

excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, will be in Toronto on Monday and Tuesday, June 18-19.

Mandela who has long been recognized as the leading force for black equality in South Africa, had been imprisoned for 27 years by the apartheid regime and the ANC exiled from South Africa. He was released earlier this year. Recently, he embarked on an international speaking tour to rally moral and

financial support for the ANC. He is committed to continuing sanctions against South Africa's national government and to bringing the ANC back inside South Africa.

Mandela will be arriving at Nathan Philips Square at 3:30pm Monday to receive the key to the city from the mayor and speak to an expected crowd of 100,000 supporters. Mandela will also be receiving an honorary degree from York University according to ANC sources. Afterwards, Mandela will lead a parade to Queen's Park which

will be followed by a second address delivered at 6:00pm and an evening of entertainment and speakers.

On Tuesday, June 19 at 1:00pm, Mandela will speak to students at Central Technical School at Bloor and Bathurst.

On Monday, CHRY will provide on-going, live coverage from City Hall and Queen's Park starting at 4:30pm as well as commentary regarding Mandela's life and struggle. On Tuesday, Mandela's speech to Central Tech and interviews on his visit will be aired at 5:00pm.

The Stalkyard

CYSF gambles and wins

by Salman A. Nensi

On April 27, just before the end of term, last year's CYSF, (now YFS) executive held a meeting and voted themselves each a \$1000 bonus. In attendance were President Peter Donato, VPs Peter Merrick, George Dipede, and Caroline Winship (a VP again this year). VP Franco LoFranco denies attending the meeting, but reliable sources say he was there and participated fully.

Commenting on the meeting, YFS President Jean Ghomeshi said, "No minutes were taken. It was a closed door, elitist decision made by the executive with no Council involvement. I am outraged! The loss of \$5000 from the Council's treasury has left this year's Council in big financial trouble."

According to Ghomeshi, the move by last year's executive is technically correct. The CYSF's constitution states that the executive can participate in the "... appropriation, execution or transferring of funds not in excess of one thousand dollars or some other figure set by Council, **provided that such action is reported to Council at the next meeting of Council.**" Five separate votes were taken, each awarding \$1000 to a different executive member.

Ghomeshi, although outraged, doesn't feel that he can do anything about this matter. He said, "The cheques have been written. The matter is no longer in my jurisdiction. But, even if this move was technically correct, it deals with these people's ethics. They say they deserved the raise, but I challenge their assumptions."

Winship said that the reason the bonuses were passed in such a manner is that some executive members were afraid they wouldn't get the bonuses if the matter, as she urged, went before Council. She agrees that the whole thing was done in a "shoddy, unprofessional manner."

"I went along with them because I worked very hard that year. The others were going to give themselves the bonus whether I voted or not, and I really deserved the money," said Winship, noting that she incurred personal debt while working for the CYSF. In addition, the proper execution of her responsibilities left her with little time for anything else, even though it was only a part-time position. The other VPs stated that they too deserved the bonus.

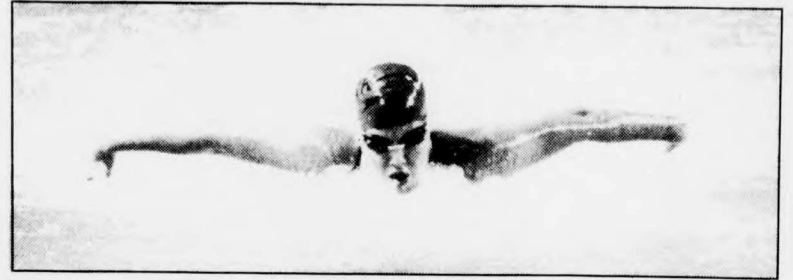
The CYSF's constitution states that the executive must report their actions to the next Council meeting. The executive meeting occurred after the last Council meeting, therefore they **could not** report their actions. That makes the motions for bonuses constitutionally illegal. "I'm still not sure what I can do," Ghomeshi responded to this new information, "short of filing a law suit. These guys [the old executive] are not going to willingly give the money back."

Last year's executive manipulated the constitution to suit their own immoral purposes, stealing \$5000 from the York student body. We elected them to look out for our best interests, not so they could line their pockets with our money. **Whether or not the old executive deserved the money is inconsequential.** The manner in which they acquired it shows that a majority of them were positive they didn't deserve it.

If you think it is wrong for our elected officials to pilfer money from us, go to the YFS' office, at 105 Central Square (736-5324), and let President Ghomeshi know. Call your college representatives, write letters to *Excalibur*, call Student Affairs if you have to. Think about how long it would take you to earn \$5000 and then act. If you don't, you're telling this year's Council you really don't mind if they rip you off.

If you still don't feel like acting, call me. I'll personally deliver your purse, wallet or bank-book to the YFS offices for you.

Swim-a-thon for a good cause



by Ira Nayman

A swim-a-thon will be held in the Tait McKenzie Swim Centre from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday June 24 to raise money for and public awareness of the Ontario Fibrositis Association.

According to a pamphlet put out by the Arthritis Foundation, fibrositis is a non-fatal rheumatic disorder that causes pain in ligaments, tendons and muscles. Although doctors are not certain what causes fibrositis, it seems related to some kind of sleep disturbance. Other symptoms may therefore include poor concentration and poor memory.

"I'm exhausted most of the time ... I'm in pain most of the time," said Rebecca Polak, a member of the Toronto Chapter Support Group of the Ontario Fibrositis Association. "[People with Fibrositis] wake up in the morning not feeling they've been asleep at night."

Polak said that being on a strict exercise programme had helped her get off medication, although most people with fibrositis

required medication to get through the day. There was a trade-off, though: the exercise programme left Polak with only enough time to take four courses a year, forcing her to spend an extra year studying.

