

by Mitchell C. Fraser

Early last fall the provincial government announced a new scholarship program that would tap into Alberta's Heritage Trust Fund. Over the next few years the government would make available to worthy students grants of money for post-secondary education. Details were fuzzy at that time as to who would get what and what that person would have to do to earn the grant. Since then there has been no update on the program.

To celebrate Alberta's 75th anniversary the provincial government made available \$75 million for people to waste as they saw fit. The government was late with the money and many projects were abandoned because of no funding. Could such a

# Heritage scholarship fund

situation also develop in regards to the educational aspirations of Alberta's post secondary students.

I made an enquiry to the Student Finance Board last week to find out what the status of the program was. I was told that the legislation necessary to divert funds from the Heritage Trust Fund to places where students had access of it had been tabled in the legislature the Monday before. In a couple of weeks the Minister of Advanced Education would be contacting the heads of institutions in Alberta with the good news. So for a few more weeks we shall have to suffice with our

imagination as to how the funds will be divied up.

The question that pertains to the technical institutes is how much of those funds will be directed to their students. The main force of the fund is to promote academia in Alberta, to create a pool of intelligentsia. Somehow when those terms are used one conjures up images of universities and absent minded professors. The technical schools are overlooked. They shouldn't be.

Alberta is in the dire predicament of requiring large numbers of technicians to manage the growth in population and industry she is currently undergoing. The

governemt should be promoting the attendance of technical institutes. That is where the heritage of Alberta will reside. Maybe the government should consider setting up an institution to rival Ontario's Ryerson or the MIT in the United States.

Traditionally a student who attends university has been eligible for larger loans than those going to the technical institutes. It should be the other way around. Technical students get a measly three months in the summer to scrounge up some bucks to eek out an existence during the coming year. Maybe the folks who divine who should get money look at the technical students and

say "you guys will be out in another year whereas university students could be there for the rest of their lives."

The grants that will be part of the Heritage Scholarship Fund will be administered by the Student Finance Board. In some cases the institute itself will dictate who will get some of the money. But what it comes down to is that noone knows who is eligible to get some free money. University is already over and the third quarter here at NAIT is already turning the corner and heading into the back stretch. If they base acceptability on academic standings then to those who slacked off a bit, they are

sweet out of luck. What happens if a certain average is called for and the student got a bit lazy and missed the average by a point or two.

The idea of announcing a scholarship fund for the coming year after the previous year is over is akin to heading out for a dinner party without notification of what the dress will be. Then once in the car and on the way one receives notification that it will be formal and one has sneakers on. So it is with the grants expected for next year. If one knew before the year was over what was expected in order to qualify for the dinner party then those who wanted to attend the party could have attired themselves properly.

the

NORTHERN ALBERTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER

# NUGGET

I never said that.  
Harry Baram

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 26

Wednesday, April 15, 1981

## Census count

It is estimated that 119,000 Canadians between the ages of 20 and 24 were not counted in the 1976 Census; many of these were university students.

Two percent of the overall Canadian population was not counted in 1976. A post-census study showed that persons between the ages of 20 and 24 were the ones most often missed.

The transience of many university students during summer months is a major reason for the large undercount. Statistics Canada, the federal government department in charge of conducting the June 3 Census, plans to reduce the contingency enumeration methods.

Questionnaires will be delivered to work camps in remote areas, summer camps and resorts where students work. To count persons travelling, we will visit campsites in provincial and national parks, tourist homes, hostels, hotels and motels on Census Day, June

3. University residences will be enumerated and students overseas can be enumerated on questionnaires available in Canadian embassies and consulates.

Persons in these situations will complete a special census questionnaire. Checking of these questionnaires following the Census ensures that persons temporarily absent are included at their usual place of residence.

An accurate census count is important not only to planners and policy-makers but to university students as well. Federal and provincial government financing of educational institutions and employment initiatives is frequently done on a per capita basis. Programs designed for this age group are often underfunded because of the undercount. During the 1979-80 academic year students made more than 16 percent of the 23,000 requests for information at Statistics Canada's nine regional reference centres.

## Pub rally

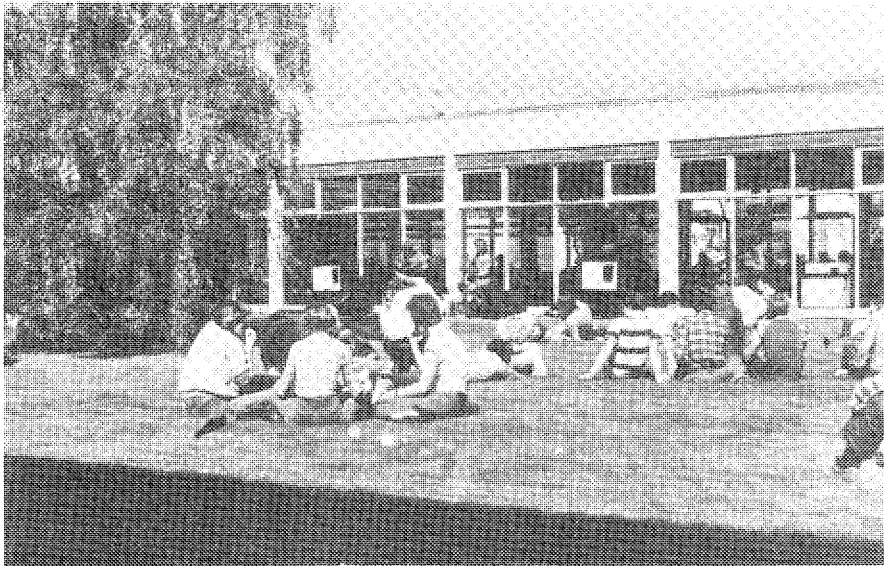
by Linda Hause

Telecoms 3th Annual Pub Rally was held Saturday, April 11, 1981.

Prior to the contest Telecom traveled over the course several times and took an average time to be used as a goal for the event. That time was 1 hour 56 min. and 3 seconds.

Thirty-two teams entered the contest to see who could come in closest to the unknown time.

