They tried an alternative often used by many straight women -- a doctor specializing in donor insemination.

"He was extremely homophobic. He threw me out of his office when he found out I was a lesbian," Cynthia says.

Cynthia and her partner decided to go elsewhere for their sperm. A friend of a friend became the anonymous donor, and Cynthia got pregnant the first try.

Outdated ideas about what constitutes a family can put unnecessary stress on lesbians who are or want to be pregnant.

Cynthia says that when she went for ultrasound tests while pregnant, they wouldn't let her partner Dawn in, but they would let a father in. "That made me really angry. The hospital said it was their rule. That was it, no exceptions," she says.

However, she says "once I was in the hospital, they were more open. They were really good, and accepted Dawn as the other parent."

## Custody conflicts

Anonymous donors have their advantages, especially for lesbian mothers. If a donor knows the identity of the child he fathered, he can sue for custody. Although he probably would not immediately be granted custody, he has a good chance in the court system as it now exists. And he definitely has more rights than the non-biological parent in a lesbian family.

But Cynthia's lawyer, who is also a lesbian, has assured her there is little chance she could lose custody to an anonymous father.

"I don't have the father's name on the birth certificate. I honestly don't know his name. I got protected as well as I could," Cynthia says.

For women with children from previous marriages, however, the question of custody is much more tenuous.

Sheila left her five-year marriage when her daughter was a year-and-a-half old.

"My ex-husband was banking on the

idea that I'd deny any involvement with women...a lot of lawyers I talked to said it's not legal to use the fact of a mother being a lesbian to deny custody," she says.

Sheila decided to be completely open about her sexual preference, which invalidated her ex-husband's only evidence against her.

"I said, 'yes I'm involved with this woman, now let's talk about whether I'm a good parent'."

Her custody case was dropped before it went to court. But if it hadn't, her lesbianism might have affected the outcome.

"The classic one [the judges] use is the excuse that the child is going to be put through hell. They say 'society is homophobic, so we'll be homophobic in court and not allow custody,'" Sheila says.

"It all depends on the judge you get and the mood he--because it's usually a he -- is in, whether he is homophobic."

Sheila says the issue of custody is also a concern when relationships between partners who have been co-parenting end --there are no provisions made in the courts to allow the non-biological parent the same rights given a heterosexual father or mother.

"It's never easy to go through a separation or a divorce, but at least (heterosexuals) have the courts. Our society does not recognize the non-biological parent as a parent."

"In the end, the kid gets hurt the most," says Sheila.

When the courts make no provisions for lesbian parents, they must do it themselves. Ensuring that the non-biological mother has a say over what happens to the child means the couple must make legal arrangements.

Cynthia's partner Dawn is the legal guardian of her daughter Chloe, and she has power of attorney as well. This means Dawn can make decisions for Chloe if anything happens to her or Cynthia. But there are no court rules which guarantee Dawn's right to see Chloe should the

**"Her family life is being invalidated, and that scares me for her sake. It scares me if her world is telling her that her life doesn't exist"**

couple separate. "It's scary. I could leave and cut off any visitation to Dawn. But we've done everything possible to make Dawn a legal guardian," Cynthia says.

"On the other hand, she's been the breadwinner, and (should the relationship end) I couldn't have any financial support, either."

## Homophobic attitudes

For the children of lesbian parents, the most difficult part can be dealing with homophobic attitudes among their friends and classmates, in the media, and in society at large.

"Already she's coming home with attitudes like you don't marry people who are the same sex as you," says Sheila.

On television, and in the books her daughter Niamh is read at daycare, representations of lesbian families are virtually nonexistent.

"Her family life is being invalidated, and that scares me for her sake. It scares me if her world is telling her that her life doesn't exist," says Sheila.

Then there are the grandparents: some find it difficult to accept their daughter is a lesbian. For others, accepting a grandchild without a son-in-law can be even more confusing. A family's animosity toward a daughter's sexuality can affect the way her child is treated, often with unhappy results.

"My father never talks about my relationship with my partner at all -- he knows perfectly well what's going on," says Cynthia.

"When I told him I was pregnant, he was delighted -- then a while later, he asked how I did it."

Cynthia says her partner Dawn's family has never really accepted her daughter Chloe as a grandchild. "We go there for Christmas, and all the other kids are being showered with gifts, and Chloe's just standing there. That's going to get harder."

"It's all about understanding that you have a choice. How can I deny her the choice to have a boyfriend if I'm out here yelling about my right to be with women?"

Carrie wants to encourage her son to be with whoever he feels comfortable with. "What gender doesn't really matter to me. I hope I'll be able to stress that," she says.

But for now, she has more pressing questions to answer. Joshua and Meghan are already asking Carrie why they don't have a dad.

"Usually I just say 'that's right, you don't have a dad. You have two moms -- aren't you lucky?'"

They don't really see her as being Dawn's child.

## 'Chosen family'

To make up for support not forthcoming from their immediate families, lesbians often form a 'chosen family', a network of friends who support and understand each other.

"One thing we're trying to do is keep a balance of people in our lives," says Cynthia. Chloe spends time with a family with four kids, and with her parents' gay male friends as well as with lesbians.

Carrie says her children Joshua and Meghan are "definitely exposed to my lifestyle. They go to the women's coffee-houses, and I take them to women's events."

Sheila says she would like to meet other lesbian moms with young kids, both for her and her daughter's sake.

Being exposed to various lifestyles and relationship options gives the kids a chance to decide for themselves what their own preferences are -- an opportunity which combats homophobia by presenting gay or lesbian relationships as perfectly normal choices. When Niamh, Chloe, Joshua and Meghan get older, their parents hope they'll be able to stand up for themselves whatever their own choices and preferences may be.

"I just hope for her she'll find a partner who'll treat her with respect and be good to her," says Sheila.

# Women seek the 52 percent solution

Judy Rebick is president of the National Action

Committee on the Status of Women (NAC),

a coalition of five hundred women's organizations

across Canada. In the face of a neo-conservative

political climate NAC plays a crucial role in pushing

feminist alternatives to the forefront of political

debate. In an interview with *Excalibur's*

David Black, Rebick discusses the new direction of feminism in Canada.

by David Black

David Black: Canadian feminism has seen federal government cuts to NAC and to community-based programs for women across the country, the failure of a proposed public daycare program, and other difficulties. Nonetheless, feminists continue to make themselves heard, as NAC's high profile in Canada indicates. What is the character of Canadian feminism at a time of high economic anxiety, and what role does it have in the national political culture?

Judy Rebick: The feminist movement is playing a leadership role in terms of groups which are disadvantaged in society or groups which are out of power. The movement itself is undergoing a profound transformation. Up until several years ago, the movement was primarily white and middle class, and had as its goal very defined gender issues like abortion, day care, and pay equity.

What's happened in the last several years is that, in the attempt to include women of colour, aboriginal, disabled and working class women, we have also understood that the agenda of feminism has to be much broader.

There's always been a socialist feminist current in the Canadian women's movement, a current which has been stronger here than almost anywhere else in the world. That current always argued that the women's movement has to make coalition with other movements for social change and have a broader agenda.

But what's happening now is that the whole of the women's movement is recognizing this. What we see is the movement becoming more and more active in areas of anti-racism, economic and anti-poverty issues, social issues like the national question and the constitution, and also beginning to make a radical critique of institutions in society. That's a critique which has always been there, but which hasn't been generalized in the way we're doing it now.

What's happening is that while feminism is not as visible as it has been in the past, the women's movement is much stronger because women have a much bigger role in mass institutions. Women are taking power inside these institutions—the media, the university, the trade unions, the aboriginal and Black communities—in a way that's more effective than if the women's movement existed outside these institutions. Issues that women have been historically and are presently concerned with—namely the violence and the abortion choice issues—are becoming much more a part of the mainstream.

How is that critique of institutions making itself known?

One of the central campaigns NAC adopted at our last annual meeting was something called the "52% Solution", a feminist alternative to the neo-conservative agenda. This was adopted by an organization which has five hundred member groups, including the YWCA and the Women's Committee of the United Church of Canada. This is not a radical membership, in the traditional sense

of radical.

Yet, the membership supports this program. And I, as a known radical, get very little criticism from the membership for the things I say.

That's because women are running up against this wall everywhere we are, and realizing that we have to go beyond the traditional belief that getting a few more women in power will bring equality. Or that legal equality—a significant achievement we won by getting the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1981—means we will go on forwards hereafter.

Our "52% Solution" program was developed because we found that even inside the various coalitions in which we participate—like the Action Canada Network (ACN)—oppressed groups didn't have a voice. NAC has a voice that's listened to at a national level because when we enter a room, we represent five hundred groups. But at a local level, women in those groups feel isolated and often dominated. We found we have to organize independently as women in order to influence the coalitions, something that's true of visible minorities as well.

The "52% Solution" argues that there is a global ideological current which has "hegemony" or ideological dominance in the world. That hegemony is the notion that global competition and profit for business is the way to guarantee prosperity for everyone, and that prosperity will mean good social programs. So far, what we've seen is that prosperity for business means impoverish-



ment for everyone else. We see that not only in Canada, but internationally.

The struggle to challenge that ideology is most powerful when it comes from the women's movement. That's because there is a competing ideology of women's equality that has been recognized at an international level through the United Nations declaration on status and equality for women. That equality is recognized, certainly in the western world, as a goal of society. As women, we can challenge this ideology more successfully than a lot of groups can. That's why we started the "52% Solution" strategy, and plan to move it internationally.

How does your work relate to the renaissance movement politics of the 1990s?

NAC has been doing new things in the social movements. For example, take the constitutional debate. We've argued that the labour movement, disabled people, and minority groups have to get more active in the constitutional fight, and that that participation has to be on the basis of a "three nations" position. Recognition of the aboriginal community as a founding people represents an alternative to any of the positions taken by the political parties. That level of leadership for NAC and the social movements is new.

People talk about the new coalition politics, with reference to the Action Canada Network, for example. But the first coalition-building happened between labour women and community women in Toronto. There was also the Solidarity movement in British Columbia. The Network was a product of those early experiences, and took it to a whole other level. Though the ACN started around the issue of free trade, we soon learned that free trade was part of a whole ideological agenda.

Beyond national coalition politics, there's starting to be an international meeting of minds around issues that is very new. The debate around free trade, with groups in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico meeting together, is very new. We're also thinking about a conference of women against the global neo-conservative agenda, where we would develop an international strategy for the women's movement.