Polak also said she found it difficult to concentrate on three hour lectures, and relied on somebody from the York Student Centre for Disabilities to take notes for her. "Homework is very hard for me ..." Polak added, "I've had to make many adjustments."

Approximately eight to 10 swimmers will be taking part in the swim-a-thon, and spectators are welcome; the emphasis is on raising public awareness. According to Polak, many people may have fibrositis and not know it because the symptoms are so vague.

"It took me about five years to find out what I had," she said. Some doctors dismiss the symptoms, Polak said, others blame it on psychological factors.

"Try to find a way of coping," Polak advised others who have, or feel they may have, fibrositis. "Don't give up."

This space is empty because you didn't write for *Excalibur*

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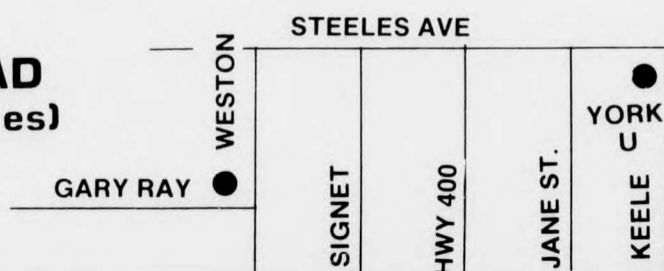
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Perestroika, politics, and pub crawl

by Rob Brazeeau

On Tuesday, June 5, the Canadian Stage Company hosted *Perestroika, Politics, and Business*, a dialogue between Soviet and Canadian citizens designed to address the recent and profound political changes in the Soviet Union, and to consider what these changes may mean for the Canadian business sector.

The small auditorium filled quickly, but not with the regular crowd one might expect at an economic and political forum. The woman to my right was trying to explain the difficult concept of a pub crawl to her Soviet counterpart. The Soviet visitors were apparently taking advantage of the fact that they are the first group from their country with no governmental attache along on their visit.

Now that the Cold War is over, one of the first issues to be raised in the West regarding perestroika is how to cash in on the vast, untapped Soviet consumer economy. The Soviets, however, are not trying to Westernize their economy or government as much as stabilize and restructure them.

Sasha Yevreinov, a Soviet journalist working in Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad), was quick to point out that he sees the Soviet Union moving not toward capital-

ism, but social democracy, like Sweden, where education and social programmes are supported by the government. Yevreinov was the most outspoken, eloquent, and humorous member of the panel, and easily the crowd favourite. Irina Troilina, a college English teacher in Volgograd, Geoffrey Carr-Harris, a Canadian businessman, and Nikita Kozmiriuk, a Soviet businessman, rounded out the four member panel.

Considering the forum was supposed to be about business opportunities in the Soviet Union, I expected the last two panelists to be the most informative. I was mistaken. Carr-Harris was a thoroughly uninspired speaker who rendered long, highly rhetorical answers to simple questions, and Kozmiriuk declined his opportunity to make an opening statement. He did, however, answer questions posed to him, and his quip that "Lithuania wants to be a distinct society" (which was met with laughter and applause) clearly showed his informal tone.

Because of the ambivalent remarks of the business representatives, the forum quickly turned into a discussion of Soviet culture. Troilina provided a description of her country at which the Politburo would have winced. It seems the West has no monopoly on prostitution and drug abuse, and she

attributes the pervasiveness of the Soviet problem to suppression of the humanities in Soviet universities. She informed me that both students and teachers are enjoying increased freedom, but that the physical sciences and medicine are still the mainstays of Soviet education. She said that until social sciences establish themselves as serious disciplines, things will not likely improve in her country.

Troilina was surprised by the

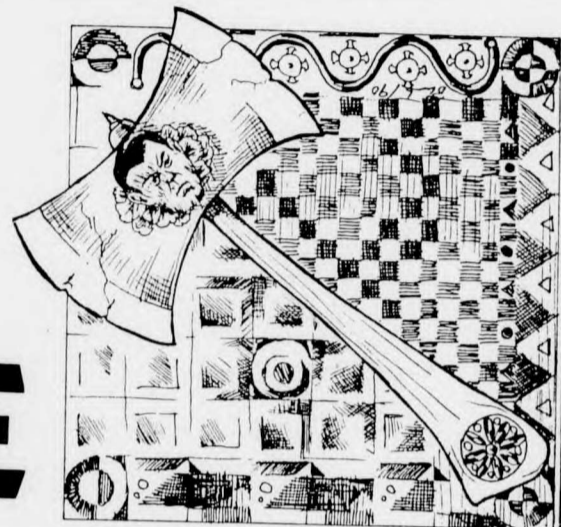
wealth and resources of UofT, and although in favour of free education, thought that Canadian tuition was reasonable considering the extensive services that our universities provide. Specifically, she observed that Soviet universities need more research equipment.

As the potentially provocative issue of Canadian and Soviet joint economic ventures was not explored in great detail, the forum served more as an outlet for pri-

vate citizens to interact without the intrusion of any governmental body. In these early days of perestroika, the fact that free discussion is allowed supersedes the importance of what is actually talked about.

The Soviet visitors provided a candid and informal discussion of Soviet politics and culture but what did they learn about our culture? Perhaps the pub crawl showed them all they really wanted to know.

I WRITE WITH AN AXE



by Brett Gellert

I was just reading in a magazine that scientists in the U.S. are making trees that smell terrible so people won't cut them down at Christmas. The stuff that makes these trees different is a mixture of different things including "fox urine and skunk essence."

Now, I'm only a History/English major, I'm no scientist, but how in the hell would you get fox urine? Imagine the poor jerk who walks into his boss' office.