Each team had a driver, two drinkers and where required, a navigator. The teams were sent to a bar where they drank two beers, signed a sheet and got the address to the next bar, where they drank one beer. This continued on until the last bar, where they again drank two beer, and returned to NAIT.



coming soon

I am not sure whether this means they are the fastest drinkers or drivers, but Mel Buff's team from BCET was the first in at 1 hour 24 min. 12 seconds.

Now pay attention all you male chauvinists out there, because the winners of the Pub Rally are an all female team from Administrative Management. Congratulations go to Rhonda Steverson, Joan Anderson and Kim Wall. Time 1 hour 55 min. 47 sec.

Thanks to Kelly Polanski's great navigating, the team consisting of Kelly, Roy Stasiuk, Russell Bridgeman, and Dan Neveu came in second.

The third place team, also from Business consisted of Dave Ferchoff, Steve Fedoruk, Ken Rebryna, and Doug Der.

After the event, everyone moved on over to the Louis for even more beer, until they were cut off.

If anyone finds the team that didn't return, please tell them the Pub Rally is over for this year.

## This Week

Editor's Note  
The Wheel

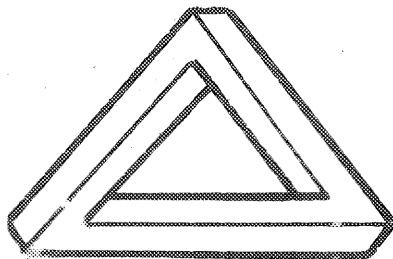
A movie

Around Town

At the Movies

Commonsense &  
Nonsense

p2  
p3  
p4  
p4  
p5  
p8



Student Newspaper for the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. The Nugget is published weekly. Excluding editorials, articles published do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Nugget staff. Deadline for all articles is Tuesday at 3 pm  
Black phone 427-9187  
Grey phone 423

# the NUGGET

NUGGET PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Linda Hause

News Editor: David C. Schamber

Typesetters: Cheryle Donahue

## Editor's Note

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, 1980 Jackie Weisimann from the ALCB attended a Naitsa General Council meeting to inform the technologies that all off campus permits had been cut off due to--

--lack and disregard of any control of off-campus functions --not monitoring door control

--complaints to ALCB from premise owners, public, etc."I

After a long discussion with the General Council, Ms. Weisimann relented and said she would ask the board to reinstate our permit.

With the ALCB checking up on the techs and a booklet on "How to run a Cabaret" written and distributed by Naitsa, things improved for a while.

At that meeting it was also decided that "We should keep the other technologies in line ourselves because their performance reflects a bad image on the whole of NAIT." Well, it's time that started happening. With graduation in sight, we do not want to risk having one technology cause the loss of liquor permits for all of NAIT. Can you imagine NO GRAD after 2 years of long, hard work?

Cabaret management is definitely going downhill - look at the BAS cabaret last Friday (BAS are not the only ones either). BAS oversold according to their liquor permit and most likely violated fire regulations in relation to the number of people allowed. Besides being uncomfortably crowded, there were no police present and no visible bouncers.

Despite the adequate facilities, BAS seemed to be too lazy to check coats, just having those out of the way would have allowed more room to breathe.

After seeing all this and a few other things, I was ready to leave. Unfortunately, someone had the main entrance door LOCKED? It took them a while to open it too.

Complaining to the person watching the main door got only a light hearted response. Which is what I deserved. After all, it's well known that all NAIT students are invincible and that they couldn't possibly burn.

It's bad enough that ALCB regulations were violated at the risk of Grad, but when fire regulations are violated at the risk of lives, it's time to take another look.

Linda Hause

1. Naita General Council Minutes, October 28, 1980
2. Ibid.

## Perspective

Adrian Watzke

Perspective - What's going on in Politics

What's it been now? Two weeks? three weeks? since the NAITSA elections. Surely everyone knows who the new council are. If you don't, go have another beer, maybe you'll pass out and we won't have to tell you.

But now there is a new Student Association occupying the NAITSA executive offices, those hallowed halls, which represent student government and crap like that. So what? What's going to happen? What are they going to do for us? The lowly student population, groveling to make a passing grade, and stay drunk enough to forget last quarter's finals. Will we once again be blessed with the privilege, no perhaps I should say the honor of having pubtimes? or maybe a year-end beer fest in the arena? I mean, the whole school is heart-broken about the Alberta government truck which was washed at last year's pubtime. Gee, it was only a Dodge. Maybe if all our students, pledge to behave

like good little boys and girls we will be able to once again listen to third rate bands, distorted music in that echo chamber of horrors, the cafeteria. This will of course mean that all firearms will have to be checked at the door.

Speaking of wild shakers, the last BAS Blast at the "Villa" sure cooked. I know I got baked. Maybe the newly elected BAS council, "Bob's Bunch" can get together a shaker to top the last one. It's going to be tough, but the word is out they'll get to work as soon as they sober up. C'mon Bob I graduate next year (can't wait for you to dry out.) While on the subject of the BAS elections. I would like to express a few sincere, heartfelt words to the bitterly discouraged AL's Allstars "Ha! You lost! It happens in politics, especially to those serious about having fun!"

I've got to depart now, it's time for my appointment at the medical clinic. The Doctors say I'm doing real well. The treatment seems to be working. Hott ARRRR GMPTP! Sorry, Flash-

Dear (Appointed) Editor:

I am becoming increasingly disappointed at the quality of the 'Nugget.' I'd like to bring your attention to some of the things that I'm talking about. If you check page 6 of the April 9, 1981 edition, you'll realize you have to turn the paper sideways to read the first half of the article of 'Dr. C. Ratrap.' This means you practically have to pull the paper apart to read the article. Obviously something is lacking to have a layout such as this. Especially when there is such an abundance of white space on page 5. As a former volunteer for the Nugget, I realize that this could have been corrected. Granted, 'Dr. C. Ratrap' is not a serious article, but if you're going to put it in, you may as well do it right. Somehow, your excuse of not having enough Nugget staff is simply not good enough. There is no excuse for sloppy work. If you can't put the Nugget out correctly, don't put it out at all.

