

Entertainment Outlook

Spy thriller has highly charged, chilling scenes

By MELANIE NIXON
Outlook Special

If ever the upstairs curtains flickered more than usual, the Krogers certainly didn't notice it from their home across the street. They had no idea that there were policewomen surveilling them from the bedroom of their best friends' house.

For Bob and Barbara Jackson, the presence of Scotland Yard in their midst was awkward and emotionally draining. It wasn't that the girls spying from the upstairs bedroom were nuisances. In fact, they were ever so nice, and ever so quiet. No, it was just that they were there, and that fact alone terminated the spontaneity and casual flavour of the visits Barbara Jackson had so enjoyed with her dear friend, Helen. The strains showed.

In one tense scene, Helen asks Barbara mock-accusingly: "Have you been avoiding me?" Barbara reacts with apparent alarm, and Helen assures her she was just joking. Helen's curiosity is aroused however, by her friend's unusually anxious behavior. She continued prodding her to find out what's wrong, and Barbara keeps hedging nervously. After the visit, Barbara gets physically ill.

The scene is a highly charged and chilling one, and illustrates the intensity of mood conveyed throughout Pack of Lies. Georgetown Little Theatre will be presenting this exceptional docu-thriller on Feb. 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27.

Lori Kentner, catering manager for Kentner's Social Catering Ltd., will be playing the part of Thelma, one of the policewomen in Pack of Lies. Although the part is not a major one, Lori finds it interesting and enjoyable.

Lori has been a member of GLT for the past year, and has performed in Ten Little Indians (as Vera Claythorne). She has also been involved with high school musicals, and various other musical productions.

Lori, who was born in Georgetown, finds the most challenging part of her role is "attempting to portray an English accent!" She finds the play itself intriguing, and derives pleasure from working under the direction of Neville Worsnop.

Sally, the other policewoman, is played by Georgetown District High School student, Cathy Harris. Cathy is new to GLT, but not altogether new to the theatre. She has perform-

ed with a school drama club in New Brunswick, where she resided for three years, and had parts including "a middle-aged busy-body" and a sourly dispositioned old woman. Cathy stresses that she absolutely loves acting. She is currently taking Grade 12 theatre arts, and plans on majoring in drama at college in the future. Her association with GLT is, according to this enthusiastic and ambitious young actress, "a big start." Cathy adds: "I wish more communities would have a theatre group as welcoming as GLT has been." Cathy is wished much fortune in her hopes for a stage career; she has certainly been granted welcome exposure in this popular thriller!

Honorable mentions also go to those whose faces aren't in the spotlight, but without whom this production could not be made a success: Audrey Houston (script assistant and great help); Morra Kokot, Gordon Farewell, Lori Kentner, Linda Parker, J. Alyson Cooper (properties); Ron Hunt (stage manager, set design and construction); Jacky Willows, Olive Judd, Dorothy Hunt, John Kabel (set painting); Al Fraser (lighting design); Tom Robson, Wally Kokot (sound);

Adele Armstrong (costumes); Mary Goebel, Jean Harley (make-up); Peggy Arcuri (box office)... and all the others who have so generously 'pitched in'.

For tickets to see Pack of Lies, please contact the box office on Thursday, between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., at 877-3700.



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Dignity from politicians?

In an age in which cowboy actors make it to the White House, we probably shouldn't expect politicians to be life-long paragons of dignity and regal reserve.

Still, it was extraordinary to read that former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has hatched a brilliant plan to keep himself in the public eye by becoming a comic-book hero.

Apparently, Nakasone is publishing a quarterly comic-book entitled Yatchan, his childhood nickname. In the first issue, we learn that Yatchan entered politics after the Second World War because he saw that it was his duty to save his demoralized country.

We also read some fascinating tidbits of personal information — such as the fact that Nakasone used to dance around in his underwear while humming Swan Lake. And there are even samples of his own painting and poetry, such as the following haiku: "They like to call me hombre, one tough customer. I peel a chestnut."

I've studied this poem at considerable length, and I remain baffled. What, precisely, does peeling a chestnut have to do with being tough? Why not an orange, or a banana? Perhaps someone with a deeper understanding of traditional Japanese verse could fill me in.