Boss: Johnson, I've got a special job for you today.

Johnson: What's that, sir?

Boss: I want you to go out and get me six or seven gallons of fox urine. And, oh, Johnson, if you can, pick up some skunk essence.

Can saving a few trees every year be worth getting stranger every day.

Who can forget the hoopla over the Hubble Telescope? Scientists were peeing their pants with excitement over the possible pictures that would come back. I don't know about you, but with all the hype, I was expecting something like a hamburger stand hovering somewhere near Pluto. Or at the least a few aliens mooning the camera as they shot by on their way to a party. But what do we get? A few pictures of stars. I think these guys have been watching too much Public Television. From the limited scientific education that I have, I know that any moron can see stars at night as long as there aren't any clouds.

Scientists should be working on things that benefit humanity. I mean sure the pictures are nice, but will they make our cafeteria food edible? I have serious doubts about this, except that space pictures may reveal the origins of the soup of the day. I don't personally believe anyone should have to wear protective clothing to eat soup, but then I'm old-fashioned.

What scientists should really be working on is a way to get smoke out of a crowded pub. Now, I know what the smokers are thinking: let's hold him down and test his reflexes with a wrecking ball. Smoking is part of a good pub. The problem is that the smoke doesn't thin out. The air gets so thick that commercial airliners at neighbouring airports are grounded. By 10:00 on most nights, pick-up lines are spoken through gas masks. Why won't scientists work on a way to get the smoke out of the pubs? Maybe they could find a way to package it and sell it to people who don't actually have the time to put a cigarette to their lips, but still want that feeling of nausea.

Science is being wasted on pictures of space that aren't even the right exposure. NASA says the pictures are enhanced by a very complicated system of computers. I always use FUJI film and I never have any problems. If they can put a satellite in space, why can't they put up a FUJI franchise? But before we have a FUJI development booth orbiting the earth, we need food that doesn't recoil when it's struck with a fork. Maybe scientists can create an edible film. It would certainly be better than cafeteria food.

Convo-vacation



photo by Tova Weisblatt

Summer convocation was the big thing on York campus this past week. Everyone got into the act, including the Atkinson Day Care graduates pictured above.

York University conferred honorary degrees to 10 people this year including a well-known Canadian actor, a leading civil servant, a Nobel prize winner in Chemistry and the president of a Japanese university.

Osgoode Hall Law School celebrated its 100th anniversary with a special convocation ceremony at the Pantages Theatre downtown.



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CYSF purge YSF blush

In a symbolic effort to break away from the scandal-ridden executives of the past, CYSF has changed its name to YFS (York Federation of Students) and become bilingual (FEY: Federation des etudiant(e)s de York).

At first glance, this seems to be a constructive, well-intentioned decision. Unfortunately, it smacks of bureaucratic posturing. The current CYSF (pardon me — YFS) executive has admitted that the name change is politically motivated to help improve its image at York. And the move to bilingualism reads like an opportunistic grab at the national agenda under the pretext of achieving solidarity with Glendon College at the local level. The final result isn't misdirected in itself, it's just CYSF's overinsistence about the efficacy of their political purge and YFS' brand new start that seem spurious.

Some of the members of previous "scandal executives" are still currently holding office.

Without necessarily passing judgement, let's remember: last year's Vice-President (Internal), Caroline Winship, is back in the same position this year. And Tammy Hasselfeldt, the CYSF President two years ago, has now been hired as the YFS Executive Research Assistant.

So, it's strange for YFS to talk about shedding its old skin, while continuing to drag its remnants behind; in fact rejuvenating the whole body under a different face.

With the Meech Lake accordion foremost on the minds of Canadians and Quebecers, YFS' move to bilingualism seems well-timed indeed. Supporting Glendon (and, in effect, the Quebec position) is a nice sentiment. But we'll have to wait and see what substantial effects YFS' decision will bring to the campus, considering that administration has only paid lip service to bilingualism at York Main. Whether or not Glendon wants to give up its "distinct society" atmosphere at Bayview and Lawrence, a statement of student solidarity is essential for this campus.

Certainly, the pragmatics of doing reconstructive surgery during the summer have not been lost on student politicians. They have learned from administrators that it's wiser to make important changes during the off-season when few students are around to notice or take interest. In this way, the frosh who arrive in the fall can get the rosy-cheeked first impression of their school that they so patently deserve.

For most students, the transition from a unilingual CYSF to a bilingual YFS will be transparent. But if we look closely enough, I'm sure we might still spot some of the scars.

Thank you YFS. We've seen your image, now let's concentrate on your substance for the rest of the year.

Peter Stathis

Stifling Dissent

Many people would like to live in a world where everybody holds the same opinion — theirs. While this ordinarily results in nothing more than arguments in pubs about who can drink the most beer without puking, it has ominous overtones when applied to a national government.

In recent months, Brian Mulroney's Conservative majority has cut back funding to native newspapers, women's centres and feminist journals, including York's *Canadian Woman Studies/Les Cahiers de la Femme*. The government pleads poverty, but how can its agenda be anything but stifling dissent?

As Jane Springer, managing editor of CWS/CF, points out, the savings are ridiculously small relative to the federal budget as a whole. Moreover, other government expenditures (\$2 million for fireworks to celebrate Canada Day, for instance) seem better targets for restraint, less likely to cause hardship than the current cuts.

Finally, the fact that the federal government contributes to REAL Women, a right wing group actively working against sexual equality, while cutting funds for groups working towards equality, is a clear indicator that the government has more on its agenda than economics.

Why should we care if natives or women lose important avenues of communications? Aren't they just troublemakers, upsetting those who are happy with the status quo? Well, while they may not accept the status quo, marginal voices are vital to the mainstream in many ways.