We're way ahead of this in Canada. The women's movement in other countries has not yet got to this point. So Canada can play a leadership role, just as Canada is playing a similar role in the free trade issue.

We've got to this very different, sophisti-

**"The mythology of individual rights and their importance to democracy has been perpetrated on a population that knows very little democracy"**

cated level of coalition politics in Canada, relative to almost any other country, partly because of the weakness of our social democratic party. In Europe, social movements and the women's movement particularly don't exist in the same way. A lot of that energy is directed toward the green and the social democratic parties. In Canada, those groups are more independent.

Women I've interviewed have characterized feminist politics as, first, motivated more by value statements or principles than dogmatic explicit policy and, second, able to make innovative connections between issues as a kind of parallel to coalition-building. How do you characterize feminist politics philosophically?

Women are fifty percent of everyone, so it's easy to make the connections. But I don't believe feminism is about principles, though I agree it's not dogmatic. Like the environmental movement, feminism operates according to a different theory of knowledge. Though that theory is not well-developed, in both movements knowledge comes from the base and not the top.

The traditional left view, whether you're talking about social democracy or Marxism, is that an elite on the top develops a line and brings it to the people. In the feminist movement, to contrast, we understand that knowledge comes from our experience, and then is developed into a program. For example, with the "52% Solution", we developed a woman's charter which we took from NAC policy and then put out to our membership.

What's going to come out of that process will be very different and much better than what we put in. This is not a consultation, where we hear what women have to say and then decide what goes in. We're saying to women that they can inform that charter according to their experience, whether they're rural or urban, visible minority or white women. It's not that we don't have a program, but that that program is constantly in process.

In an op-ed article in the October 1991 *Globe & Mail* about Senate reform, you offered as an alternative to provincial representation in that institution the idea of "communities of interest". How does that idea contrast with more traditional or liberal concepts of individual citizenship?

Increasingly, we're seeing our struggle in terms of one for collective and not individual rights. In fact, women's rights are often counterpoised to individual rights in society. Aboriginal and Black people are speaking of group rights too.

We're not rejecting the liberal notion of individual rights completely, since we still need them. But in 1990, collective rights has become the predominant issue, because you have a systemic and systematic oppression of groups which together form a majority in society.

The mythology of individual rights and their importance to democracy has been perpetrated on a population that knows very little democracy. In a society with such a huge gap between rich and poor, the notion of equality is an absurd notion when you take into account that division. We're challenging the idea that the protection of individual rights ensures equality, and believe that idea antithetical to the women's and aboriginal movements. Treating everyone the same in an unequal society promotes inequality.

As for the constitutional debate, the way that collectivities are being recognized is on the basis of provincial interests. But those interests are not those of the people, but defined in terms of the provincial governments.

Certainly, there are regional realities in this country. Being a feminist in Nova Scotia is different than being one in Vancouver. This notion that the provinces should have a say in Senate selection, for example, is about power politics and not about representation. The collectivity of women, of visible minorities, or of urban versus rural populations is not recognized.

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

# PEN fights to free women's thoughts

feature  
by Moira MacDonald  
excelsior march 4, 1992

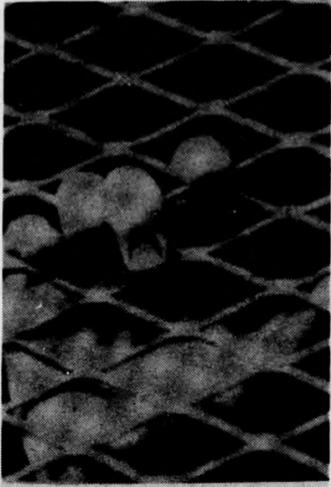
The writers are as high-profile as Burmese Nobel prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi and as faceless as a 25 year-old Tibetan Buddhist nun known only as Kunsang. Some have written as little as a political pamphlet, some have written volumes of books, or are editors of newspapers. All share the experience of political imprisonment by governments threatened by their ability to express their beliefs through the written word. And all share this experience as women.

Imprisoned women writers are in the minority, compared to their male colleagues. Case files compiled in Fall 1991 by International PEN, a world-wide writers' organization which defends writers' rights of expression, showed that out of 323 writers who were either in prison or facing restrictions, only 20 were women.

Jan Bauer, director of the Canadian PEN centre provides one explanation for the disparity, saying that in atmospheres of political oppression, "women are more inclined to mind their own business" and that it is only when "circumstances are ineluctable" that some decide to take action.

According to Bauer, the decision has much to do "with the preoccupations... (and) the role of women in society." In many countries the opportunity for women to write is rare in itself. For those few women who do write, responsibilities such as raising children, taking care of a home and a husband, even obtaining clean water make political risk-taking a non-option.

PEN cases of women who have found circumstances "ineluctable" come from around the globe although the greatest concentration is in countries with absolute regimes or quasi-democracies. The



organization is investigating several cases of women journalists in China who have been arrested and confined on largely ambiguous charges. Turkey, although recognized as a democracy, also has a high record of human rights abuses. PEN cases from that country include that of Fatma Yazici, a female editor convicted in 1990 for (among other charges) publishing the Helsinki Watch Committee report on rights abuses against Kurds in Turkey; and that of Ulker Karayel, a journalism student who is reported to still be in prison after being arrested and later tortured for participating in a Labour Day demonstration in May 1991.

Torture is a common feature in political detentions. But for women there is another aspect, says Jan Bauer: "Rape is a given when a woman is arrested... they are spared nothing." Bauer says the first 72 hours after an arrest are critical "...it's when the worst things happen." Periodic torture can continue for the next one to two weeks. Sometimes a reprieve is granted only to have the torture suddenly resumed again, as

retribution for an external anti-government act.

According to Bauer, writers are not jailed so much for their writings as for their beliefs and associations; "they just belong to the wrong group" she says. What makes politically active writers a threat is that their opinions may sooner or later be transferred through the pen. In atmospheres of repression "journalists are the first to go," says Bauer, followed by poets, novelists and playwrights.

Aung San Suu Kyi from Burma (Myanmar) is one such writer. Suu Kyi had published several works including children's books prior to becoming Secretary-General of Burma's National League for Democracy — now banned by the government — in late 1980. Her political activities led to Suu Kyi being placed under house arrest in July 1989. She is

still under detention despite being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 1990.

Maria Elena Cruz, a 37-year-old Cuban writer and poet was sentenced last November to two years in a maximum security prison after publishing a letter with other Cuban intellectuals which included calls for talks on direct elections to the National Assembly, dropping of travel restrictions and release of political prisoners. Cruz was also a member of an independent political analysis group and in March 1991 was expelled from the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists, presumably for her political activities.

Political associations also affect the female partners of male writers facing repression. These women, Bauer says, "suffer equally... often they can't hold a job... they spend most of their time

trying to get the gut out... keeping the family together." She adds that "they are subject to surveillance and intimidation."

The horror can extend to male writer's female colleagues. Bauer relates the story of the secretary of a Peruvian journalist facing governmental harassment. One day she received a package for her boss. When she opened the package it blew up in her face, killing her.

The fundamental principal behind PEN, says Bauer, is that "you have the right to express yourself and the right to enquiry... and it could happen to us tomorrow." However, Bauer adds, it is sometimes hard for her not to feel special empathy for the plights of her female colleagues facing severest repression. She expresses her personal philosophy towards these cases in simple yet eloquent terms: "She is I and I am she."

## Some men finally reject violence

by Sheona Jarvis

Men are finally organizing to oppose rape — an issue women have been struggling against for years.

Rape is a crime of violence, a crime motivated primarily by the desire to control and dominate rather than by the desire for sexual gratification. Traditionally in our society it is males who are socialized to be the aggressors, the dominators, the controllers, and females who are socialized to be passive, submissive and to accept patterns of male violence as the norm. It is from this sex-role stereotype that many acts of rape emerge.

Whether a woman is raped by someone she knows or not, the fact still remains that control of her body, her sexuality and her right of choice has been taken away from her by the male aggressor.

Up until recently, the onus has been on women to protect themselves against rape. Women have been forced to become virtual prisoners in their own society. They fear to walk alone at night, to go anywhere unaccompanied, they are compelled to watch what they wear, who they see, what they say in order to not "bring" the rape upon themselves.

On university campuses all over Canada, women are put in danger in residences, classrooms and offices; many are afraid to stay on campus at night.

Encouragingly, more and more men are becoming involved in men's groups aimed at supporting the women who are fighting back against rape.

Jim Ducker, a member of the University of Toronto men's forum, said in his group men are examining the issue of violence against women. Through discussions, seminars and workshops they are addressing issues that men have traditionally been silent about, such as sexism in the classroom.

Metro Men Against Violence is another men's group that is looking at the ways in which men can address problems of rape and sexism. "We are a group of men who seek ways of challenging and developing alternatives to individual and social expressions of violence, primarily but not solely against women," said Eric Malmsten, a member of the Toronto-based group.

Sharon Chimming of York's Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre described the emergence of these men's groups as encouraging and necessary.

"Men organizing against violence against women is fairly new," she said. "For the most part there are a lot of men who haven't thought about the issues a lot," but "It's important for men to be able to say this is inappropriate."

SHEACC does seminars on campus in which men and women are divided into separate groups and asked to complete sentences (such as - "I feel threatened when..."). Chimming said this "hits home that men and women have very different experiences and attitudes."

For this reason, and because "some men won't listen unless it comes from another man," SHEACC is setting up a Peer Education Project for next fall which will use a male and a female student representative in each college to organize events and awareness projects. The program will be "students educating students," according to Chimming, and will be geared to changing attitudes towards rape and

other acts of violence.

Many men became aware of the need to oppose violence against women in the wake of Dec. 6, 1989, when 14 women were murdered at a Montreal university. Last Dec. 6, men organized the White Ribbon Campaign, where they wore white ribbons in solidarity with women in opposition to rape and misogynist violence.

Michael Kaufman, a professor at York who was one of the founders of the White Ribbon Campaign said that while it may not seem as if things are changing all that quickly, we are entering a new era of openness and understanding.

"The Montreal Massacre was a real turning point for men. The sheer horror of that event galvanized Canada. For the first time hundreds of thousands of men were forced to look at the levels of violence against women," Kaufman said.

"While not all men are violent, virtually all men are silent and by their silence have allowed the violence to continue. The significance of things such as the white ribbon campaign is that men have begun to break that silence."

## International Women's Week recovery from discovery

A fundraising event supporting native women's groups  
in Ontario and Quebec.

at the Rivoli

### Wednesday, March 4

- Snowdogs
- The Matrophiles
- Sarah Peebles & Helen Dryz.