In any case, you have to wonder exactly what a politician hopes to accomplish by turning himself into a cartoon character. Is this really likely to inspire wide-eyed admiration amongst the vot-



Weir's View

By Ian Weir
Thomson News Service

ers? Or is it more likely to inspire them to roll their eyes, wash their hands of the whole situation, and just elect Garfield the Cat?

All the same, you can see why politicians might want to perceive themselves as comic-book heroes. A comic-book hero, after all, is faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and able to leap tall buildings at a single bound — all qualities which can be turned to considerable advantage on the campaign trail.

This, presumably, explains the hot rumor from Ottawa that all three political parties are printing comic books as they gear up for an election.

According to reliable sources, the Tories will be first off the presses with The Amazing Mulroney-Man — the superhero who is faster than mail delivery in most parts of the country, more powerful than the premier of New Brunswick, and pretty good at side-stepping questions about Marcel Masse's campaign

funding. The comic traces our hero's rise from his humble origins in Baie Comeau, and reveals that he decided to enter politics in 1983 because he knew he could beat Joe Clark like a drum. Or peel him like a chestnut.

The comic offers fascinating information about the PM's personal life — such as the fact he never, ever attended a performance of Swan Lake in his underwear. This is a wicked lie, spread by lib-left elements in the CBC.

It also contains snippets of the hero's

poetry, including the following haiku: "Do they like to call me hombre, or are they tired of tough customers? I'd better ask the pollsters."

Not to be outdone, sources reveal, the Liberals will publish a comic-book celebrating the heroism of their own leader.

The comic will include all the highlights of the hero's career, as he left his auspicious Bay Street beginnings to work his way down to being prime minister of Canada. Throughout, the comic will emphasize the hero's larger-than-life qualities — the fact he is faster than most of his caucus, more powerful than Allan MacEachen, and able to fall off tall buildings with a push from Trudeau loyalists.

Naturally, this comic will also contain a haiku: "They call my office at lunch, and get mad if I'm playing racquet-ball. I like a good party."

And finally, of course, the NDP will publish a comic celebrating the unsleeping champion of all those who don't get too insulted when they're called Ordinary Canadians.

In keeping with the hero's low-key and modest image, the comic will avoid boastful references to speeding bullets and tall buildings, although it will concede that he may well be more powerful than a VIA Rail ticket agent.

The comic will also offer glimpses into the hero's personal life — it will, for instance, confirm that he once hummed a bar or two of Swan Lake while in his underwear, but will decline to mention whether the underwear was red.

And it hasn't yet been decided whether to print the hero's own haiku: "They like to call me good old Ed; the trick is to get them to call me Prime Minister. I wish they'd stop asking me about NATO."



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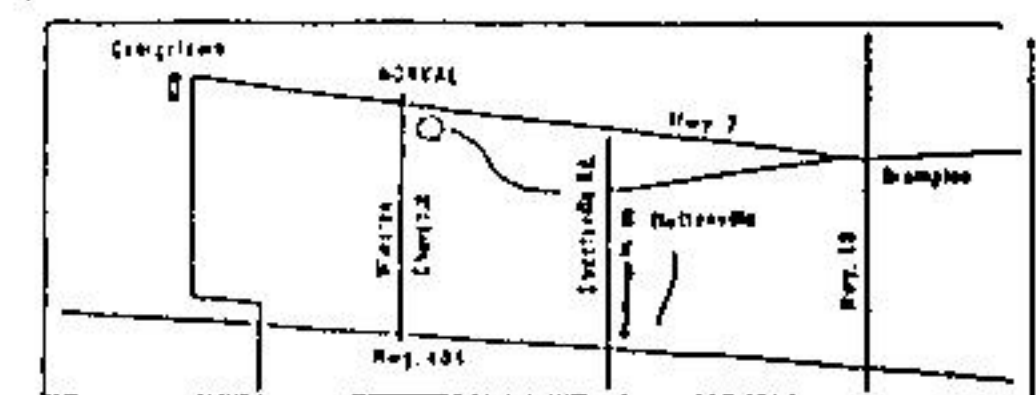
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