Canadians pride themselves on having a liberal democratic country, justly ruled by just laws. These laws, however, were created and perpetuated by the mainstream to protect its own interests; minorities are frequently poorly served by them. The same argument can be made for economic and social concepts of justice.

A society where the majority imposes its will on minority groups has no right to consider itself just. Minority publications are important because they help foster diverse views within the community, and can transmit their community's concerns to society at large. In a truly just society, these concerns would be heard.

This kind of argument doesn't carry much weight with the self-obsessed members of the Greed Decade, so consider a second one. If a society isn't prepared to change over time as it faces new conditions, it inevitably stagnates and declines. New ideas are the lifeblood of a nation.

But, new ideas don't just magically appear. They arise in order to describe the life and respond to the needs of small groups of individuals (in short, minorities). Only when the minority voices its concerns and ideas do they then percolate upwards, impinging the consciousness and finally becoming accepted by the majority. Stifling the views of minorities impoverishes the majority.

Given that Canadian society is changing rapidly, stifling minority views, even if we do not agree with them (perhaps especially if we do not agree with them) will ill equip us to cope with those changes.

Ira Nayman

EDITORIAL



graphic by Brett Lamb

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose

LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of *Excalibur* staff of directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Sanghera unhappy with alumni tables

To the editor,

This is regarding an event that happened on Tuesday June 12. We all know that Convocation is going on right now, yet I had a small problem with it. **Who the hell let the alumni set up tables in Central Square causing a fire hazard?** The even stranger thing was, that the Student Affairs Office was only about ten metres away!

Do they honestly think that just because they are not students that they are better than us? We spent too much time protesting this to let you get away with it. Get real buddy!

Thanks,

George Sanghera
VP (Programmes), YFS

Excal reaffirms student priorities

To the editor,

We would like to extend our compliments to both you and Michele Greene, regarding your article entitled, "York for sale," in the June 6 issue of *Excalibur*. We found the article both accurate and insightful, but most of all, it

represented the best interests of the students. Adequate representation of the student body is a quality which we feel has been lost to *Excalibur* in past years, so it is all the more important that this year's staff has reaffirmed their ties to the general populace here at York.

Nonetheless, as good as the article was, we feel that there were a few points which were missed. Harriet Lewis (York's lawyer) stated that the, "competition between licensed manufacturers will eliminate this tendency." We would take this to mean that normal business competition will remove the burden of the 6.5 per cent from the students. **Not true!** Most, if not all, promotional companies operate on such a small profit margin that the competition factor will only result in reducing the quality of the finished goods.

No one department or college places orders large enough for the manufacturer to absorb the added surtax.

Secondly, Lewis has also stated that she has given adequate notification of this "royalty" to all departments at York. We here at YFS have received no such notice. As a matter of fact, we found out about the tax through the Office of Student Affairs, of all places.

Finally, we find it absolutely disgusting that the fascist administration here at York is planning to tax the student body in order to open a boutique at Simpsons or the airport. **Where the hell are their priorities?**

Yours sincerely,

George Sanghera
VP (Programmes), YFS
Brad Abrams
VP (Finance), YFS

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Constitutional change: once more into the Meech

by Ira Nayman

"It strikes me as a horrible process," James MacPherson, dean of Osgoode Hall Law School, said of the way in which Manitoba, New Brunswick and Newfoundland finally agreed to sign the Meech Lake Accord. The process was "patently indefensible," according to Osgoode Hall Law professor Jamie Cameron.

MacPherson explained that each day would start with a briefing from Premier Peterson on what had transpired the day before, followed by an hour long discussion of options and tactics. Then, the First Ministers would meet in closed session for the day; they were only allowed to take an additional person into the negotiations once, and most chose their Attorneys-General.

According to MacPherson, Premier Peterson stressed to his team at their initial

thing substantial from the conference, and that, therefore, it could broker between the other provinces.

Cameron said that the negotiations highlighted the differences between an executive style of leadership (where decisions affecting the country are made by a small number of elected officials) and a participatory model. In her view, executive federalism was "difficult to defend;" legitimate concerns (of women, for instance, or native Canadians) were not addressed by the eleven men who participated in the Meech

