

# TERRY GOLDIE TELLS ALL ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE DISAPPEARING CONFERENCE

POST-NATIONAL

March 15, 1995

# ENQUIRER

TEXTUAL STUDIES IN CANADA

Hear what Ruth  
Panofsky and  
Trisha Morgan  
are saying about  
Marlene Kadar



# INSIDE ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

WORLD  
EXCLUSIVE

Marcy Bauman finds  
conferences in  
cyberspace

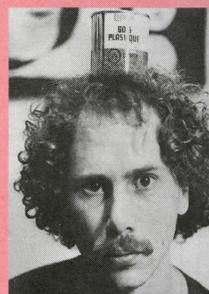


ONLY IN TSC

Why is Robin Mathews so  
angry with  
Robert Thacker?

CLARA THOMAS

speaks out on  
the tribal rites of  
the learneds



# ISSUE 6 OF TSC ON CONFERENCES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE

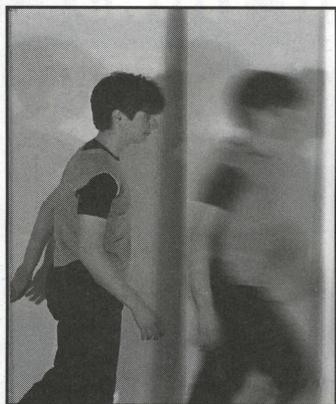
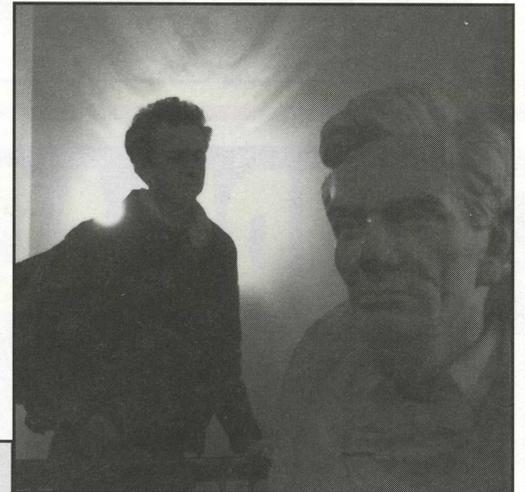
## Conferences found in Cyber Space

On-line conferences are redefining what we mean by the term "conference," pushing the boundaries of what a conference can do, and causing us to rethink what conference participation means. Because participation in on-line conferences is not limited to a specific physical location and time, ideas can be presented more fully and many more people can ask questions or give responses than is possible in a face-to-face event bounded by time constraints.



## Cults Take Over MLA

Daniel Keyes says it is a near cult-like experience to sit in a room with a community of listeners-readers who you have never met nor will meet again, most of whom have been drawn to that particular talk from reading a description in the MLA calender.



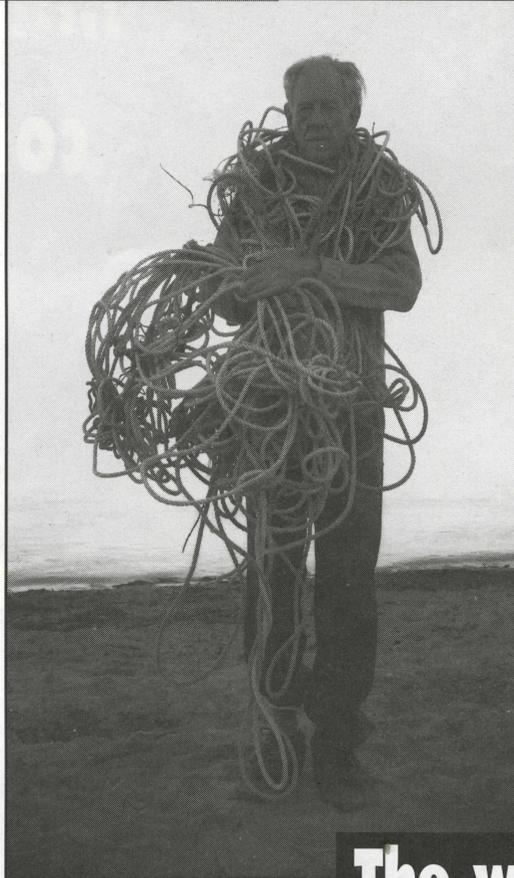
## The Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming!

Robert Thacker: "After presenting a paper on anti-Americanism in Canadian academe:

Among the members of the audience was Professor Robin Mathews. To no one's surprise, he began the commentary period by questioning virtually all the premises on which my presentation was based. How could I, he asked, (I paraphrase closely) as representative of the greatest imperial power the world has ever known, come and stand before a Canadian podium and say what I had just said?"

## Beckett speaks from beyond the grave

Following a conference held in Europe, Peter Murphy visits Beckett's grave and ruminates, "Is any would-be engagement with the 'author' only and always merely a series of post-mortem transactions?"



## The Conference that never was

Terry Goldie: A brief account of my first excursion into conference organizing.

This was in 1980, when I was only two years into my first appointment, at Memorial University. I was co-organizer but the event was the brainchild of a professor of French Virginia Harger-Grinling. A resolutely bilingual and bicultural enterprise, it was labelled "Violence in the Canadian Novel since 1960/ dans le roman canadien depuis 1960."

The Conference proceedings, although published by Memorial, have made some impact on Canadian criticism, particularly Robert Kroetsch's "The Exploding Porcupine," but the most interesting part of the conference is that it didn't happen.

