By KAREN SMITH

The Champion

John Comber is a clean cut guy and so is his hobby, he says,

Being a knife collector doesn't mean he's the Rambotype or a member of a motorcycle gang, Mr. Comber maintains. While knives are sometimes used as weapons or more practically to cut food, they can also be an art form.

"The Rambo-biker image isn't what our club's all about," says the Milton resident. "Knife collecting is an expression of an art form."

The only stab Mr. Comber is taking is at bringing back a knife collectors' group which has come and gone over the years. He's hoping to rekindle the club which has already attracted about 10 members.

Mr. Comber is forming the Milton Knife Collectors
Association, he says, to meet other collectors and learn
more about the hobby.

"Knives are in our history," he adds. "They've been with us forever. They're part of humankind."

To Mr. Comber, knives represent liberty and personal responsibility. In his collection he has about a dozen pieces, one a ceremonial dagger worn by the Canadian military in the Second World War.

Many collectors enjoy decorating knives, while others make a hobby out of photographing them — especially those that are carefully detailed.

Hand-made custom knives are popular among Canadian collectors, he says, while pocket knives, which are 99 per cent more useful than large knives, are the main draw in the United States. Whichever is preferred, their values range from a few dollars to thousands.

Guest speakers and sharpening demonstrations will first annual Custom likely be included in the Milton Knife Collectors at Hugh Foster Hall.

Association's monthly meetings, adds Mr. Comber who is hoping to attract more members.

The group's first major event will be open to the public tomorrow (Saturday). The club is Hosting the Custom Knife Show and Sale at Hugh Foster Hall from 1 to 4 p.m.

Local exhibitors as well as visitors from Quebec, New York, and Texas will show off their collections. From simple hunting knives to military daggers, a wind range of pieces will be on display, and some for sale.

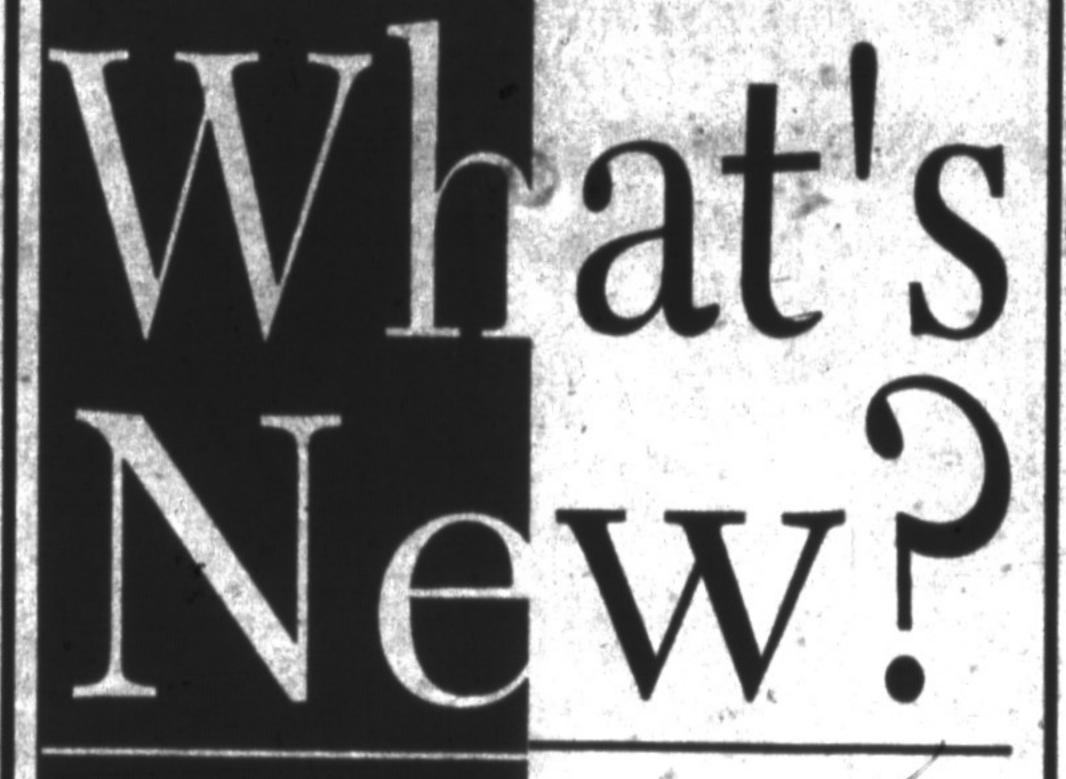
Internationally-known knife maker Jim Pough will be on hand with his knife art to answer questions about his work. A small admission fee, which will be donated to charity, will be charged at the door. For more information, contact Mr. Comber at 878-4955.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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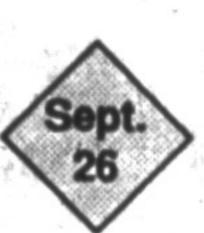


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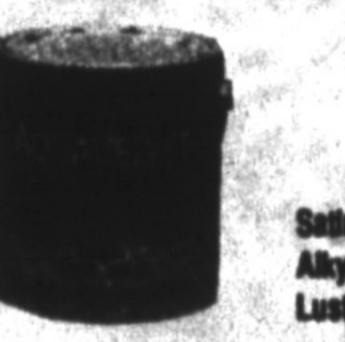
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