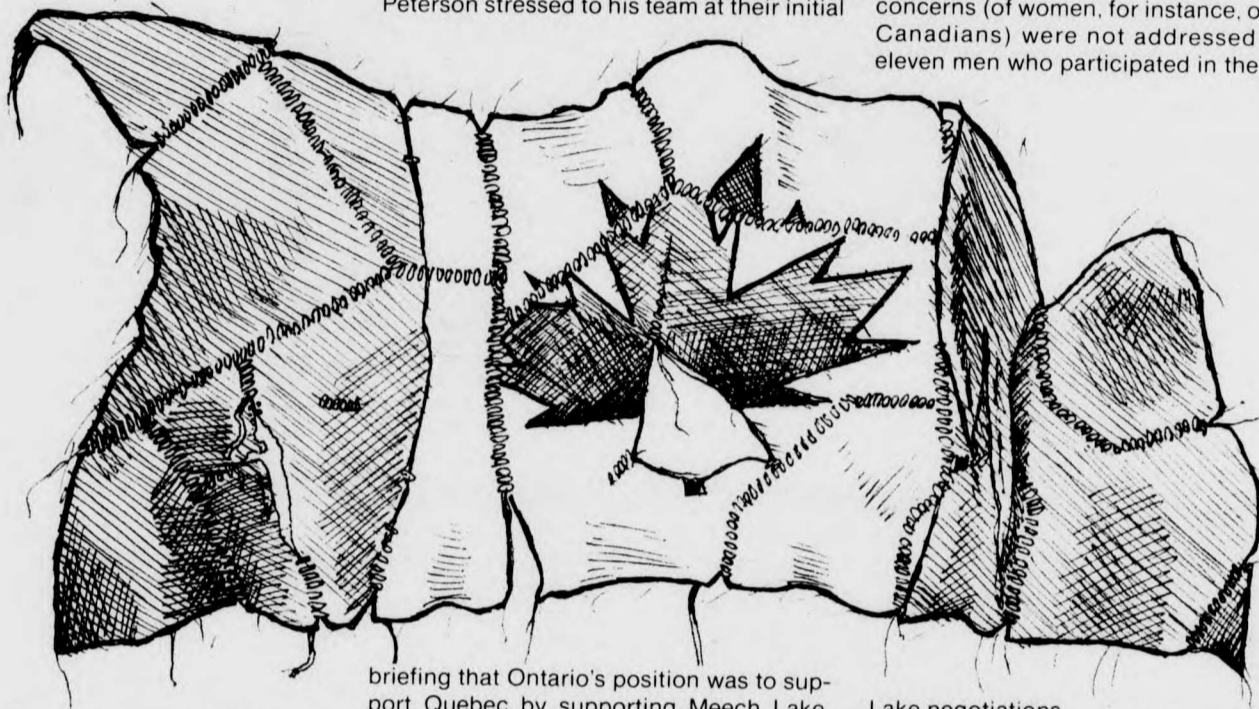
beginning. Senate reform was a major issue for the western Premiers, who believed an elected senate with equal representation from all the provinces would change the fact that they "don't have the voice that they deserve" in Ottawa. They felt that "there has to be something in it for us," MacPherson explained.

On the third full day of negotiations, Prince Edward Island Premier Joe Ghiz suggested two additional seats for each of the four western provinces and Newfoundland. This seemed to meet with general approval, but Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa "had been really attacked on that," Dean MacPherson said, and refused to allow any compromise which would lessen the percentage of seats from Quebec, as Premier Ghiz' plan did. Two days later, according to MacPherson, the deal seemed to be falling apart over an issue "that doesn't seem to mean anything."

MacPherson suggested that Ontario give up some seats, which would appease both the western and Quebec Premiers. "I'm from Nova Scotia," he joked, and for years I've been looking for a way of taking something from Ontario." (As it happened, Ontario gave up only six Senate seats; two of the other four came from Nova Scotia.)

As well, in order to quell fears that the "distinct society" clause would give Quebec the power to override the guarantees of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, professors Hogg and Cameron signed a letter stating the opinion that it would not. "The letter doesn't say much," Hogg admitted, but it did allow Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells to walk away with something.

And, what about the cellular phone flap? "We were warned at one point about the phones," MacPherson said, although there was no way to be sure if they were being tapped or not. "Cellular phones changed us," Hogg added, pointing out that any participant could be in contact with any other participant almost instantaneously.



graphic by Brett Lamb

MacPherson, Cameron and professor Peter Hogg were part of a group of seven legal scholars recruited by Ontario Premier David Peterson to advise him during last week's marathon First Minister's bargaining session. Along with Attorney-General Ian Scott, Ontario New Democratic Party leader Bob Rae, Ontario Conservative Party leader Mike Harris and six senior civil servants, the seven scholars contributed directly to Ontario's input at the meeting.

briefing that Ontario's position was to support Quebec by supporting Meech Lake. Since seven out of 10 provinces and the federal government had already ratified it, Peterson believed that the greatest consensus would be for "Meech as is," and that the negotiations would have to concentrate on finding ways of gaining the approval of the three remaining provinces.

MacPherson believed that Premier Peterson was "sincere" in his desire to support Quebec. Another thing stressed at the briefing was that Ontario didn't really want any-

Lake negotiations.

Despite their concerns about the process, all three believed that the Meech Lake Accord was absolutely necessary for Canada. When the Canadian Constitution was patriated from Britain in 1982, Quebecers felt "less than equal" with people from other provinces, Cameron explained; the Accord gave them legal standing within the Constitution.

In fact, MacPherson made the suggestion that may have saved the Accord. From the

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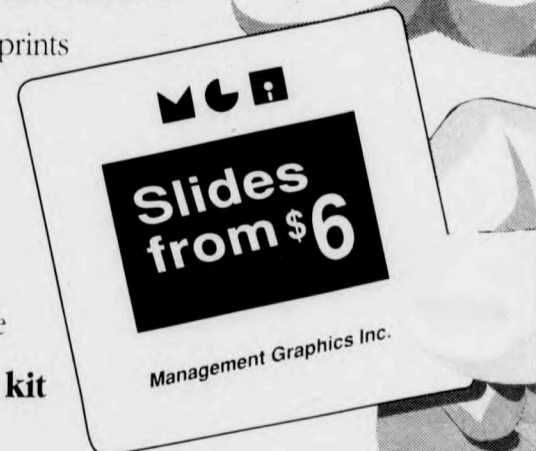
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Images 90: what really goosed my gander . . .

by Letitia Tendentious

The line-ups weren't as long as for Toronto's Festival of Festivals, although, in keeping with its traditions, the opening night's programme did start 45 minutes late. There wasn't as much skin as there is at Cannes, although the warm weather did prompt the wearing of too many short shorts, if you ask me. Speeches by the filmmakers were not nearly so long, and far more comprehensible than New York.

I am referring, of course, to Images 90, the third annual festival of independent film and video held recently at the Euclid Theatre. Images 90 had one thing the other festivals didn't: a black and white tabby who tried getting affection from the characters on screen, reducing the dramatic climax of films to black comedy (as Alex Roshuk found at the end of *Le Gout de Mon Espoir*).