### Thursday, March 5

- Celtic Gales
- Cate Friesen Trio
- Rebecca Barclay

### Friday, March 6

- New Black Nation
- Gloria Blizzard & the Wind
- Rose Stella
- Tisa Farrell
- Brian Wright McLeod
- Brend Baker

\* All events at 9:00pm. \$7.00 a night/\$10.00 two night pass at Toronto Women's Book Store, Pages, or Another Story.

### At The Underground: Friday, March 6

FEMFEST '92 Sheila Gostic & Mourning Sickness  
with Random Order

### Saturday, March 7

- 6:30am Sunrise ceremony Queen's Park
- 8:30am Potluck breakfast Trinity St. Paul Centre
- 11:30am The March From Native Canadian Centre
- 12:30pm Rally Queen's Park to Ryerson
- 1-5:00pm Fair Ryerson, Jorgerson Hall
- 6:30pm Evening social & dance St. Lawrence Market North Hall

### what men can do

- Refuse to accept traditional male stereotypes which view men as the aggressors, controllers, or dominators
- Understand that not "scoring" is OK and doesn't make you less of a man. Resist peer pressure.
- Understand that no really does mean no, no matter how it is expressed, and that it is a person's right to say no at any point in time no matter how far the physical intimacy has progressed
- Understand that it is never OK to force a woman into sexual relations no matter what you think she wants or whether you've had sex before
- Communicate honestly what you expect from a relationship, sexually and emotionally
- Do not assume you know what your partner wants or that you both want the same degree of intimacy
- Work at actively changing attitudes in society. Speak out against violence against women. Get involved.

### what women can do

- Refuse to accept the female stereotype which depicts women as passive or submissive. Decide for yourself how you want to view male and female gender roles and how you want to be viewed.
- Understand that it is always your right to say no, no matter what the circumstances
- Be in charge of your life by practicing assertive behaviour. Resolve not to be passive to physical intimacy that you do not want to accept
- Recognize that all men do not rape and do not perpetrate violence against women. While there are certain patterns of aggression that may or may not indicate a tendency towards violence in any particular individual, men are not innately violent
- Understand that the responsibility of confronting violence against women belongs to both males and females
- Work at actively changing attitudes in society. Speak out against violence against women. Get involved.







# Caustic Gostick set to appear at the Underground

by Harry Rudolfs

I caught Sheila Gostick's show last Friday night in a warehouse in a back alley off Spadina. The art film crowd was just drifting out as Gostick's fans were piling in for the ten o'clock performance.

Gostick, who performs at the Underground this Friday, set herself up at the front of the stage and pulled out a pile of newspaper clippings which she used as props for her shtick, which she calls "The Friday Night News."

Sheila hit fast and hard. No establishment target is safe from her acerbic wit, whether it be cops, June Rowlands, or vaginal pouches (the newest form of birth control for women).

She began by taking on Mayor Rowlands' proposal to build more parking spaces at Bloor and Yonge: "Subways are a communist idea, anyway." Quoting from an article in the *Toronto Star* which says the TTC is losing money, she said, "How much does it cost to lose two skydomes full of people every day? As though this is the international measure these days, the big scrotum at the base of the CN Tower."

Next, she took a swipe at the Reform Party and its infiltration by the Heritage Front in a Beaches riding "where ethnic food is like 'give me a tea biscuit and hold the raisins.' Droeg (one of the infiltrators) is a past Imperial Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, but so is David Duke; they're just politicians. They (members of the Heritage Front) flew to Libya for Khaddafi's birthday. The Reform Party had no idea who these guys were and had them looking after se-

## PREVIEW

Sheila Gostick  
with *Mourning Sickness and Pandom Order*  
The Underground  
Friday, March 6

curity at meetings. They just hired these guys as bouncers."

Even Premier Rae wasn't spared from her iconoclastic tirades. Holding up his picture, she said, "Look at him — he looks like a muppet, singing 'we're all Tories now.'"

On George Bush, she read a headline that said he has 'Deregulation Fever.' "So that's what he had in Japan. You know there was a report by someone that he had actually died. The guy that phoned it in was immediately put in a mental hospital. It's not up to CNN to check their sources."

And more on Bush: "Remember he went on TV holding up a bag of crack that someone had bought in a park across from the White House? I wonder why he had to go across the street when he could have just gone downstairs to the National Security Office?"

Then she quoted from an article on breast implants: "One implant shifted under my armpit and dragged my nipple with it." If they want big tits so much why not get these bags of toxics sewn up inside themselves? And they're not guinea pigs, no way — guinea pigs don't have tits that big! And why test on animals when you can get women that pay? Animals don't have money. Doctors are ones who had to get rid of witches in the first place."

From there, Gostick launched into a diatribe on one of her favourite



This is a portrait of American President George Bush. Bush is a favourite target of comedian Sheila Gostick, who appears at the Underground Friday night with *Mourning Sickness and Pandom Order*. Some day, you too could grow up to become famous and a target of Gostick's humour.

topics: female condoms. "They call it the reality pouch." She held up a large Labatt's ad showing mirrored images of a busty woman and a man staring at her. "That's what girls are — a pair of implants and a vaginal pouch. And you know who sponsors all the bookings in comedy clubs, don't you?" referring to the brewery giant. "That's why I'm working!"

On Mulroney spending \$5.5 million on a museum of humour in Montreal, she said, "Sure, \$5.5 million to build a dick-joke shrine!"

Gostick saved some of her best ammunition for the police: "It's like they're always stopping you on the street and asking who you are, what are you doing in this town without a car, let's see some I.D. But I'm Canadian, I don't have an identity."

She was scathing in her denuncia-

tion of the latest Metro Police budget. "He (Metro police chief Bill McCormack) has got to keep up with the latest in police chief office furniture." Gostick also targeted "Metro's Finest" spending \$2 million on a publicity campaign. "All we hear about is their morale is very low. It's like we're here to cheer up cops. Maybe we should just get concentric circles tattooed on our backs."

Regarding the demonstration by 2,000 cops in Montreal: "They're demonstrating for the right to shoot innocent Black people; but of course, it wasn't a racial incident," she says, biting.

Lastly, she commented on what to do about the dispossessed. "They'll just freeze the homeless and find a cure later."

Gostick is not a mainstream performer. She shuns reviews and pub-

licity — I took notes while hiding the pad on my lap. Nonetheless, she attracts a cult-like following which includes feminists and the politically aware. She rarely turns down a worthy benefit, perhaps at her own expense; the world of comedy has certainly not made her wealthy.

But she is a sharp dresser. When I saw her at the warehouse, she wore a brown suit with a red shirt and a silver bolo tie. Once, at the Rivoli a few years ago, she wore these wild buckskin chaps that made her look sort of like a goat, which I spilled a beer on (accidentally, of course). She never noticed.

Interestingly, her cowgirl chic predates K. D. Lang, and her Tall Girl Corral has passed into history — along with Handsome Ned, rest his soul — as one of the cornerstones of the rockabilly renaissance that hit Queen Street a few years back. It's a well-kept secret, but K.D. couldn't shine Sheila's spurs.

It will be interesting to see how she likes the Underground, one of the most absurd pieces of architecture at York — and you don't have to go far to find absurdity around here. I wonder how she'll enjoy playing to those ludicrous marble columns and the dehumanizing, empty atmosphere of a place that looks more like an edifice to Italian fascism than it does a night club.

Something tells me Sheila Gostick will be one of the better things that ever happened to York. She appears in concert this Friday night, along with *Mourning Sickness and Pandom Order* ("the official Random Order cover band") in a benefit performance for Femfest '92. It could be the best four bucks you ever spent!

arts  
15  
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# Henley's Crimes is about a typical dysfunctional family

by Krista Ellis

Someone once said that "drama is life with the dull bits taken out." If you leave the dull bits in but laugh at them anyway, you get *Crimes of the Heart*.

Written by Beth Henley, *Crimes of the Heart* is the slightly macabre story of three southern sisters who have

## THEATRE

**Crimes of the Heart**  
 written by Beth Henley  
 directed by Franco Boni  
 Studio Theatre

more than their share of skeletons in the family closet. The Magraths are not famous or notorious; they are a

normal, everyday dysfunctional family. The difference is that playwright Henley successfully holds up their dark spots for us to judge and examine.

The play is a very comical look at some of the saddest moments of our lives, delving into themes of suicide, mental and physical abuse, misogyny

and domestic violence. The characters do their fair share of wallowing in self-pity, but they also rise above it and find humour in the worst of situations.

After the show director Franco Boni was asked to describe the show in one word. After a brief moment of reflection, Boni's eyes lit up and he said: "Explosion!"

Thinking for a moment, Boni added: "There is, amidst the humour, an incredible seriousness. It's all one big release from beginning to end."

I believe Boni has found the humour in the misery which Henley intended, the humour which makes us examine our own misery a little closer, and take our own happiness a little less for granted. The three sisters draw strength from one another, not only as family, but as women. "I feel it is important for women to rely on each other, especially since they have grown up in such a misogynistic environment," said Boni.

Each of the sisters is chained down emotionally to a man, until finally, aiding each other, they find temporary escape from the manipulative, male-

dominated relationships which control their lives.

One of the more memorable scenes is between two sisters, one of whom has just tried to commit suicide by putting her head in an electric oven. Upon being discovered, she reveals why their mother hung herself and their beloved cat, to which her sister replies: "We've just got to learn to get through these bad days. It's getting to be a thing in our family."

This production was quickly paced. It was emotionally erratic, bordering on hysterics, which often made it difficult to watch.

At times this production was unbelievable — the scene where the actors recklessly ran into walls which shook, for instance. I found myself grasping the sides of my seat tightly, clicking my heels together three times and whispering "willing suspension of disbelief, willing suspension of disbelief..."

*Crimes of the Heart* doesn't have a happy ending. But although these women's lives will probably continue to be filled with sorrow, you sort of know they will always have each other.

## Verlaine and Rimbaud experience Eclipse

by Josh Marans

*Total Eclipse*, a play from the late 60s by Christopher Hampton (best known for writing the screenplay for the film *Dangerous Liaisons*) will be playing March 10 to 21 at the TSP Studio Theatre. I had a chance last week to talk to the show's director, Stafford Arima.

**Josh Marans: What is the play about?**

Stafford Arima: The play recounts this [true story] of two poets, Paul Verlaine & Arthur Rimbaud... They met in 1871; the older poet invites the younger poet to come to dinner to talk about his work because this younger poet, Rimbaud, is a genius. He's 17 years old, and he writes poetry that is so advanced for his age that this older poet is enthralled and invites him to come to Paris.