Which brings me to the ad on page 2, namely, 'Nugget Staff Wanted.' Then the so-called benefits are listed "High Pay, Easy Work, Friendly People." Do you expect to surprise people with the truth, after they've started? Somehow, the ad doesn't follow through. Why do you go through staff so fast and have only one survivor? Yvette (typesetter) has become NAITSA Secretary, of course, (Congratulations Yvette!) But what about the rest? Why has the paper refused to

inform students as to why we have lost former editor Gene Thiel with a unbiased article?

How convenient that you have just finished with one job as Publications Chairman to start another as editor! Is this out of the kindness of your heart or are you receiving a small honorarium for your efforts? I'm not a lone person looking for answers. There are many who are concerned about these issues.

Karen Damgaard  
2nd Year Accounting

"Come on in - I'll be glad to answer your questions."

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The next year at NAIT, with the new NAITSA executive, should be a very interesting year indeed. I say this in light of the campaign "promises" made by Mr. Whalen. He has promised to the students many things that are going to take a lot of work to see into reality. As a student at NAIT, whether I voted for Whalen or not, he owes me and the other students the realization of his promises. I may be cynical, but I doubt he can do it. First of all, upon close examination of his promises, he has listed many items, (most of his promises) that are in areas belonging to other NAITSA executive members.

For example, the Athletics Chairman's job is listed as item 2, section A and B and section C, subsections 4, 5

and 6. Next he proceeds to tell the vice president her job in item 2, section C, subsections 1, 2 and 3. Then he mentions he also would do the job of Activities, Publications, Treasurer, Nugget editor and maybe, even his. Viewing his points makes it evident he does not know his job or plans to do everybody's job also besides his own.

Of course his points (promises) have their humorous side. Item 9 says he wants to surround Plaza II with flashing pedestrian signs. What's the matter David do you need someone to hold your hand when you cross the street? I'm sure we could hire someone to do this for you.

Did David really bother to check ahead of time to see if his 12 promises had been done before or are currently being done? For example, items 1 section A and B, subsections A,B, items 7, 10, and of course item 4. This last item is most interesting. David, it's been tried before and wouldn't work. What makes you think you can do it. Of course you already participate in a car pool right now, don't you? Or are you exempt from participation in

a car pool being president elect? (the presidential right).

Of course his promises are possible if he wants to do everybody's job for them. Of course he will have all summer to work towards his promises as the job of president DEMANDS he be there every day in the summer from at least 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. This time will allow him to devote all the necessary time. This time coupled with the fact he can only have a maximum of 15 hours of class per week, he should have a lot of time to do all he promised. It seems David is very dedicated to his promises and seeing them into reality. Yet time will tell if it is dedication or just an election play.

In his letter of last week David stated "and I will do my utmost to not let you down." well we will be watching you David. As the people who pay your salary, we expect to get our money's worth. Do what you have promised and you have our support, don't, and well...

D.S. (the official opposition of NAITSA)

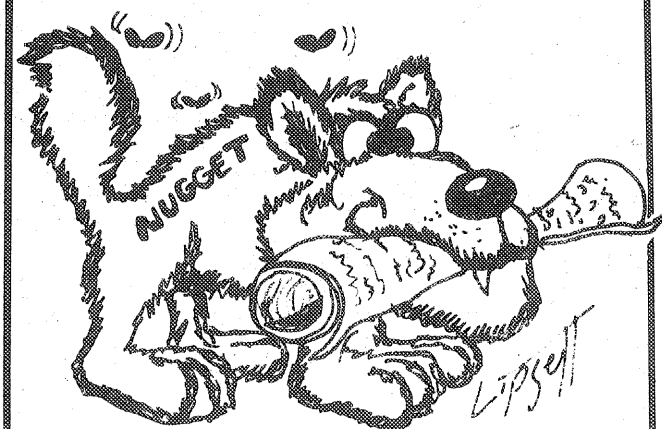
"Opposition of Naitsa or Whalen?"

## NUGGET STAFF WANTED

### BENEFITS

~~HIGH PAY~~  
~~EASY WORK~~

~~FRIENDLY PEOPLE~~



COMPOSE MYSELF. PRETEND I'M OUT ON THE BALD PRAIRIE WATCHING A SUNSET. A THANK YOU THIS WEEK TO THE PEOPLE WHO SENT CARDS AND LETTERS TO GRACE THE PAGES OF THIS ATTEMPT AT A STUDENT NEWSPAPER. A GOOD BYE TO CATHY KISS WHO RETURNS TO THE LAND OF THE DAMNED, ONTARIO, IN AN ENLIGHTENED FRAME OF MIND. SPRING IS RUSTLING IN THE BACK GROUND, BEEN PUSHED ASIDE THIS LAST LITTLE WHILE BY WINTER. A BIG BEAR IN BCET KEEPS GROWLING AT ME FOR AN APOLOGY, CLAIMS HE WAS MISQUOTED AND WANTS A FRONT PAGE STORY TO GO WITH IT. HA HA.



I have to ride that?



# The Wheel

the river valley trails

by David C. Schamber

Edmonton is slowly developing a character of its own that is not reflected by countless other cities on the North American continent. Much of the time unfortunately what is being done in this city is only reinforcing a nameless, faceless city. Only the river valley brings flavor to Edmonton and mainly because it has been left out of the grip of developers.

A few years ago the city put down a series of trails, bicycle for summer and cross country for winter, on both sides of the river. I want to thank them for the bicycle paths.

The bicycle paths stretch throughout Capital City Recreation Park. They start near the High Level Bridge and flow with the river down to the Strathcona Science Park. The paths cross the North Saskatchewan River four times on their own bridges.

The city has managed to put a bit of country into the heart of the city. The bicyclist does not have to go hours to get out of the urban sprawl so that he can enjoy the open air. The river valley bike paths are ecstasy for those of us who love the open road, who fantasize of roads with no cars on them. It is freedom, it is to be able to let loose and not worry about stop signs.

The bicycle paths in the river valley climb and flutter along the valley banks. They present an excellent way to get exercise and fresh air. No carbon monoxides or nitrous oxides choke the valley as they do the city streets. Noise is no longer omniscient.