Now, when I was a youth, I was taught that certain subjects were not to be discussed in polite company: religion, politics and, of course, physical relations between, umm, people. Times must have changed when I wasn't looking, because, lordy, lordy, there was something at Images 90 to offend everyone!

Take the "Neato — It's NIFCO" programme, a tribute to the 15th anniversary of the Newfoundland Independent Film Co-operative. It was a cute little package — a couple of highly effective documentaries followed by three outraged (and outrageous!) comedies that you just know couldn't have been made anywhere else. But, it was the last minute addition to the programme that really goosed my gander, if you know what I mean: *Extraordinary Visitor*.

In *Extraordinary Visitor*, the Pope opens a 60 year-old letter from girls who claim to have been

visited by the Virgin Mary in Fatima. The letter reads: "Newfoundland, get out of Confederation." The Pope sends John the Baptist to St. John's to investigate. Now, jokes about Priests abusing young boys may seem prescient to some (the film was made in 1982, long before the problem hit the national spotlight), but, I mean, really!

Somebody will be burning in the eternal pit for this one.

Politics was everywhere. Two separate programmes were devoted to the works of Sara Diamond, a Vancouver video artist who combines documentary with fiction, feminism with anti-racism and unionism. Pieces like *The Lull Before the Storm* and *Keeping the Home Fires Burning: Women, War Work and Unions in British Columbia* show an intelligent, mature artist in complete control of her medium (now, if only she would get control of her hair).

Programmes like "Acts of Denial" and "Unbroken Spirit" dealt with issues of race and equality. *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*, a feature length documentary originally made for PBS was okay, I guess, and shorts like *Video Stories* and *Colour Schemes* had a good message, interestingly presented; but, well, I was just brought up in a time when politics was confined to the back of the bar after everybody had had a few too many. All this talk of justice can only lead to freedom, and who knows where that will lead!

"Media Paranoia" was about images and their relationship to reality (tenuous, my dears, very tenuous). Now, I believe that civilization is predicated on limits; when sitting in front of the telly to relax for a few days is considered a political act, well, I must draw the line!

As for the sex, well, let's just say that the "I Long For Your Touch" programme contained more erections than downtown Toronto during a construction boom, and "Demarcations of Desire," which



The Lull Before the Storm (directed by Sara Diamond) and *Who Killed Professor Wordsworth?* (INSET, directed by Andrew J. Paterson) from Images 90. Okay, it's avant garde, but is it art?

featured — well, never mind what it featured! Disgusting!

Not only that, but, as with most film festivals, there were some entries which threatened to push back the boredom envelope. Philip Hoffman seemed such a nice young man when he was introduced, but his film, *Kitchener-Berlin* seemed pointless and boring to the point of anesthesia.

My good friend Agatha Pimpumper accused me of suffering from Film Festival Overload Syndrome, a strange loss of humour attributable to spending too many hours in darkened theatres. "Now, Lettie, don't get your support hose in a knot!" she said to me over tea at her boy Floyd's apartment. I always liked Floyd, even if he did go a little strange when he turned fifty and — well, there's no need to rehash that personal tragedy. After all, Floyd did replace the rabbits and the aluminum siding.

Anyway, Aggie said that, of course some of the films might offend some people. The whole point of creating artworks independently was to challenge the status quo, to make things that people couldn't see in other places. If independent artists didn't do something different, they might as well go to Hollywood and make Arnold Schwarzenegger movies.

"What's wrong with Arnold's movies?" I demanded.

"Get with the nineties!" Agatha replied. "You don't have to like every film or tape to see that the

Canadian independent film and video scene is doing some of the most creative, vital, challenging work in this country. They deserve the support of everybody who is tired of the same old mainstream — yes, I'll say it — crap. And, the Euclid Theatre should be supported for their independent programmes all year round!"

Well . . . my goodness . . . I wonder what was in her tea that afternoon!

Sometimes, at the end of *Globe and Mail* film festival reports, there are quotes from some of the participants. Now, the *Globe and Mail* is a fine newspaper since they got rid of all those wimpy, bleeding heart columnists, even if the news section is often less substantial than a politician's promise.

Anyway, if it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me. Try these quotes on for size:

"It'll be time to go to the party, soon," opening night audience member waiting for the films to begin.

"Number of works featuring business men with ties: five. Number of works featuring condom dispensing hairdressers: one," from the Images 90 Fact Sheet.

"A terrible fucking filmmaker," director Ron Mann (*Comic Book Confidential*, *Imagine the Sound*), explaining the pleasure he had working with Ivan Reitman on the screenplay of *Hoods in the Woods*, at the "Script Development" seminar.

"I needed the money," director

Ron Mann, explaining why he had the pleasure of working with Ivan Reitman on the screenplay of *Hoods in the Woods*.

"I think seminars like this are great, but I think they're boring," director Ron Mann, explaining the pleasure he had attending the "Script Development" seminar.

"Image 90 T-shirts are on sale now — they look great with Calvin Klein underwear," Paul Wong, curator of the "Acts of Denial" programmes.

"Do you wanna do dares?" a six year old girl in an Images 90 T-shirt outside the Euclid Theatre.

"They [the jury who selected the films] were upset there wasn't enough sex," b. h. Yael, programme coordinator, apologizing for the "I Long for Your Touch" programme.