(Verlaine) finds this younger poet has new ideas about changing the world, about becoming a god. The older poet is much more traditional, and is fascinated by this kind of rebellious character.

(Verlaine) decides the only way to abandon his traditional lifestyle is to just travel all around Europe with this

## INTERVIEW

**Total Eclipse**  
 written by Christopher Hampton  
 directed by Stafford Arima  
 TSP Studio Theatre  
 March 10 to 21

younger poet and experience this rebellious life. He hopes it will make him a better poet.

So that's what the play basically does: recounts their relationship (which) over a two year period was very tumultuous, passionate and violent.

**Is it a homosexual play?**

No, no.

**But there is a homosexual relationship.**

There is a homosexual relationship between the two poets, but the play is not a play about homosexuality, about being gay in the nineteenth century. It is an element of their relationship, just like alcoholism is an element of their relationship.

Rimbaud, the young poet who is a rebel, wanted to step outside the so-

cial order. The social order was traditional, conforming, conservative, "normal." He felt that he had to step outside of this social order and do everything that would derange his senses, would derange other peoples senses.

He didn't want to be like everybody else. For him that meant as a 16 year old boy, delving very deeply into alcoholism and drugs, into... wild sex which included a homosexual relationship with this poet. But it's not a play that deals with gay issues in nineteenth century France.

**A number of people working on the show are York Theatre Students or Graduates. Does this mean that students of the program can look forward to a lot of theatre work?**

We have five designers on the show, and four of them are graduates or graduating students. I don't think that graduating from York's Theatre department — or any York Fine Arts Department — will enable or hinder you from getting a job.

When I audition people, I don't look and say, "Oh, York University! We must have that person!" If they are right for the role, if they are talented and I see something I think would be great to work with, (I would hire them). It doesn't matter if you have no experience or a lot of experience.

**Why was it important to do *Total Eclipse*?**

It was important because of the message. It deals with finding your own personal power, being able to say to yourself that I want to be a poet, and I want to live this kind of lifestyle, that I want to be a traditionalist or a non-conformist or whatever you decide is what you want to do. You should feel happy about your choices.

[Another reason] is that we all have things in our past that have happened to us, and sometimes a lot of those things can be scary enough that we actually want to block it out of [our mind]. This play has a very uplifting message: you can have a very horrible past, but you can still be a very promising adult.

## See play, relive your first date

by Julie Cavicchioli

Do you remember when you went on a date and thought the person you were with was "the right one?" *The End of Love* takes you back to that first date when you had butterflies in your stomach and could hardly focus on anything other than the person you were with.

*The End of Love* is an anti-romantic play about two sexual orientations: gay and straight. It explores the need to find and hold on to love.

The relationships which illustrate the two orientations parallel each other in terms of love, desire, sex and marriage. They illustrate the beginnings of a relationship, courtship and the initial emergence of feelings of love and lust.

The two sets of couples who seem perfect for each other are treated with humour. Lionel (Warren Sulatycky, who also wrote the play) is obnoxious, while Peggy (Ellen-Ray Hennesy), his love interest, is incredibly silly. They're a perfect match.

## THEATRE

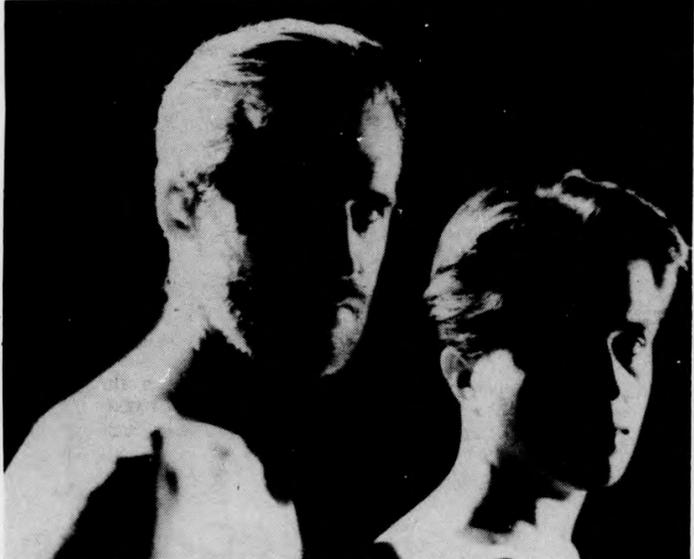
**The End of Love**  
 written by Warren Sulatycky  
 starring Edward Roy and Ellen-Ray Hennesy  
 The Theatre Centre  
 until March 8

Simon (Steve Cumyn) and Kyle (Donaid Carrier) also complement each other, one being manly and conservative, the other rough and boyish. Both couples experience the pain and joy of loving and being in love.

The actors' energy is incredible. They manage to arouse our imagination and keep it stimulated from beginning to end.

*The End of Love* shows how wonderful and devastating love can be. It reveals how desperately human beings yearn for love, and how devastating the loneliness which accompanies the end of a relationship can be.

If you appreciate alternative theatre, you must see Savage Theatre's production of *The End of Love*.



Andrew Brinks as Paul Verlaine and Theo Ward as Arthur Rimbaud in Christopher Hampton's *Total Eclipse*. According to director Stafford Arima, the play is about finding your personal power. •photo by Richard Ambrose

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# Political hypocrisy a tragedy in Tibet

by Ira Nayman

American foreign policy is driven by economic, not moral issues. When investment is threatened by a foreign government, that government is demonized in the (mostly compliant) press, as a precursor to political, and sometimes military, intervention. Conversely, if the US has a good trading relationship with a country, it is willing to overlook flagrant human rights abuses.

China's occupation of Tibet in 1959 and its on-going, brutal suppression of the country's predominantly Buddhist population (over one million people, one seventh of Tibet's population, have died) is a case in point. Despite a policy verging on genocide, both the United States and Canada have given China Most Favoured Trading Nation Status.

"Canada is willing to speak up for human rights in those countries where there is no price to pay," claims a member of the Canada-Tibet Committee in *A Song for Tibet* (part of TVO's *Human Edge* series, Tuesday, March 10). The hour-long National Film Board of Canada documentary, made with something called DLI (Dalai Lama International?), is a well-crafted, eloquent plea for action to save the Tibetan people.

Much of the documentary is narrated by the Canadian teenage daughter of Tibetans who fled the Chinese invasion. These scenes, along with family reunions, children in a refugee camp and the like, are a bit

## TELEVISION

*Human Edge: A Song for Tibet*  
TV Ontario  
Tuesday, March 10, 10 pm

emotionally manipulative.

But seamlessly woven into the personal stories are the historical and political facts. Buddhism is a non-violent, non-materialistic belief system which acknowledges "the ephemeral nature of the material world." It is shocking to see Buddhist priests being hustled out of a monastery and beaten by Chinese police.

Even more shocking is the fact that the Conservative government refused to meet with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, or even give him security as a world leader visiting Ottawa. As the documentary makes clear, China's billion person market was (and remains) more important than Tibet's 7 million survivors of occupation. Freedom is "a losing battle," one Tibetan says, "because nobody really cares what happens to Tibetans."

Had *A Song For Tibet* focused on the political struggle of the Tibetan people, it would have been a powerful document. It is a sad comment on North American audiences that so many people cannot distinguish between right and wrong ideas, but must be swayed by emotional arguments.

Either way, *A Song For Tibet* is a strong, not always hopeful, statement about the hypocrisy of Canadian and American foreign policy.



The young Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet. He appears briefly in *The Human Edge* episode *A Song for Tibet*, which chronicles China's brutal invasion and occupation of that small country.

## Nicer and Smoother CONCERT

by Jason Braithwaite

Nice and Smooth  
The Concert Hall  
Friday, February 14

So I get to the concert and I think to myself, "this is going to be hype." Why? Well of all the concerts I've been to this year, this is the first one where the stage has been decorated with more than just a sign on the turntables. A huge painting of Nice and Smooth served as a backdrop. Real nice. It reminded me of the old adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover."

Don't get me wrong. Hip hop artists Greg Nice and Smooth are every bit the showmen. But the first act, Tim Dog, failed to get the crowd jumping like say, Fu-Schnickens (openers for the Leaders of the New School) did. His show was a bit short (almost an opening, opening act). And the crowd wasn't too familiar with his repertoire, except for the ever popular rap "Fuck Compton."

After sitting, or rather, standing through Tim Dog, I was ready to see Nice and Smooth. I must admit the wait between the showtime printed on the ticket and the actual showtime wasn't too long. Producer Ron Nelson deserves the credit.

They played some slammin' jams

between the two acts. From this point on, the show went downhill.

Throughout the performance (which included, "How To Flow," "Sometimes I Rhyme Slow," "Sex, Sex, Sex" and the kickin' "Hip Hop Junkies"), Nice and Smooth had a problem with the mikes. When the mikes were working properly, the music overpowered the vocals. If I didn't know the words, I wouldn't have known what the hell they were saying.

My biggest problem with the show is the only point where I can put blame where it counts, on Nice and Smooth. They have an entourage that includes five dancers, four singers and about five other people on stage who do nothing but walk around. It was so confusing at times, I didn't know where Nice and Smooth were!

Hopefully, the next time Nice and Smooth do a show, they'll consider the dimensions of the stage.

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CENTENNIAL COLLEGE

# Blacks devalued by manipulation of images

by Yvonne Vera-Jose

There is nothing as comforting as the photographic space, or as ideologically charged.

Film, the continuous photograph, has transformed our consciousness of images. By presenting images as overconstructed, already defined, film beguiles us into intellectual acquiescence. The manipulation of the filmic space is crucial in relation to Africans: a generation has derived its image of Africa from watching Tarzan. Although today's films do not present a picture as absurd as that, they are misleading in a way that may be more pernicious because it is less obvious.

## Melting faces

In Michael Jackson's new video, *Black or White*, Macaulay Culkin blows his father into space with an amplified guitar. He lands in Africa, still sitting on his sofa. "Africa" is signaled by lion after lion after lion... Five "Africans" approach with raised shields and spears.

Is this, by any chance, a traditional lion hunt?

The "hunt" turns into a dance with Jackson, dressed in billowing white shirt, appearing amid the "Africans," singing, "It don't matter if you're Black or White." Ironically, when two babies (White and Black) sit on top of the planet later in the video, it is the White child who holds the "world" in the palm of his hands.