Bicycling is a quiet, contemplative experience. The bicycle is an extension of the body and energy flows smoothly from the body to the bicycle. There is none of the pounding associated with jogging or the myopia of team sports. The rider is at one with himself, his machine and the environment. Distractions destroy this unity. To ride

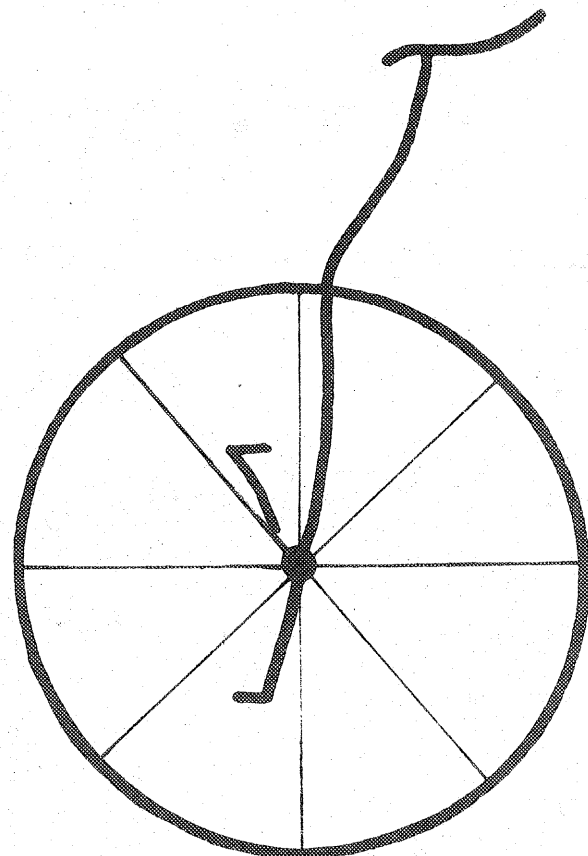
in an area devoid of artificial distractions, cars, is to fully experience the bicycle ride.

I have heard rumors that the city is planning to put a bicycle path through Mill Creek to connect with the valley paths. That would make me very happy. I would like to see all the ravines in Edmonton connected by bicycle paths to the central river valley system. In such an undertaking the city traffic engineers will have set up a bicycling traffic system for much of the city. I would go out of my way to use such a system. Let the cars duel with each other up top. The noise and smell can stay with them.

In such a network of bicycle paths the rider would be able to travel leisurely to work or for enjoyment in comfort, fresh air and quiet; and without having to constantly look back over the shoulder for vengeful cars. The bicyclist would be the king of the trail, except for skateboards and roller skaters.

Roller skaters are to bicyclists what bicycles are to motorists, a nuisance. They slow down the bicyclist but they have a right to use the trails also. They are usually out in the open and are not a nasty surprise as one comes screaming around a blind corner.

The variety of the terrain in the valley paths stretches from long lazy inclines to sharp hair raising drops. Depending on the direction the rider travels these drops can be either arduous or exhilarating, not to mention dangerous. I find that a counter-clockwise circuit offers the best ride. By going this direction the trail below McNally School heading to the Capilano Freeway turns into a daredevil's run. It is my favorite stretch on the valley system. It is a series of sharp drops heading into blind corners. It is living on the edge with the speeds one can achieve when there is no one else on the trails. Going



the other way it is a 'get off the bike and walk' type of hill.

The river valley bike paths are a bicyclist's dream world; no cars, no noise, no exhaust gases. There are long flat stretches to laze away and there are sharp inclines to test one's endurance. If you want to bicycle long distances but are not equipped for the open road then the valley system will thrill your heart.

## SPACED AGE TOOL COMPANY

### Space Time Graph Paper

Are you planning your next vacation in the vast oasis of space? Going star tripping?

If you are then you will probably need Space Time Graph Paper. Available from the Spaced Age Tool Company this paper will allow you to plot your course amongst the stars. This is not simple Euclidean space graph paper but graphs which take into account relativity.

Interstellar tripping means travelling at speeds close to the velocity of light. As this limit is approached the subjective time frame of the traveller remains the same but his objective time reference, the earth, speeds up.

What may be only a three week cruise on the oceans of space for you will actually be hundreds of years to your creditors on Earth. With Space Time Graph Paper the traveller will be able to plot the passage of his time to the time on earth. He can stretch his short weekend run into a leisurely number of years.

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# Challenge Cup challenge

- ★ -B.C.E.T. are the present holders of the "Challenge Cup".
- ★ -We are challenging other techs to come up with a challenge of mutual agreement
- ★ -We have not recieved any challenges in the 1980-81 year.
- ★ -We are willing and ABLE to take on challengers.
- ★ -IF anyone wins expect a new challenge immediately.

## ★ CHALLENGE CUP CONTEST RULES ★

1. The purpose of the Challenge Cup is to play up novelty events for everyone to enjoy (watching or participating).
2. Challenges must be placed with the technology holding the cup and with the Athletic Chairman.
3. Both techs (Challenger and Challenged) must agree to rules of contest proposed, with the rules of the challenge made up by the challenging technology and Athletic Chairman.
4. Challenging technology must make all arrangements, eg. place, equipment, etc., in co-operation with the Athletic Chairman.
5. No technology may challenge more than twice a month.
6. The technology holding the Challenge Cup must bring it to the location of the challenge, so that the Athletic Chairman can present it to the winning technology.
7. All challenges are to be carried out on set date "NO EXCEPTIONS". This is because of the difficulty of making arrangements, eg. surprise exams, forgetfulness, etc.
8. Default is a poor way of obtaining the Challenge Cup, but I am afraid this condition must exist.
9. All challenges must take place at NAIT.
10. All challenges with the approval of the Athletic Chairman must be accepted.
11. In case of any disputes, the decision of the Athletic Chairman shall be final.
12. Athletic Chairman will record results of all contests and keep a record to determine the years over-all champion.
13. An article must be submitted to the Athletic Chairman from the winning team captain no later than the day after the challenge has taken place indicating how badly they beat their opponents. If this is not done the Challenge Cup will be rescinded and it will revert back to the tech that had possession of it.

