



fresh tracks
by Barbara McIntosh

DOOM

In my last term of school, I was enthusiastically working on an over-the English essay when my transistor was drowned out by a loud siren.

Egads - a red alert and I'm still a child - I'll never escape, I'm out of subway tokens - what a time to have a room on the third floor - where are my Gord Lightfoot records - help.

Then my journalistic instincts took over. This could be hot stuff.

Grabbing my camera I raced to the balcony. It was an air-raid warning all right. I could see the siren turning round and round on the top of the physics building down the street.

"It's an air-raid," I shrieked to my room-mate sprawled on the top bunk eating an orange.

"Cut the excitement, it's probably a physics experiment," she kept on eating.

"No, it's the real thing. What will we do? Hey, it's an air-raid," I screamed to a man on the street below.

"Smart-alec student," he snapped and kept on walking.

"It's an air-raid," I cried to the world. "Isn't anybody interested?"

A city work crew went on painting a crosswalk; some coeds gossiped at the corner; a line of traffic waited silently for a green light.

"What apathy," I shrieked. "I'll call CHUM - Brian Skinner will care."

I dialed and waited breathlessly. Before I could ask what time to expect the end, a voice boomed, C-H-U-M, NO IT IS NOT AN AIR-RAID. THE ALARM HAS BEEN SET OFF BY ACCIDENT. THIS IS A RECORDING. YEAH MAN.

"Thank God for Chum," I gasped and dashed back to tell my room-mate. "It isn't an air-raid after all."

"Probably a physics experiment," she sighed and kept on eating.

"It isn't an air-raid after all," I shrieked over the balcony to the world.

A couple looked up at me and shrugged their shoulders. The city work crew went on painting the crosswalk.

Suddenly the siren stopped. The transistor was playing, "It's a burn down day."

I turned to my room-mate. "Well, it was just a mistake but the real thing could happen you know, and we have no organization. Nobody even knew what the siren meant and nobody seemed to care. This whole city could have been wiped out and nobody would have been prepared for it but me - and CHUM."

She sat up, threw her orange peelings over the balcony and sighed, "Look, it's no sweat. If it had been for real this city would have gone in three minutes. You might as well forget about it, do your nails, eat an orange and smile."

And she's right. I had momentarily slipped out of character. We are the bomb generation. For the last 20 years we have lived in the constant realization that man now has the means of destroying himself in a matter of minutes. And we know that there is really no escape.

We rarely think about it. It's as much a part of our life as snow in the winter and old age.

So what the heck.

Pas un mot de Paris

The national postal strike is having international repercussions on the Free Press Youth Page. We have no written word from the touring Acton students. A letter with their candid impressions of Paris is no doubt sitting in some mailbox in the French capital. Perhaps it will get through in time for next week.

Several students have made trans-Atlantic calls home in the past week, protesting about French food, and emphasizing that they are nevertheless having "a great time." One girl had apparently written to her parents and posted it before the strike. Unfortunately, in her haste she forgot to include the address on the envelope so it was returned to her in Paris.

If the tour is progressing according to schedule, the students are no doubt bathing in Schnapps somewhere in Germany by now.



Band Camp holiday record number go

A record number of Acton music students have had the opportunity of attending the Ontario Youth Music Camp in Beaverton this summer. The camp is sponsored by the Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Bandmasters Association.

Valerie Colos, Barry Buchanan, Paul Youngblut, Bronda Irwin, Leslie Colos, Sean Aherne, and Randy Coker returned on Sunday after one week in Beaverton. The week previous, John Kingsmill and Bob Ellurby, attended the sessions. Last year only two went from Acton.

Band camp is a summer holiday with a difference. It offers the full range of recreational activities plus the musical experience of band rehearsals under the trees and expert guidance.

Top musicians from across Ontario offer their talent and experience. During the past week, the students studied under Dr. Ward Cole, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Music

at the University of Toronto, and recently appointed Musical Director at the University of Alberta in Calgary.

Two weeks ago, the musical director was Robert Lowry, a member of the educational branch of the Conn Music Company.

The musical program includes a concert band rehearsal every day in addition to private study, ensemble practice and sectional rehearsals.

Each Sunday, the students play a special concert for the parents. Last Friday night, 114 strongpup in a guest appearance at a wedding reception, and on Saturday a group performed in an old peoples' home in Beaverton.

According to Dr. George Elliot, leader of Acton's Citizens' Band, "They all enjoyed it very much. I hope the number to go will increase next year."

Mr. Elliot and several of the parents attended Sunday's concert in the camp.



THE TRIALS OF a playground instructor can only be appreciated by those who endure. Mark Hurst whitewashed his hands of the whole thing on Friday for a two-week visit to Whitehorse, Yukon. (Staff Photo)

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K. C. LINDSAY,
Clerk-Treasurer

Joe Petric picks up six medals in Canadian Music League



ACCORDIONIST JOE PETRIC won a total of six medals at the Canadian Musicians' League competitions in Toronto. (Staff Photo)

Joe Petric and his accordion came home with five gold medals and one silver, from the Canadian Music League Festival in Toronto July 17-20.

Joe has been studying the accordion for the past 11 years and is now in the grade nine and ten level. This was his first year in the Conservatory and his first time in CML competitions.

Gold medals were awarded to first place winners and also to those who received a mark of 91 or over. Joe placed first in the Senior solo with 98 percent, third in the open solo with 93 percent, and third in the assistant teacher division with 96 percent.

In addition he played with the Kitchener senior orchestra which emerged the grand champion with 98 percent; the Kitchener open band division who came in first with 96 percent; and the Kitchener band class B which came in second.

Approximately 2,500 players from the three centres Kitchener, Simcoe and Hamilton attended the competitions. Naturally there were many students from the smaller towns that are included as a part of the three divisions. Six young accordionists from Acton stayed the full four days and a few others went to Toronto for a specific day.

Judges for the competition were Bill Palmer and Bill Huck of Texas who have written several books for the accordion. They performed a two-hour concert on Saturday night for the audience and received a standing ovation.

Joe, who is 15 years old and going into grade 11 in Acton District High School this fall, is well known around town for his talent on the accordion. He acts as an assistant teacher with Mr. Barber who gives Conservatory lessons in Acton YMCA.



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