It appears that all "other" groups are represented through dance (or some other form of "primitivity"), while America is represented through technology, from the opening sequence to a highway scene to the melting faces. In the highway scene, an Indian woman enacts a traditional dance, along with Jackson, while standing on the centre line of a busy road.

The "melting faces" foreground their constructed status to the point that all pretense is finally given up, and we are returned to the studio where the manipulations of the images we have just witnessed occurs. The harmony of the faces is shown to be only a technological feat, irrevocably undercutting the song's message.

In the sequence of faces, none is of very dark skin. Jackson, whose fame partly rests on a series of facial and skin transformations, lacks credibility in advocating the idea that colour is of no consequence. *Black or White* is a video which contradicts and denies the truth it pretends to affirm.

## Cannibalism

*Silence of the Lambs* was one of the most talked-about films last year. The cannibalistic character of Dr. Hannibal Lecter fascinated audiences with its portrait of an intellectual, civilized European mind gradually overtaken by its dark underside. The theme is familiar from Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

The ending of *Silence of the Lambs* indicates its racist construct. Lecter escapes his cage... chews off a policeman's tongue... borrows his skin... and escapes to the Caribbean!

## ANALYSIS

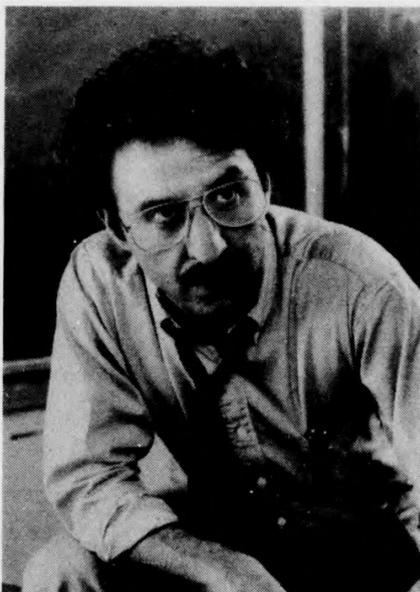
The portrayal of Black people in films not specifically about Blacks has an insidious way of promoting negative, stereotypical images

In the Caribbean, now clad in a loose, creamy matching outfit, Lecter puts the phone down, pulls a hat over his eyes, slips his hands into his pockets and slides away into perfect anonymity. Walking with a new freedom, an aura of long-delayed homecoming, he blends with the mass of black faces that suddenly overwhelm the screen.

Throughout the film, Clarice's world is contrasted with that of Lecter. She is free while he is caged, lawful while he is an outcast. The world of tuxedos, ceremoniousness, order, reward, duty and officiousness which forms the background as Clarice receives Lecter's final call contrasts with the Caribbean world Lecter now inhabits.

Populated by an amorphous black crowd, Lecter's world is depicted as dark and cannibalistic (he salivates self-assuredly after his next victim). Lecter is where he belongs. His subconscious coincides with a fitting external image. The translucence of all previous filmic images that dominated the last two hours is abandoned, and the film quality dwindles to a trembling haze — I mean halt. The smouldering mirage-creating Caribbean sun is an overreaching metaphor.

The shocking aspect of this message is its failure to shock. The image-maker has anticipated his audience. The final images and conclusion of *Silence of the Lambs* assume an au-



Ron Silver as lawyer Alan Dershowitz in *Reversal of Fortune*. The film starts with a plea for justice for Blacks, but the innocent Blacks facing the death penalty aren't even seen, only their fearless white lawyer.



Andy MacDowell and Gerard Depardieu create their own romantic history in the film *Green Card*. The use of Africa as a running joke in the film is a subtle and insidious method of demeaning Black experience and African, history.

dience that shares its myth about Blackness — the trait of cannibalism.

be "recreated," and that it is the opposite of whatever is whole.

## Artificial Africa

The movie *Green Card* opens with a Black boy frantically beating on a drum. The drumming takes us through some crowded market scenes, then into a cafe called "Africa." Gerard Depardieu marries Andy MacDowell to get a coveted Green Card, then is explained away for much of the film as being in Africa shooting elephants.

Shooting elephants?

When Immigration starts to suspect that the "husband" is a fake, and that Africa doesn't exist, the two accomplices get together and create, through the manipulation of photographic space, an "Africa."

Dressed in Khaki safari wear and carrying all the paraphernalia of a hunter, Depardieu goes into MacDowell's greenhouse. They duck behind leaves and, with the assistance of an instant camera, produce pictures intended to convince officials that this is Africa. It's supposed to be comedy, but it doesn't work.

Depardieu eventually gets a job in the "Africa" cafe while in America. When off-screen, he inhabits an imaginary territory (because he never really goes to Africa). He also inhabits another Africa in the greenhouse, an Africa further transformed by the instant photograph into a photographic space that Immigration officials now witness in the album, and which we witness through the film camera's projected screen image...

Which space does Depardieu really inhabit?

*Black or White*, *Green Card* and *Silence of the Lambs*, though diverse in their subject matter, have each chosen to manipulate the image of Africans. Each reduces a complex and diverse people into a monolith of cannibalism, simplistic animal imagery or other "primitive urges." Each reinforces the idea that Africa can

## Erotic space

Perhaps the most persistent image is that of Africa as erotic space. *Out of Africa* and *The Sheltering Sky* are held as achievements of sensuality; in the movie *Sahara*, actress Brooke Shields is inspired to a passion as hot as the desert itself.

The main imperative of these films is the exploration of White sexuality in a tropical, exotic landscape. Like *Out of Africa*, most of these films sidestep the harsher realities of colonialism.

*Reversal of Fortune*, a movie whose dominant theme has nothing to do with Black Americans, still finds it necessary to exploit the idea of Blackness. When we first meet lawyer Alan Dershowitz, he insists on his commitment to two Black clients who face the death penalty even though they are innocent.

Other than a single photocopied picture seen in the background, however, these Blacks do not appear in the film. After the first half hour, this theme is suddenly dropped. If it couldn't have been sustained, it should have been omitted.

One of the most memorable moments in *Awakenings* is that of a fat Black woman in a blue dress who is screaming hysterically and rolling her eyes; unfortunately, this is the only image of a Black person in the film, other than a medical attendant. The Black woman is used for comic effect, while the other patients are used to evoke sentiment and lead us to ponder questions of existence.

Viewers need to become more conscious of narrative and cinematic techniques which unfairly manipulate the image of "other" groups. Sometimes the least obvious films are the most exploitive.

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# The best from The Joker

by Marcus Parmegiani

In a world where bands come and go faster than your average big ol' jet airliner, the Steve Miller Band's quarter century of existence qualifies its members as significant veterans. If you're into psychedelic-era rock and roll, their recent compilation *The Best of 1968-1973* presents a lesser known side of the Steve Miller Band that's well worth discovering.

With 19 songs, the CD is chock full of auditory delights from the band's first eight albums. Opening with the hit single "The Joker," the familiarity quickly fades as the compilation brings you the songs which

## MUSIC

**The Steve Miller Band  
The Best of 1968-1973  
Capitol Records**

first earned the band its fame.

Tunes like "Going To Mexico," the seriously psychedelic "Song for Our Ancestors" and the bluesy "Little Girl" display the roots of Miller's present, more popular music.

Although the title is somewhat bland and unoriginal, the album does contain the band's best, which fortunately was compiled by Miller himself. The songs are easily placed in their era, providing a glimpse of the Steve Miller Band's broad range of

musical influences.

The booklet provided with the CD gives an extensive history of the band, naming the albums which have been released since 1967 — yet the specific albums each track came from are mysteriously missing. If the purpose of a greatest hits album is to provide a base from which to indulge in a band's music, details like these are essential.

Nonetheless, for third-generation psychedelic rock listeners and baby boomers alike, *The Best of 1968-1973* gives us the Steve Miller Band in its down-to-earth, unpretentious glory, a refreshing contrast to today's largely prefabricated pop music.

# Siouxsie decides she loves Toronto

by Eric Alper

In 1976 in London, singer Susan Dallon and drummer Sid Vicious began touring as Siouxsie and the Banshees. They began as Sex Pistols fans; shortly after the band's formation, Vicious became a Pistol himself. Fuck you, he probably said, needle in hand.

In the end, the Banshees outlived their fandom and the Pistols, going on to spend a few years in the avant-punk forefront of British rock. Fuck you, Siouxsie might have said, swastika armband in hand.

Performing in 1992 at the Concert Hall, Siouxsie hasn't changed. Part glam (fetish clothing and fishnet with peek-a-boo plastic bra), she is still the role model for a thousand bored middle-class girls who want to rebel.

Supported by the Wonder Stuff, this looked to be one of the biggest "alternative" concerts of the year. Hopefully, it won't, because that'll mean a long 10 months ahead.

Coming on just before 11 o'clock, The Wonder Stuff heated the crowd with their quirky lyrics and guitar riffs intact. At one point, singer Miles Hunt used a megaphone, a la REM's Michael Stipe. As if he needed to be



How does a grown man get a name like Budgie? He joins Siouxsie and becomes a Banshee. • photo by Eric Alper

heard! The Stuff are always fun to see in concert — they are so attracted to North American audiences that we could probably piss on them and they'd laugh it off.

So now I'm down in the pit to take pictures for my *Excal* photographing debut. Someone offers me \$25 for the press pass I have on my jacket. The girl beside him offers me \$50. They both look like Siouxsie, which should do wonders for their love life. The haggling stops with one dirty look from security. That was the most en-

## CONCERT

**Siouxsie and the Banshees  
The Concert Hall  
Thursday, February 25**

joyable part of the evening, which should tell you something.

It wasn't that it was a horrible show. It's just that...man, the band looked so old. Where was the young, vibrant, "you don't like it, there's the exit — fuck off" attitude from 1977 I hear so much of?

The first 15 minutes of being sandwiched between the stage and the audience gave me an overwhelming sense of fear — which I liked. Kids were being crushed and security were doing "waterfalls" with plastic bottles to keep them from dehydrating.

When it all settled down, the excitement turned into an uninterested response from band and audience. After the opening instrumental, I took a spot on the side, watching guitarist Budgie and original member Steve Severin pose heavy-metal like onstage while Siouxsie tried to wring any emotion out of the audience. However, the audience was left standing like pillars in the rock and roll sands of time. Cliche city, hunh?

I could write "the audience stared at the band the entire night," but that would give the mistaken impression they were mystified or enthralled. The fact is, they looked bored, like they were thinking "I paid \$25 for this?"