## B.C.E.T & DENTAL

presents

## EASTER ROCK BASH

featuring

CATCHER

at Harold's Place

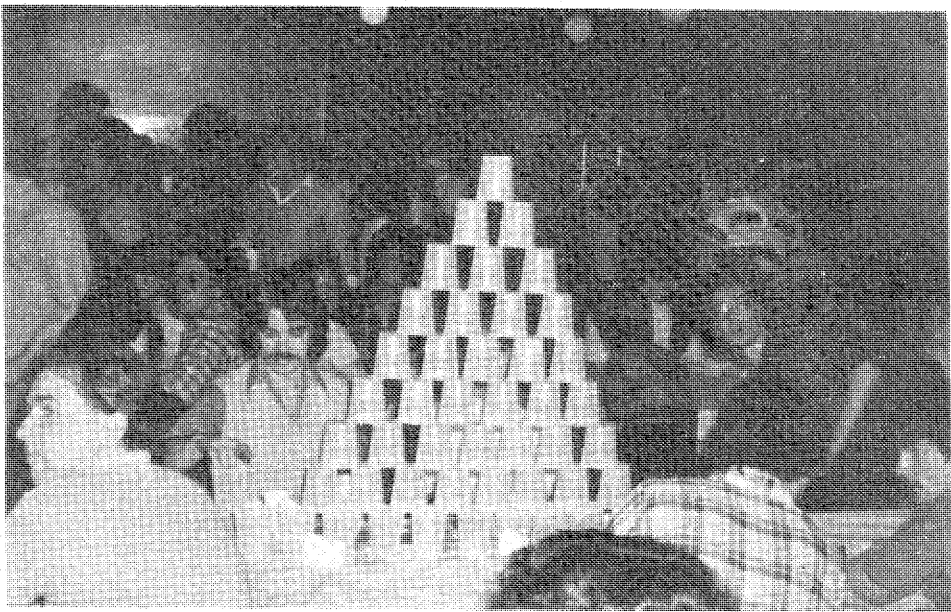
Adm. \$6

April 16th

8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

# Entertainment

## BAS & FOOTLOOSE



### Chalk up Another for BAS

By Michael Koury

The stage was set. Four-hundred and fifty plus filed into the infamous Villa Vesuvius with one goal in mind, five hours of "Social relaxation." There was obviously no time to waste as the dance floor was filled to capacity when Footloose be-

gan their first set. I don't think I had ever seen a crowd so responsive before at any NAIT function. Gus made a noble effort in trying to keep the beer and liquor supply adequate. Although he made three trips to the vendors the beer was

still gone by twelve thirty. At least they still had the scotch. Sue got a lai from Ken while Ralph was content in displaying his new "urban cowboy" look. As the dance floor became too crowded, Peter and Donna decided to use the tables for extra

dancing room. I guess the old cliché that management students utilize their resources effectively still holds true. Directly below the table top duo, Jerry was starting his own shoe and sock collections. Bob Grey, Mitch McCann,

Sandy Timmer, Cam Turner, and Sharon Mishew, better known as "Bob's Bunch" was announced as the new B.A.S. executive to the obvious satisfaction of the crowd. Here are 5 pretty enthusiastic individuals who have their work cut out for them.

They've got a tough act to follow. Congratulations are in order to "Al's Allstars" on a noble effort. I'm sure they will have a valid input in the operation of next year's BAS.

## AT THE MOVIES

### DOGS OF WAR

by Cathy Kiss

No acting, all action, *The Dogs of War* seems little more than a background setting for Christopher Walkens' stunning cheekbones. Walkens, who played the Russian roulette victim, Nicki, in *The Deer Hunter* was thoroughly unconvincing as Shannon, seasoned mercenary and leader of men. Presumably he was chosen for the part because of his role in *Deer Hunter*. Had he lived, would Hicki's madness have hardened him to the point of becoming a dedicated 'soldier of fortune'? Or perhaps Robert De Niro was unavailable for the part. At any rate, Walkens is just too young and too pretty for any kind of jologic to account for his snagging the lead role in this one.

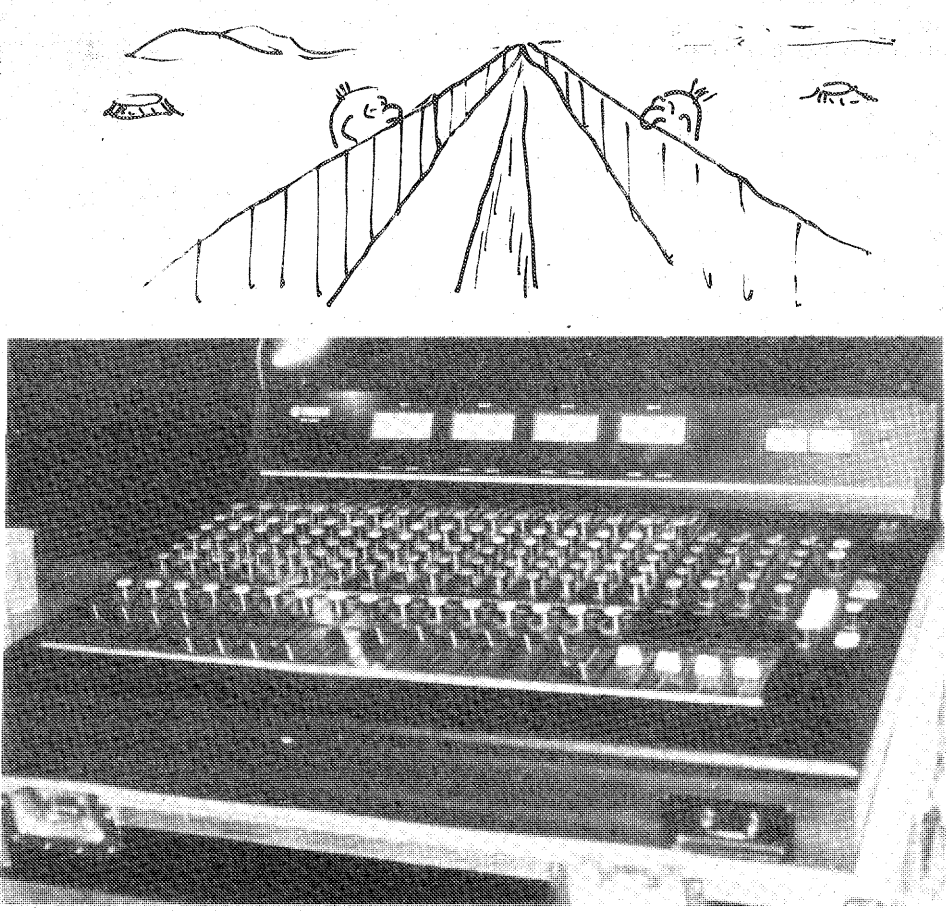
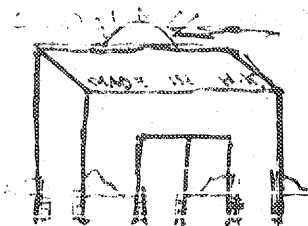
One scene in particular, where Shannon has a clandestine meeting with his girlfriend at a lonely highway restaurant, brings to mind