"He's a clone! Oh . . . help . . ." closing line of the terminally strange exploration of language, meaning and cheap detective clichés, *Who Killed Professor Wordsworth?*

Albert and Dolly Cake are a pair. Although they may not seem so, they are both domestic comedies and stories about frustrated love. *Dolly Cake* recycles Gothic passion through the garburator of everyday life, while *Albert* deposits the weight of myth and legend deep within the psyche of its pitiable protagonist. Albert suffers under the load of the fateful Three Promises given at birth to prevent his withering away while Dolly just seems to be in a bummer relationship. Both Dolly and Albert are victims of their own created circumstances. Both need to get out more. Both lunge briefly at a concocted freedom: "I could twirl in the street," says Albert. In the end, it is a rather normal world (Cheez Whiz et al) that sustains them both . . . from the catalogue description of the "Neato — It's NIFCO" programme.

"NIFCO is known for its funny films, because we're a funny . . . simple people," David Pope, or possibly his brother Paul, both members of NIFCO, introducing the programme.

"A little media . . . a little paranoia . . ." b. h. Yael introducing the "Media Paranoia" programme.

"I'm just finishing my latest film," half a dozen audience members over a period of four nights; sometimes, I felt like the only civilian in the place!

Letitia Tendentious wrote a column called "Lunch with Lettie" for *Excalibur* 23 years ago. *Nobody is quite sure why she returned to York University last year.*

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I hope they start soon!

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Another boring sequel to a popular movie

by J.A. Stephan

Another 48 Hours
directed by Walter Hill
produced by Paramount

The sequel to *48 Hours* is both violent and humorless. The original, which came out in 1982, was funny within the storm of action. *Another 48 Hours* is all thunder and lightning.

Director Walter Hill, whose previous hits include *Red Heat* and *Extreme Prejudice*, was faced with two major problems in developing a follow-up to the enormously successful *48 Hours*. In an interview for *The Toronto Star*, Hill said, "[We] were obliged to repeat the kind of moments that the first film had and that the fans expected to experience again — but [we] couldn't repeat any of the actual incidents... We needed a methodology which allowed us to do what the first film did — only differently."

Hill also had to deal with Murphy's superstardom. "Well, you can't discover Eddie Murphy again, and our new movie reflects that. The first time, Eddie was a kid. Now, he's an institution."

To combat the first problem, Hill relied on the talents of scriptwriters Larry Gross (who co-wrote *48 Hours*), Jeb Stuart, and John Fasano. What they created is a story bursting with fights, gunfire, collisions, and explosions. The fights are predominantly between

Cates (Nolte) and Hammond (Murphy). Cates is in a sour mood because he is being investigated by Internal Affairs over a shooting. If he doesn't produce Iceman, an illusive crime lord, within 48 hours, he will go to jail.

Hammond is pissed off because Cates won't return the money Hammond entrusted to him. Not only that, but he is a victim of the Iceman's wrath. Cates is determined that Hammond will help discover the Iceman in exchange for the money; consequently, the two hook up to do battle with the bad guys and with each other.

The men who take the contract on Hammonds' life are trigger-happy bikers. The first scene of the film finds them blowing away two state troopers and a bartender. Their hunger for killing is insatiable. One victim has the bad fortune to lose an ear and a lot of blood before being blown away.

Even the good guys are guilty of recklessness: Hammond stings a cowboy barfly with a bullet to the kneecap and Cates fries a suspect in a gasoline fire.

The climax has the opposing sides shooting up a crowded nightclub. There is an overabundance of gun-play, breaking glass and falling bodies. This violent eruption leaves almost no one standing. Justice and entertainment are shown to be best served by a high body count.

Nolte plays the jaded cop with

his usual aplomb. Although the character lacks believability, Nolte takes it in stride and manages a certain weary determination in getting the job done.

Murphy's return to the character of Reggie Hammond did not fare as well. Smartly dressed and perfectly groomed, Murphy looks better suited for a guestspot on *Arsenio* than the role of an ex-convict. His natural gifts as a comedian are lost behind Hill's demand for incessant action.

Hill's failure to utilize his stars will be the death of *Another 48 Hours*. It was the unique chemistry between Nolte and Murphy that made the first film so appealing. Without that, this picture remains another shoot-em-up, blow-em-up bore.



Nick Nolte and Eddie "the institution" Murphy look intense, thoughtful in *Another 48 Hours*. The film has all the chemistry of a grade nine science class.

bohemia

a column
by Ira Nayman

Watching the Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* on television, I was reminded of the first time I saw it. It was at an "art house" theatre in Berkeley early in the seventies. There couldn't have been more than a hundred seats (well, benches, actually). The air was thick with smoke of which I was too young to identify the source.

Times sure have changed. And, the way we watch film has changed with them.

In the 1940's, large theatres called "film palaces" were built. Seating thousands, these theatres accommodated the widescreen process of the 1950's, offering an all-encompassing experience. Moreover, film was essentially a group experience: the viewer could lose herself in the audience for a couple of hours, or assess her response in comparison to others.

In the 1990's, few film palaces remain; they have been replaced by multi-screen "cineplexes." Screens at these theatres are usually quite small, making it harder for viewers to become as involved in the film. And, since there are fewer seats (some theatres have as little as a hundred), film is no longer the communal experience it once was.

The reasons for this change are — surprise, surprise — economic. If you have, say, two thousand seats in a single theatre, a lot of seats may go empty; on the other hand, if you change the film too quickly, you may lose customers who had planned on seeing it.

If you divide your theatre into five smaller ones with only four hundred seats each, you can show five different films. Since you can appeal to five different potential audiences with the different films, you are likely to fill more seats, taking in more money. In addition, because films are rented on a week-by-week basis, films that are not popular do not leave too many seats empty, and can be quickly replaced, while popular films can simply be held over as long as they continue to fill houses. (Therefore, be warned: if you want to see a film that you do not expect will be popular, see it fast!)

The ultimate extension of this attempt to target films to their audience is found in television. In the early days of the medium, the film studios, afraid of the competition, refused to sell their products to the networks. They changed their minds when

they realized how much money could be made from TV; today, every major film producer also has a television production division.