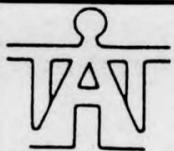
Neither danceable nor lyrically interesting, the Banshees walked through the self-indulgent, monotonous set like they hated Toronto or something. "Take The Money and Run" comes to mind, doesn't it?

"Peek-a-Boo" got people up and dancing, as cuts from *A Kiss In The Dreamhouse* and *Juju* didn't. Oh well, you can't win them all.

Yes, she did "Kiss Them For Me" and "Fear (Of The Unknown)," both off her latest album, *Superstition*, but they sounded remarkably like the originals. I think the taped drums and background vocals had something to do with it. The eerie "Israel" was the band's finest moment. Still, two encores and an hour-long set did not convey the brooding and fantastical world-views the bands' history would lead you to expect.

Siouxsie's tale on record is a remarkable evolution which serves as a reminder that punk was always more a question of daring than a set of conventions. However, on this night, song after song with one or two chirpy lines from her were too much to handle.

Yes, she spoke to us, and didn't slag us off either. We're obviously on her good side now. The problem is, she was more interesting when she told us all to fuck right off.



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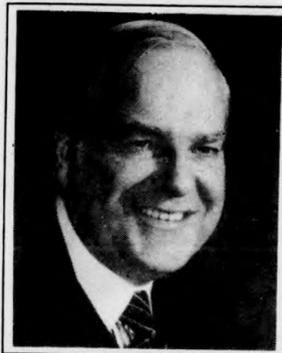
The Toronto Art Therapy Institute and the Institute for Arts and Human Development at the Lesley College Graduate School in Cambridge Mass. have completed arrangements for a co-operative program of studies leading to a masters degree in expressive arts therapies. Students and graduates of the Toronto Art Therapy Institute 2 year diploma program, are eligible to apply to the Lesley College Masters degree program in the Expressive Art Therapies where their graduate-level training at the Toronto Art Therapy Institute will be given credit as part of the Lesley Masters program.

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Siouxsie Sioux struts her stuff on a stage not entirely unlike the one on which she recently performed in Toronto. The good news was she doesn't seem to hate the city any more. The bad news was it didn't help her performance.

## Campus events calendar

The **DanceEast Young Company**, a group of 12 to 18 year-olds based in Moncton, New Brunswick, are visiting York this week. They will rehearse with Danny Grossman, then perform in the Burton Auditorium Friday, March 6 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$8, \$6 for seniors and students. For more information, contact the Dance Department, 736-5137.

Saturday, March 7 has been declared **A Bronte Day** by the Atkinson College Department of English, in conjunction with the Office of the Master. Three talks and a reading will be given from 2 to 5 pm in the new Harry Crowe Room, Atkinson 109. From 5 to 7 pm a Bronte movie extravaganza will be held in the Harry Crowe Room. A buffet supper with entertainment, including Jane Urquhart reading from her novel *Changing Heaven*, will take place in the Harry Leith Room, Atkinson 004a from 7:30 to 11 pm. Admission is free.



The work of **Lynne Cohen**, one of the leading photographers of her generation, will be displayed in the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) until April 26. The

exhibition of large format black and white photographs, taken all across North America, brings together almost two decades of her work. An essay on the artist's work by Montreal art historian and critic Johanne Lamoureux will be published in conjunction with the exhibition. For more information, call 736-5169.

The IDA Gallery, located in the main lobby of the Fine Arts building hosts an exhibition of the work of **design students from York's Department of Visual Arts** until Friday, March 6.

A **SCUM** (Student Composers of Unpopular Music) concert is not a grotesque collection of music and musicians, but an exciting assortment of creative people performing new music. If you're interested in non-conventional use of sound, strange instrumentations and bizarre improvisations, go to Dacary Hall, 050 McLaughlin College, Thursday, March 5 at 7 pm. For more information, call the Department of Music, 736-5186.

York University's acclaimed **Wind Symphony** will give a concert on Sunday, March 8 in Dacary Hall at 3 pm. Directed by music professor Bram Smith, Jr., the concert will include "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Variations on a Korean Folk Song," and works by Percy Grainger and Michael Sweeney. Admission is free. For more information, call the Music Department, 736-5186.

## Concert calendar

That's them in the corner. That's them in the spotlight, losing their religion. Trying to keep up with the concerts? Well, you've come to the right place. This week's concert calendar has bands that guarantee satisfaction.



**Montreal's Bootsauce** is back with their second long player, entitled, *Bull*. This band plays each gig like it's the last one they'll ever do. Lee's Palace will be jammed March 25 and 26. Tickets are \$13.50. If their performances promoting the *Brown* album were any indication, don't wait to buy tickets at the door — you'll be incredibly disappointed.

Electric guitars, tone-altering hardware, sugar-coated vocal harmonies, 2-boy, 2-girl lineup. No it's not ABBA, but Britain's **Lush**. Their ever-expanding portfolio of excitable live reviews and enthusiastic audience of Stone Roses lookalikes should ensure that *Spooky* sells in stores despite recession-busting activity. Friday, March 20 at the Opera House, 735 Queen Street East. \$13.50

Pink Floyd, Max Q and Jethro Tull are all bands whose "fans" often say, "Yeah, I really like him." Add **James** to the list. Their separation from Factory Records was the best thing that could have happened to them. Their big break-

advance, \$15.00 at the door.

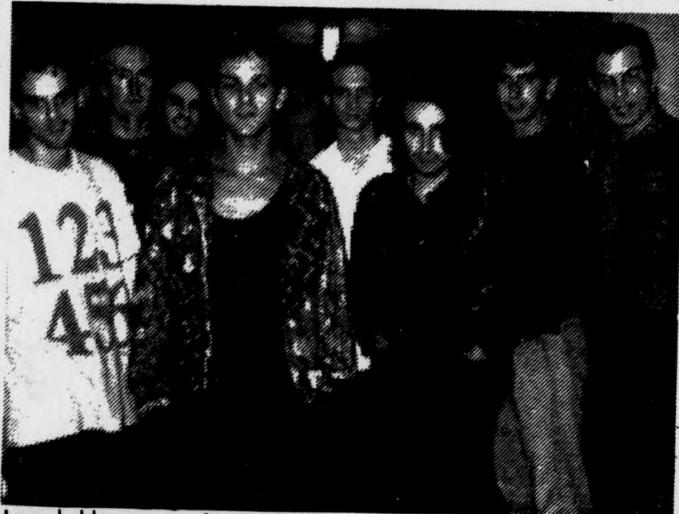
He has been called America's best young white blues guitarist, a powerful title considering he's an albino. It's **Johnny Winter**, "alive and well" and still playing "nothin' but the blues." He'll be performing at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, Thursday March 5. Tickets are \$22.50.

single, but his heart appears to be in thrall to his other band, **Mr. Bungle**. The Californians are a frightening mixture of George Clinton's P-Funk, Bad Brains' hardcore, and post logical music, never remaining faithful to any one for long enough to be fully pinned down. Monday, March 30 at the Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne Street. \$15 advance, \$18 at the door.

**Pearl Jam's** concert on April 4, has been changed from The Opera House to the Concert Hall. Tickets bought for the Opera House will be honored. Fans will be that much happier, as they have an even higher place to stage dive into unsuspecting little people. "Not just the founders of Seattle's Long Hair Club for Men. These guys are also clients," says *Spin Magazine*. \$11.50 advance, \$13.00 at the door.

Warner recording artist **Jim Carroll** will do his stuff with Groovy Religion, Saturday March 21 at the El Mocambo, 464 Spadina Avenue. Literary and rock figure Carroll brings his debut spoken-word album *Praying Mantis* to Toronto. Recorded live at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of New York's poetry scene, it is part confessional, part stand-up routine, part hologram of the poet's soul. \$10.00 advance, \$11.00 at the door.

With a rumoured half a million dollars spent on their latest album, **My Bloody Valentine** comes to North America to hopefully recoup some of it. A glorious review in *Rolling Stone* and *N.M.E.* and a devoted following make the band leaders in the alternative scene. Monday, March 9 at the Opera House. Tickets are \$13.50.



James holds a press conference to introduce its newest member, Eric Alper (third from the left). "We're not sure what role I'll play," Alper admitted, "But I have the longest hair."

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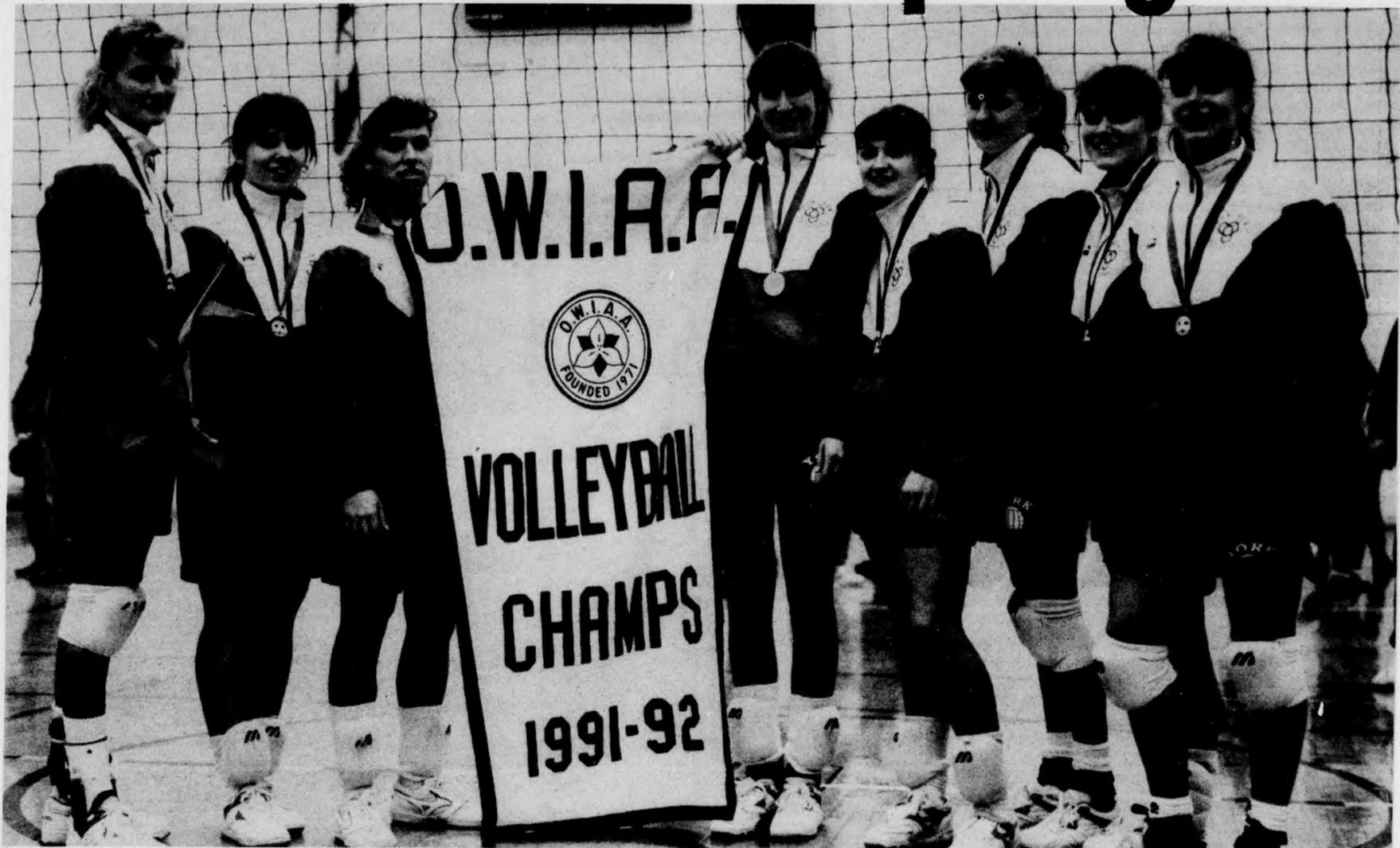
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# Yeowomen triumph again!