two college freshmen mourning over an unwanted pregnancy, rather than a lonely and introspective man ready to give up his life of hardship and adventure for the girl he loves. Either way, of course, it's all cliché, and 'so American'. And it certainly wasn't in the book. Mercifully, the dealing for the artillery for their little escapade was kept down to a minimum. Forsythe, author of the book *The Dogs of War*, can often devote almost half a book to arms deals, which was fascinating in *The Day of the Jackal*, but became a bit tiresome by the time *The Dogs of War* came out.

Even the story line was a year too late. Multinational with platinum interests in a small African nation hire mercenary force to put a greedy puppet-dictator in power. J.R. just did that last week on *Dallas*.

Not to sound too jaded, *The Dogs of War* is well

scripted. The movie is actually easier to follow than the book. The grand finale is a fascinating spectacle of fire and brimstone, action-violence that will pale on any TV screen, during the surprise ending, Walkens quite rises to the man he was built up to be throughout the film. If you're half drunk and feeling silly about looking for a fight, the Choreographic violence in *The Dogs of War* may well fill the gap. If not, save your \$4.25, but don't miss it when it comes on TV next season.



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	HIGHWAY MOTOR INN	Nozey Parker	guitarist	
	KINGSWAY	Country Image	Allan Raymond Show	Aerial
	LONDONDERRY	Cadillac Bob	Laur Vinsion and Red Wing	Headwind
	RENFORD INN ON WHYTE	The Times	Reflection	Two for the Show
	REX MOTOR INN	Gina		
	RIVIERA	Berlin	After Eight	Kick Axe
	SHERWOOD PARK INN	Victory	Sky	On Stage
		Firebird	Roller Coaster	



# EXCALIBUR

By Mitchell C. Fraser

One of my old teachers, one of the few who ever taught me something, would be horrified at the opening lines of the movie *Excalibur*. The time and setting for the film is explained by 'the dark ages' and 'the lost centuries.' The people who lived at that time were not lost, they lived and proliferated as much as we do today.

If this story was to take place in some far off galaxy where the forces of fascism were running amuck except for the efforts of a boy and a wizard then we could accept the situation. However, *Excalibur* takes place in the British Isles in the years four to five hundred A.D. It is a time that is important in western and especially English mythology. It is the time of King Arthur and the Knights of The Round Table. A time when man begins to eclipse the power of the wizards.

Those ages were not dark times or lost centuries. Though they followed the break up of the Roman Empire, civilization did not suddenly disappear. Instead a new order was emerging. One that would give birth to many of the values that we now hold so dear. A way to express those values, to pass them on is to incorporate them into myth. It is for this reason that the Arthurian legends are important to us.

The legend of Arthur is a primal myth and as such gives birth to many interpretations. The last interpretation of this myth has been in the Star Wars pictures.

Star Wars contained all the characters of the Arthurian legend, King Arthur, Lancelot, and Guinivere, it even contained a Merlin or two. *Excalibur* as a presentation of this legend falls short of mythical interpretation. Instead it acts like a bloody history lesson. *Excalibur* does not do justice

to the myth. It presents a new view of reality, nothing to walk home to think about expect a lot of blood and some good visual effects. It is empty.

John Boorman, who directed and produced *Excalibur*, also had a hand in writing the screen play. More directors seem to be taking total control of a picture. In too many instances the movie suffers for it.

Boorman takes the approach that the time of Camelot was dark and life cheap. Death was the only thing to proliferate in those times. So we get battle scenes upon battle scenes in the dark. And if they aren't trying to settle their differences in the dark then they are doing it in the fog.

King Arthur brings peace and plenty to the land with the help of *Excalibur* the sword forged in antiquity and carried by a succession of kings. Unfortunately, Lancelot and Guinivere have a thing for each other. Arthur finds Guinivere playing with Lancelot, he throws away the sword and the lands slips into darkness and despair. As the despair tramples the land the knights of the round table go out in search of the Holy Grail in hope that it will bring back joy to the land.

Somewhere along the line John Boorman gets caught up in the scenery and puts the myth in the background. He still adheres to it, but he no longer fashions it and thereby loses the power such myth has upon us. He gets caught up in presenting the knights in nice stainless steel suits that shine brightly. He has so many knights walking around that the production lines of those ages would have made Henry Ford envious.

Merlin is a disappointment in this movie. He never



achieves a unified character. At one moment he is a clown, a fool and at the next moment a powerful demigod.

Morgan la Fay, who is Arthur's half sister, achieves a better characterization than Merlin. She dabbles in the arts and overpowers Merlin only to be overcome by Merlin in the end.

Boorman was not attempting any self-discovery by the characters in *Excalibur*. He views the legend not so much as heroes discovering themselves, but of discovering their place in the scene of things. Arthur is one with the land. He is the land and as he grieves over Guinivere the land also grieves. Arthur is the only one that can be placed in the scheme of things. The rest seem to be fodder for the catapults.