Cable stations devoted to movies (Canada is one of the most wired countries in the world), video cassette recorders (between 60 and 70 per cent of Canadian households already own a VCR) and regular TV are all changing the film experience further. Again, the reason is economic: rather than abandon films after their initial theatrical release, producers squeeze dollars out of them by selling them to television.

Television reduces the film experience in many ways. Because of the size of the screen, and the way the image is projected, a lot of detail is lost. Furthermore, the shape of the film image is approximately three times as wide as it is high, but the television image is square; to show a theatrical film, large sections have to be cut off either side of the screen.

Moreover, television watching is a small group or individual activity. Film, once a community event, has now become solitary entertainment!

Let me offer another example. The cinematography of Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* was extremely powerful, the images by turn beautiful and horrific. However, when the 70 millimetre image was reduced for television, the film looked, well, ordinary. On top of that, I missed the often awestruck reaction of the audience I originally saw it with when I watched it alone (Fortunately, I was watching it for the performances of Martin Sheen, Robert Duvall and, especially, Marlon Brando; some things television just can't kill!)

Finally, a more personal observation about the changing film experience. I recently took part in the following conversation at a concession stand before seeing the film *Cinema Paradiso*:

"Can I have a box of chocolate covered almonds?"

"Uhh... sorry. We don't have any."

"Okay. How about chocolate covered peanuts?"

"There. Thanks to free trade, that's what we've got."

The kid behind the counter pointed to a box of Goobers. Now, I've put a lot of strange things in my mouth, but at some point you have to draw the line. I laughed. "I'm not eating anything called Goobers," I said, and walked away. I don't know about anybody else, but free trade sure has diminished the quality of my life!



Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy look dangerous, but vulnerable in *Another 48 Hours*. If you really like violence, you'll really like this film (although you'll probably be a mercenary in Central America).

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SPORTS

York Gymnastics programme excels

Curtis Hibbert: gunning for Barcelona

by Riccardo Sala

Curtis Hibbert is a familiar face on the victory rostrum of gymnastic competitions around the world. The 23 year-old part-time York student has been a consistently excellent performer and has helped put Canada on the gymnastics map. Hibbert was in Bolzano, Italy recently attempting to qualify for

the World Cup. Held every four years, this year's event takes place at the end of October in Brussels. The Bolzano event was the last of eight qualifying meets, including one in Toronto on March 29.

Accompanying Hibbert was coach Mataaki Naosaki.

"Curtis was ranked ninth in the world. At Bolzano he came in third," Naosaki said. Teammate Alan Nolet came in 27th. Rankings

are important for the World Cup as only the top 18 men and women are allowed to participate.

"Eighty per cent of Canada's national team will be from York for the World Championships."

This is followed by the 1991

World Championships in Indianapolis. The next and major goal for Hibbert is the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. After these games Hibbert will likely retire. A strong performance in Barcelona would be the fitting end to an excellent career.

Curtis Hibbert's performance is reflective of a gymnastics programme at York that is the strongest in Canada. York gymnasts

have captured the national crown many times.

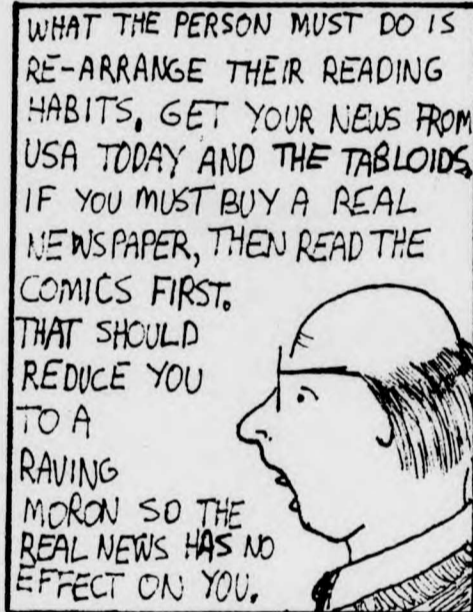
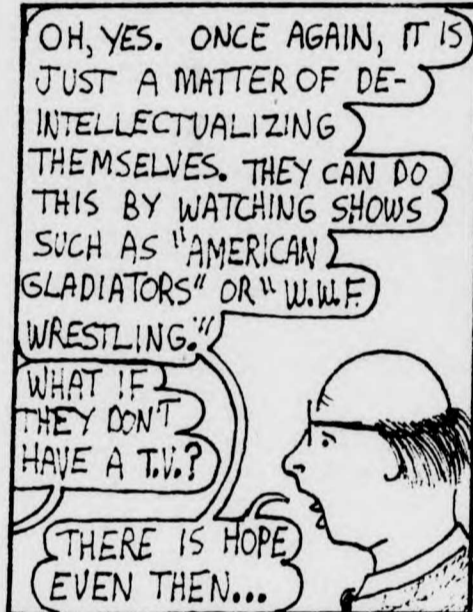
"Eighty per cent of Canada's national team will be from York for the World Championships," Naosaki predicted, adding, "by 1992 it could be 90."

There are three carded athletes on the York squad, including Hibbert.

The gymnastics programme keeps busy during the summer, holding court for six days a week at the Newmarket Fitness and Gymnastics Academy. The team's current accommodations at Tait Mackenzie are too small for the programme, Naosaki said.

Many Yeoman and Yeowomen gymnasts keep busy with various meets. In early July, head coach Tom Zivic will accompany Curtis Hibbert for a demonstration tour of Australia.

Before that, June 14 to 19, Zivic will accompany his son George and fellow gymnast J.P. Kramer to Scotland for an international meet.



Classified and Community Events

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