MEMBERS OF THE 1991-92 VOLLEYBALL YEOWOMEN SQUAD pose with their latest trophy, courtesy of a decisive 3-set victory over UofT in the final of the Ontario championships last weekend. From left to right, Mary van Soelen, Amanda Agnew, Cheryl Guay, Sue LeSage, Vicki Gallagher, Kendra Irwin, Linda Garrat and Sue Craig. Missing from the photo is teammate Bente Rasmussen and coach Merv Mosher. Van Soelen and Craig were named to the tournament All-Star team while Guay walked away with tournament Most Valuable Player honours. Kendra Irwin was named the OWIAA East division rookie of the year. photo by Michele Boesener

by Riccardo Sala

If their season was like a well-ordered storybook, then the volleyball Yeowomen's successful defence of their Ontario Women's Interuniversity Athletic Association

## sports

review • profiles • rankings • schedules

title was the exclamation mark at the end of the story — a three-set win over University of Toronto in Sunday's gold medal match, stamped

out with the authority of a Hemingway on a manual typewriter.

York's championship-winning performance capped off an almost perfect weekend for the Yeowomen.

On Friday, York defeated Guelph 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

On Saturday, the Yeowomen worked themselves up to a two-game lead in the semifinals against the Ottawa Gee-Gees, 15-3, 15-2. In the third set, York toyed with Ottawa before delivering the coup de grace, a 15-8 victory that decided the match.

That victory advanced York to the Sunday final against the Blues, who arrived there with a three-set win over McMaster.

The Yeowomen started off the final in good form, winning the first two

sets 15-7, 15-8.

It was the third and deciding set that showed York's true mettle. The Yeowomen played catchup for most of the game, falling behind four points at one time. That augured good for the big crowd on hand, largely made up of Toronto boosters who cheered their team's every move.

At around the ten point mark, the Yeowomen moved into high gear, steamrolling to a 15-13 victory to take the set, match and their third straight OWIAA championship.

Individual honours for York followed, including the selection of Mary van Soelen and captain Susan Craig to the tournament All-Star team.

Yeowoman Cheryl Guay was chosen the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Toronto coach Kristine Drakich spoke about the Sunday loss afterwards.

"In the first and second games we (UofT) couldn't do much after eight points. In the third game we had it but we made a couple of unforced errors," Drakich said.

York coach Merv Mosher spoke afterwards.

"We played well in the first two games, not letting UofT get started. Then UofT picked up a notch and we relaxed a bit. We were worried in that third set, especially because we didn't have any subs," Mosher said.

(One York player missing from the lineup was Kendra Irwin, the OWIAA East division rookie of the year, injured in practice Wednesday.)

Mosher also noted that court perception affected York's performance in the third set, York serving in the direction of the stands instead of being able to use the wall as a visual reference point as they had in the second set.



SUE LESAGE watches as a York teammate goes for a UofT ball enroute to their 3-set victory over the Blues for the OWIAA title. The Yeowomen will have little time for celebration as they prepare to host the CIAU championships at Tait in one week's time photo by Michele Boesener

Smart money, which had been predictably correct over the weekend, had foreseen a York-UofT showdown in the finals, with York favoured to take it all.

Derbies between the two clubs over the regular season had seen Toronto come out on the wrong end

of the stick on all but one occasion.

The volleyball Yeowomen have added another banner to the wall space at Tait McKenzie. In two weeks time, the Yeowomen will be back on homecourt as they host the CIAU National volleyball championships the weekend of March 13-15.

## B-ball Yeomen out of title hunt after loss to Laurentian

by Riccardo Sala

Damage was a four-letter word spelled Hahn as the basketball Yeomen lost 99-91 at Laurentian to a Voyageur squad led by brothers Norm and Brad Hahn.

The Friday night loss in the Ontario University Athletic Association Central division semi-final also ended the season for York.

"We played pretty well, but the two Hahn brothers, Norm and Brad, played very well. Between them they had eight 3-pointers (in the first half)," York coach Bob Bain said Sunday.

The Yeomen fell behind as much as 20 points during the game.

"We came back fighting, within four points, but we missed some layups, some uncontested shots at the end of regulation time," Bain said.

York centre Lyndon Philip had a good game, netting 29 points, fol-

lowed by teammate Clive Anderson with 25 and Mark Bellai with 20.

The toughest assignment of the night went to guard Marc Gardner, whose job it was to shadow Norm Hahn. Despite the Voyageur's ace showing on the backboard, Bain felt that Gardner performed well under the circumstances.

"So that's the season," Bain mused. While York sank towards the end of the year, the Yeomen still finished with a 9-6 regular season record, a considerable improvement over last year's below .500 finish.

Bain is confident about next year. York ace Clive Anderson is the only Yeoman the team is losing to eligibility, so Bain is looking forward to a largely returning squad with one more year of experience under its belt, and hopefully a shot at the Central title.

# Pats at home for OUAA championship

by Josh Rubin

Lesser teams might have collapsed under the pressure.

This weekend, however, one game away from elimination, the UQTR (Universite de Quebec a Trois Rivieres) Patriotes thumped the University of Toronto Blues by a combined score of 14-4 to take their best of three OUAA East final 2-1.

With the series victory for the Patriotes comes a berth in the national tournament and a chance to defend their CIAU title the weekend of March 14 and 15.

The Patriotes' home-ice victories this weekend came on the heels of a heartbreaking double overtime 5-4 loss at Varsity arena last Thursday.

In the matchup Thursday, the Blues came back from a 4-2 third period

deficit for the electrifying win. Still, an apparent goal that would have given the Patriotes a commanding 5-3 lead with seven minutes to go was called back by referee Ralph Sparks, who claimed he'd blown the whistle before the puck entered the net.

Sparks, however, was about the only one in attendance who actually heard the whistle (if it was blown at all). At least one reporter present was disgusted, if not surprised, by the call.

In fairness, though, the Patriotes played nowhere near their capacity in the first game. In front of over 2,000 screaming partisan fans in Trois Rivieres, however, they looked much more like defending national champs.

Next up for the Patriotes is a one game matchup with OUAA West champions the Laurier Golden Hawks

for the league championship. In a delicious stroke of irony, the Patriotes will be hosting the game, which will determine bragging rights for the very league which turfed them out for next season.

After the Ontario contest, which functions as essentially an exhibition match (both division champions qualify for the Canadian championships) it's off to the National's '92 tournament, where the Patriotes hope to win their second consecutive CIAU title and third national crown ever.

Tickets for both semifinal matches and the final can be bought through the Nationals '92 hotline at 872-5000.

The semifinals take place the afternoon of Saturday March 14, while Sunday's final faces off at 1:00 pm.



YORK'S DEXTER JOHN in the 60m sprints at the Last Chance qualifiers at UofT last Friday. No additional York athletes qualified for the Nationals here. York's main challenge right now is the provincial championships this weekend at Windsor photo by Rob Cabral

## Yeomen strong, women iffy heading into Ontario finals

by Riccardo Sala

Right next door to the Motor City, the University of Windsor will be hosting another group of motors when the provincial track and field championships take place there this weekend.

For York, the story there will be as it has been all season — a men's team capable of moving past University of Toronto for a second place finish, while the Yeowomen will have to content themselves with a young team that will likely not equal last year's silver medal at the championships.

Those year long results were echoed in the last meet of the regular season, the Last Chance Qualifiers, last Friday at UofT.

The Yeoman 4x200m relay team finished first. In the 300m race, York's Kevin Benner was third, while teammate Corey Burnett won the 600m event.

York's Doug Wood won the pole vault with a mark of 5.50m.

In the women's section, York's Angie Coon finished third in the 60m hurdles.

No Yeomen or Yeowomen not already qualified for the Nationals did so at UofT.

Going into Windsor, the Yeowomen are the fifth ranked Ontario team, behind Windsor, Western, UofT and Queen's.

"We're (the Yeowomen) hoping to beat Queen's and finish fourth. That's realistic," York assistant coach

Vickie Croley said.

The Yeomen meanwhile are looking forward to improving on last year's results.

"The men's championship will be between Windsor, UofT and us at this

point. Windsor is untouchable, but we do have the talent and the depth to beat UofT. It's just going to depend on individual performances, plus our relays are going to have to come up big," Croley added.

## Hoop-a-Thon at Tait raises money for Huntington disease research

Special to Excalibur

Toronto high school students put their basketball savvy to work at Tait McKenzie for a higher cause last Saturday, taking part in the second annual Metro Toronto Hoop-a-Thon to fight Huntington Disease.

Huntington disease is a hereditary brain disorder affecting one in one thousand Canadians. It is a degenerative disease which over the course of 10-25 years leads to total incapacitation and eventually death. There is no cure for Huntington's and no effective treatment.

The Saturday basketball event is one way that the Huntington Society of Canada is trying to raise awareness for its cause.

Students were selected from 55 schools, representing nine Metro area boards of education. These representatives made it to the Saturday meet after being selected last fall and earlier in the winter.