Somewhat I expected bigger things from this picture. Maybe I wanted a fantasy made out of the legend, something to go wow at. Maybe I wanted a delineation of reality, something to make me sit down and have a beer over. I left the same way I went in.

*Excalibur* attempted to be faithful to Sir Thomas Mallory's version of the legend. It followed the unfolding of the legend, but it completely perverted the flavor of the work. Camelot was a time of courtly love, when knights roamed the land to do honor for his lady, king or god.

It was a time of romance. 'Morte d'Arthur' by Mallory is a series of episodes of courtly romances. There is no romance in *Excalibur*. The ladies are put into the background. The flavor is as elusive as the lady-of-the-lake.

Rating - 6 (possibly 7 if I'm generous.)

## WIZARD

by David C. Schamber

'Wizard', by John Varley, is a worthy sequel to his fascinating 'Titan'. 'Wizard' continues the tale of Cirocco Jones and Gaby as they explore the interior of the wheel shaped artifact orbiting Saturn. It is a living being in itself.

The artifact, called Gaea, after the godlike creature that resides in the hub was first encountered as 'Rocky' Jones and her crew fly to Saturn. They are caught by the Titan and thus unfolds the first novel in this soon to be completed trilogy. Gaea has existed for millions of years, placed there by creatures that have long since disappeared from the scene. Gaea is hollow and inside the torus a variety of plants and animals flourish and die.

Gaea is doughnut shaped with a radius of 600 km.. The inside is hollow with an inside dimension of 50 km.. There are six spokes going from the torus to the hub. The spokes divide the interior into areas of dark and light.

'Wizard' is written in epic form. It is of humans going out in search of adventure and heroic deeds. It even

contains a descent into the underworld, as all epics do. The underworld in this case is the skin of Gaea where reside local brains or dieties which look after the immediate terrain.

In epic tales, the person descends into the underworld so that he may rise again with greater wisdom. It is a dangerous journey but all heroes must do it, have done it since Gilgamesh went into the underworld in the 'Epic of Gilgamesh'. The earliest recorded writings that man has found contains references to Gilgamesh. His legends come from the Mesopotamian area.

The local brains of Gaea have become deranged and antagonistic towards Gaea. To visit them is dangerous and security can not be guaranteed. Part of the story of 'Wizard' is the necessity to visit with these brains. Rocky attains valuable information which she will use when the time comes.

Gaea, may be a demigod, but she does everything scientifically although a bit fantastically. And therein is the only downfall of the novel. John Varley tends to get caught up in the scenery

and his imagination. Fortunately the book does not plod along for even when Varley is describing the scenery his story telling continues to hold one in firm grip.

'Wizard' is a fascinating tale. It is not as awe inspiring as Larry Niven's

'Ringworld'. The world of 'Ringworld' was a ring a million miles across which stretches around a sun. Gaea is much closer to human scale. Varley does not lose sight of the human element. Though the inside of Gaea is populated by strange and

fascinating creatures he always retains the human perspective.

John Varley is an imaginative and sensitive writer. He may get caught up in his imagination but his touch of humans and their problems is a mark of the new wave of

SF writers. The old vanguard of writers used humans as vehicles for their plots; for Varley, humans are the plot. At times he may slow down in an attempt to extradict his players from their surroundings in a human way, but at no time does he get boring.

### HOW TO CHOOSE AND LOOK AFTER A HOUSEPLANT

by Cheryl Jones

Choosing a houseplant is a very difficult procedure. The first thing that you must remember is that you cannot go into just any store and buy a plant. You have got to shop around at a variety of stores before you make a final purchase. If you do this, you are sure to get a good bargain, and hopefully a beautiful, healthy plant. You must also remember to choose a plant that you identify with. It is important to have something in common with your plant because remember, the two of you are going to have to live together.

Once you have purchased your plant, you must take him home, introduce him to any other plants that you may have, and then find him suitable living accommodations. Hopefully your new plant, and any others that you may already have, can become friends. You must keep in mind that a happy plant, is a healthy plant.

The next thing that you must do is to find this new addition to your family an appropriate place in your house. If he chooses the kitchen, then place him in the kitchen, if he chooses the livingroom, place him in the livingroom. After you have successfully placed your plant, it is important that the two of you get acquainted. Give him some water, a better yet, some bug spray, just to prove to him that you are a loving and caring individual. Create a supportive environment.

Talk to your plant, and reassure him that life with you is going to be terrific. Plants need to be talked to, it makes them feel loved and wanted. A plant that feels unloved will soon wither and die. Therefore, you must keep in mind the importance of communication. If this new plant does not talk back to you, do not worry, he is probably shy and scared to speak. Give him some time and continue to talk to him, and maybe some day he'll feel confident enough to engage in an intelligent conversation.

Singing to your plant is also a good idea, plants love to be entertained. A good thing to remember though, is that plants prefer soft music, so try to refrain from playing any heavy rock and roll. Rock music has been known to cause root rot and browning of the leaves.

The last thing that you must do is to inform your new plant about what life with you entails. Inform him that he will be watered only once a day, will be required to take plant medicine once a month, and is expected to produce flowers, or at least new shoots, twice a year. Keep in mind that giving your plant encouragement and praise will provide him with the incentive to please.

Following this set of procedures, and the Advice that I have provided, you should be able to choose and maintain a plant that you can grow to love and respect.