The top male and female scorer from each school was chosen, as well as the top fundraisers, to represent

their schools at York.

Taking the overall title on the boy's side was Brian Heany from St. Michael's College School, who successfully shot in 117 baskets in five minutes.

In the girl's competition the top scorer was Sacred Heart's Kelly Bolland.

Angelo Arciero, a Downsview Secondary school student, won a MIPPS computer for his fundraising effort, which netted \$350 on behalf of Huntington disease research.

The top fundraising school was Martingrove Collegiate Institute, which raised \$2400.

The adults hit the courts in the afternoon. Teams of five players each shot for two minutes. A team from Tridel raised over \$2800 in that event through pledges, winning the first prize of a Skybox date to see the Blue Jays.

Special thanks goes to Al Scragg, assistant coach of the Yeowoman basketball team, for his help Saturday.

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# Anderson leaving with Osgoode degree, basketball memories under belt Bidding adieu to a great university career

23 sports  
caliber march 4, 1992

by Mike Raycraft

The 1991-92 school year should be one to remember for York basketball ace Clive Anderson.

Not only is the diligent student athlete weeks away from completing a degree in law at Osgoode, but with his CIAU eligibility expired, he will have worn a Yeoman basketball jersey for the last time.

Though soon to be departing with diploma in hand and sneakers hung up, Anderson does not bid adieu to York University without first having left his mark.

On the court his exploits for the past two seasons speak for themselves: twice a first team Ontario University Athletic Association All-Star, a career high 46 points earlier this season against UofT, York's leading rebounder this year, and one of the OUAA's top scorers for the past two seasons.

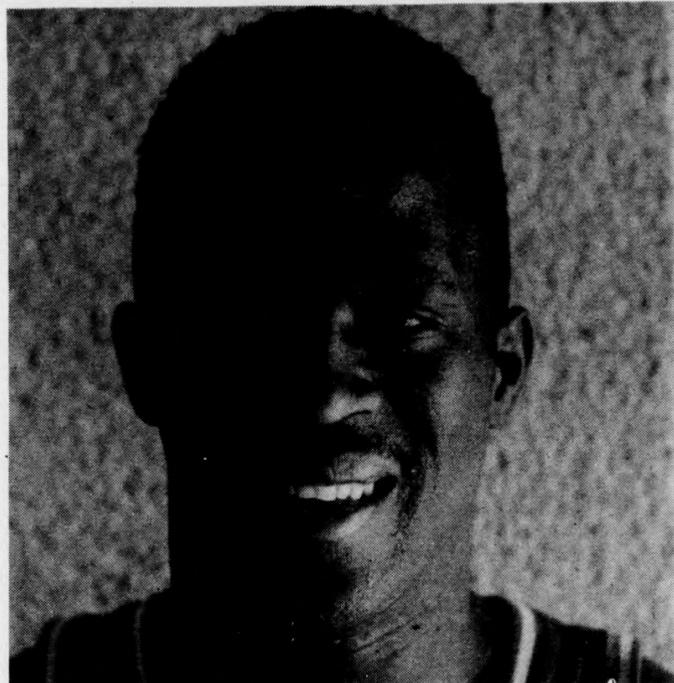
In the classroom it's been a similar story — maybe even a better one.

While it is more than likely he will be remembered first for his athletic feats, Anderson has no illusions as to why he has attended York.

"I'm not a basketball player, I'm a student who plays some basketball," Anderson says.

"As a player I do alright, some games yes, some games no, but I'm a student first and then I'll go out and play. I enjoy that and to me that's where it ends."

Anderson continues to drive towards academic excellence. By passing his forthcoming bar exams he can add his law degree to a list of honours that include being named



CLIVE ANDERSON is leaving some pretty big shoes to fill on the Yeoman basketball team. The two time OUAA All-Star believes however that the new crop of York players, such as Wilton Hall, OUAA's Central rookie of the year, as well as Marc Gardner and Lyndon Philips will more than hold their own and contribute a good part to any future York success photo by Michele Boesener

1989 Acadia University student of the year — the same year he was named to the Atlantic University Athletic Association All-Star team.

In Halifax, Anderson majored in French and did a double minor in Spanish and Political Science while studying there. Besides these two languages (his french assisted by a year of study in the south of France), Anderson also has a working knowl-

edge of German and Chinese.

But Anderson doesn't attribute his success to mere talent. He says he relies on commitment and a strong work ethic.

"I may not be the best at everything I do, but I will work hard. You know, we don't have to change our work ethic from one thing to the next. If you apply the same work ethic to, say, studying and basketball, and if it's a

good work ethic, you will find you can become successful at anything."

Deeply committed to his family, it is not surprising that such values have emanated from within the home.

"My mother has been a driving force behind everything I've done," Anderson says. "I strive to succeed knowing she has put a lot into what I am today. I couldn't afford to let her or my family down."

A graduate of Westthumber Collegiate in Rexdale, Anderson arrived in Canada from his native Jamaica when he was 11, one of nine brothers and sisters. He took up basketball at 14.

Given that Anderson's academic and athletic achievements are exceptional, they are not out of the ordinary at York. He is among a large number of York students, past and present, who have excelled combining both studies and varsity sports. Unfortunately, the student-athlete label is still often misjudged.

"People are surprised at times when an athlete can combine the academics and the athletics and be good at both of them. You know, stereotypical jocks don't have any marks, they only come and playsports and don't get a degree after their four or five years. It's ridiculous to assume that until you know the people involved in those activities," Anderson said.

Aside from the occasional game of pickup, there will be no future in basketball for Anderson. Rather, he envisions himself one day working for the United Nations while continuing his pursuit of higher education.

"I feel as if I've set my goals realistically, never thinking a profes-

sional career in basketball was for me. I know my limitations. I mean I have some skills and all, but I know plenty of players, guys who didn't make it, who are more talented than I am. I'm grateful for having had the chance to play, because I love the game, but it's time to get on with what I want to do."

All that appears left for Anderson to do now is to shake a few hands and wish friends and teammates alike a fond farewell.

"I've had some great times here at York. I've made some lasting friendships as well as having enjoyed the guys I've played with. I'm still going to come out and check out some of their games. I want to wish everyone the very best, not so much in basketball, but in life," Anderson said.

The York ace will be leaving a team he has confidence in — especially with the recent performance of first-year players Marc Gardner, Lyndon Philips and Wilton Hall. Hall, a York guard, was named the OUAA Central division rookie of the year.

"It was absolutely wonderful, just seeing them come in and taking charge," Anderson said.

With this group, and others who should be joining the team next year, Anderson feels that York will be able to improve on this season, one which was ended only recently with a loss to Laurentian in the Central division semifinals.

"If York fans could have seen that last game, they would've have been proud. We played our guts out. We didn't want to lose, but we played hard, we played well," Anderson said.

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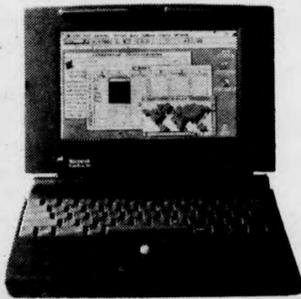
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE YORK UNIVERSITY MACEDONIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION** will be holding a membership meeting March 16, 1-5 p.m. Room 307 Student Centre. All Macedonians are encouraged to join. Membership is free.

**CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME/MYALGIC ENCEPHALOMYELITIS SUFFERERS**-Hundreds of volunteers needed to participate in research surveys. York University. Phone 466-9613 or drop in Room 311 B.S.B., Wed/Thurs.

**IS YOUR LIFE A MESS AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHY?** Do you have problems with relationships? Drugs or alcohol? Gaps in your memory? Are you self-destructive? LIFE CAN BE BETTER! It is possible you were sexually abused. If you want to talk or just listen Tuesdays at 5 pm Women's Centre, 328 Student Centre, ext. 33484, starting February 11, 1992.

**TEEN SUICIDE**-Telephone interviews requested with males/females who attempted suicide in their teens for a sociology thesis. Please call 421-1354. If no answer, please leave number on answering machine. Will return call as soon as possible. Please don't delay. I want to know your story. Confidentiality assured.

**GOING THROUGH DIVORCE, SEPARATION or BREAK UP?** Need a friend? Call Violet at 665-5791.

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**YORK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** invites all to take part in our programs. Please stop by our office in Ste. 453 of the Student Centre. Phone 736-5369.

**ARE YOU TRYING TO COMPLETE A UNIVERSITY PROGRAM?** Are you having difficulty because of long-term mental health problems that are interfering with your studies? Please call Enid at the Counselling and Development Centre on campus. For more information about York's Support Network. 736-5297. Strictly confidential and no charge.

**PEN FRIENDS** - Over 280,000 members in 186 countries. For more information, send self-addressed stamped envelope to: International Pen Friends, P.O. Box 37031, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4J8.

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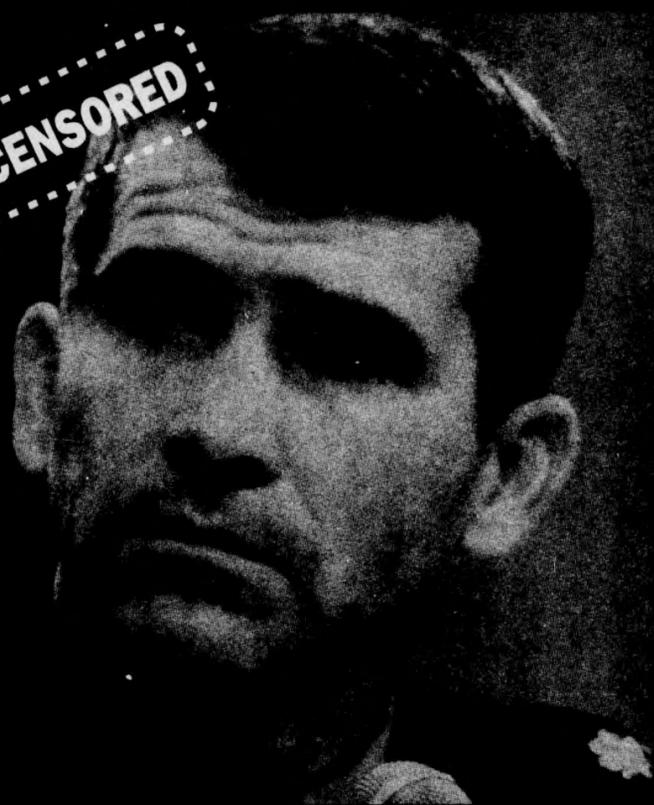
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