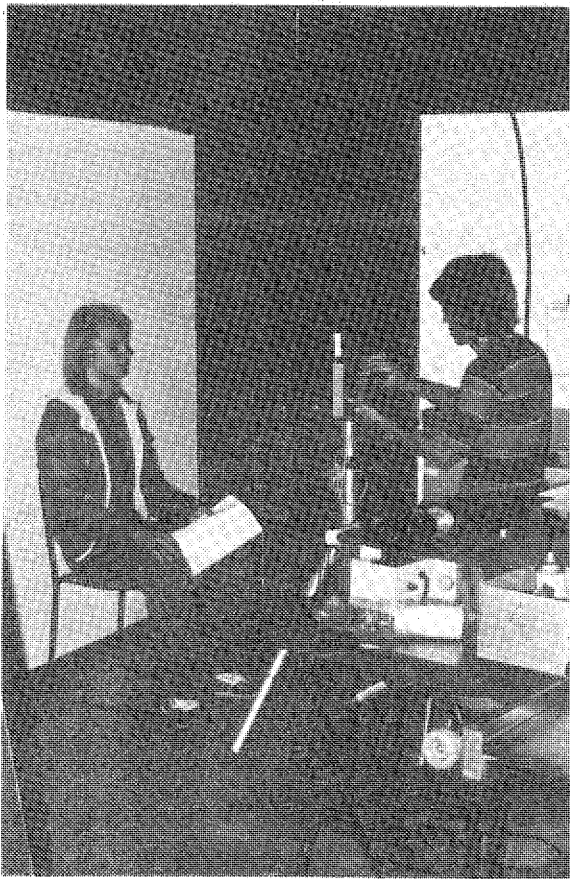
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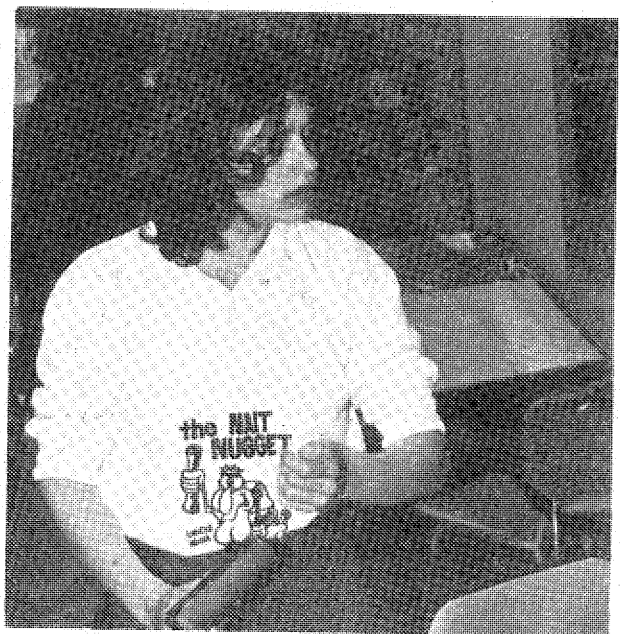
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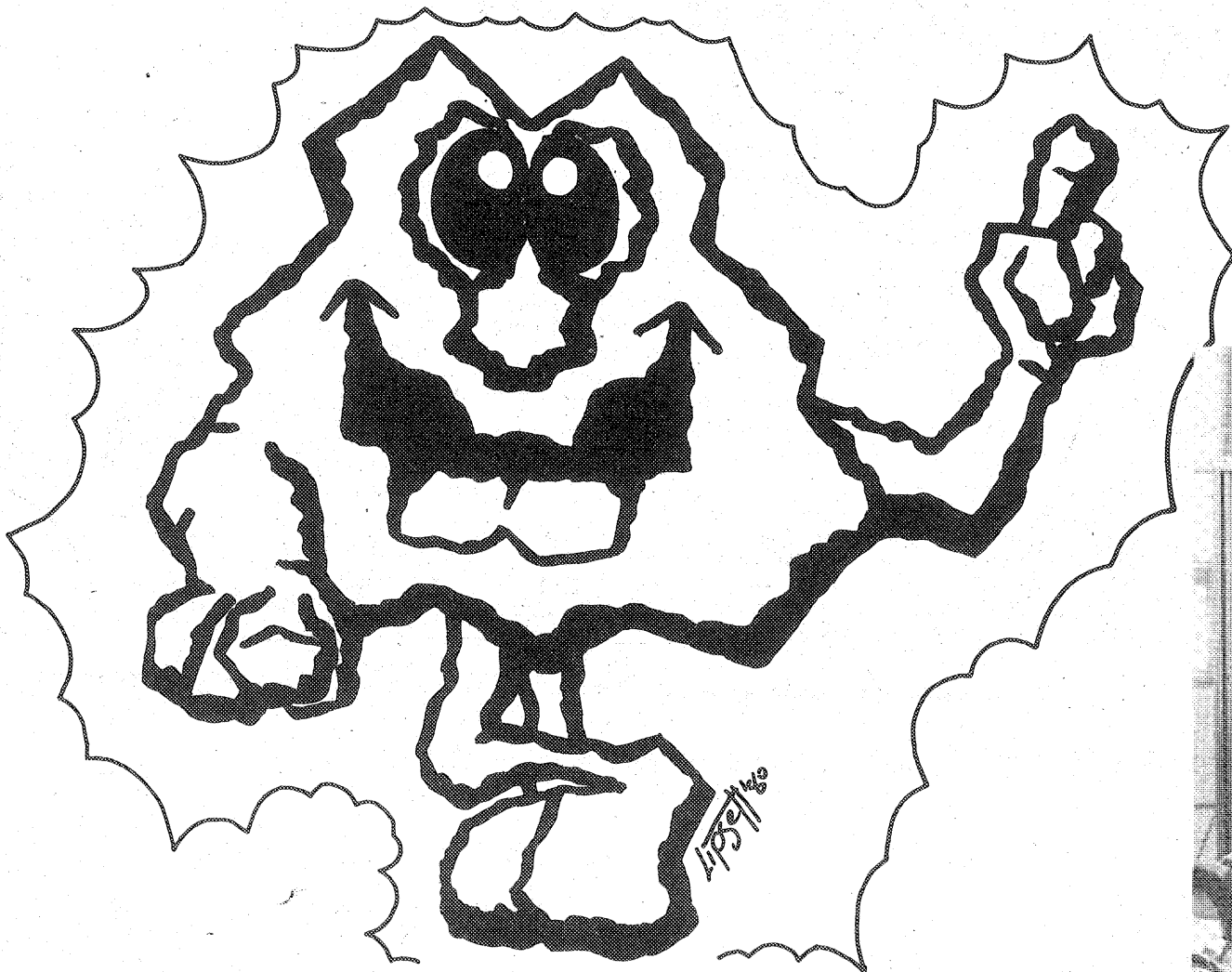
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