## Special Offer to New Readers

The editors of TSC are so convinced that you will love issue 6 that we are making the following special offer: Take a 1-year introductory subscription for \$22 and you'll receive the **Conferences issue free!**

Our regular subscribers may order **extra copies** of issue 6 at the special rate of \$5 per issue. To qualify for the special offer you must use the order form provided on the back page

## The w(h)ine and Cheese

Peter Dickinson: "At the official reception that evening I immediately grab a much-needed glass of wine, fully intending to drink myself into oblivion in order to erase the memory of the spectacle I made of myself at the "Modernism" panel. I withdraw sullenly into a corner, content to watch a gaggle of Renaissance-types devour a cheese tray and observe the protocols of academic schmoozing."

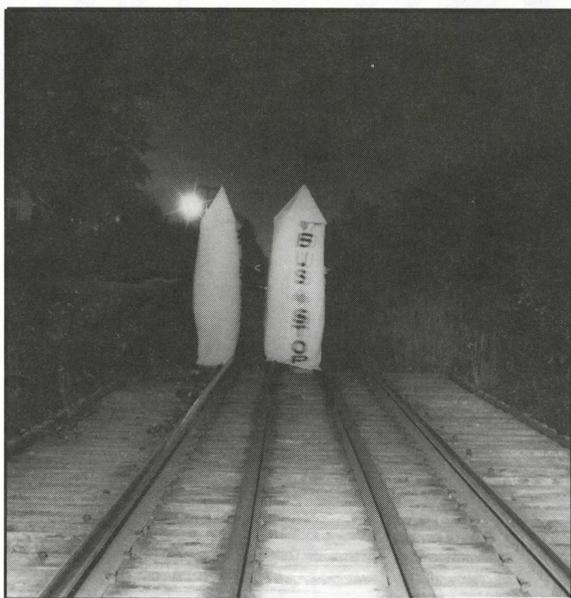
# Clara Thomas speaks out on the tribal rites of the Learneds

In 1971 we were in the glory years of university expansion and of ebullient Canadian nationalism. Anything seemed possible then, and often was! At the Annual Meeting of May, 1972, we ratified a constitution that was the result of a one day's committee meeting early in the winter, attended by George Baldwin of Alberta, our Vice-

President, Paul Fleck and Ron Bates of Western, Peter Buitenhuis of McGill, Janet and myself. At the same meeting we set up an official Journal planning committee, their proposals ratified the next year at Toronto, and *English Studies in Canada*, its first editor Lauriat Lane Jr. of UNB, was on its way.

## Shedding ink, not blood

While "Inkshedders" are effecting change in the classroom—by introducing informal writing assignments, etc.—the real measure of our success is the way we have transformed the traditional conference. As Rick Coe has written: "Inkshedding is a type of free writing (broadly construed). Inkshedding is responsive. Inkshedding is a sharing, collaborative group process. Inkshedding serves to break the linearity of 'normal' discussion, lets us hear voices and responses we would likely not hear in traditional discussion."



## Clint Burnham asks, "Am I Canadian enough for ya?" at the MLA

This is the scene: hangin' with the MLA crew (scenesters like Paul Smith, Fred Pfeil, and Tom Moylan), no job interviews so I can wear my Satanatras t-shirt, chillin' with my homie Fred as we diss the lame William Carlos Williams session and get into queer theory.

But I've got a broken foot. At this point I'm lame-o Oedipus with a bargain basement cast. I've had it for 3 weeks now (couldn't afford the upscale colourful fibreglass model), and it's icy as shit outside . . .

The day before this, the first night of the conference, I give my paper.

## And Much, Much More in the Conferences issue, including

Mark Schaller: "the evolution of a professional society is as gradual and profound as the growth of a rustic village into an over-developed, over-crowded, over priced city"; Rota Herzberg Lister: "If the Canadian conference lacked such international luminaries as Derrida, it was yet a combined effort by a number of versatile and respected Canadian academics and theatre professionals"; Deborah Blenkhorn: "Performance is significant to me as a key aspect of pedagogy, and the half-dozen academic conferences I've attended have seldom exploited this potential"; Genevieve Later: "By the time I actually reached the MLA, I had been told about the fame of two of my fellow panelists—the Bakhtinian translators. I was petrified. What if they asked me something I couldn't answer? What if they turned to me with sneers, intimating that clearly I hadn't done my homework? The possibilities for disaster seemed endless"; Claire Wilkshire: "The day before the deadline for proposals we met in the cafeteria and knew it was now or never. We'd decided it would have a grad student focus, and what better focus than the graduate seminar, since we'd spent so many hours talking about our own?"; Trisha Morgan and Ruth Panofsky reviewing Marlene Kadar's *Essays on Life Writing* and *Reading Life Writing: An Anthology*; Genevieve Later and G.P. Lainsbury reviewing Witold Rybczynski's *Looking Around: A Journey Through Architecture*.



## UBC'S UNSPOKEN HIERARCHY

Faculty members in UBC's English department have differing views regarding the professionalization of students. Let's categorize the faculty as the following: the British generation, many of whom are nearing retirement; the American generation, the so-called "twenty-year club"; and a newer generation of Canadians, most of whom have achieved professional credibility through graduate or post-doctoral study in the U.S.

The British and U.S. models filter down to the level of graduate studies in a very direct way, as students fall into two groups: those who receive fellowships and those who receive teaching assistantships.

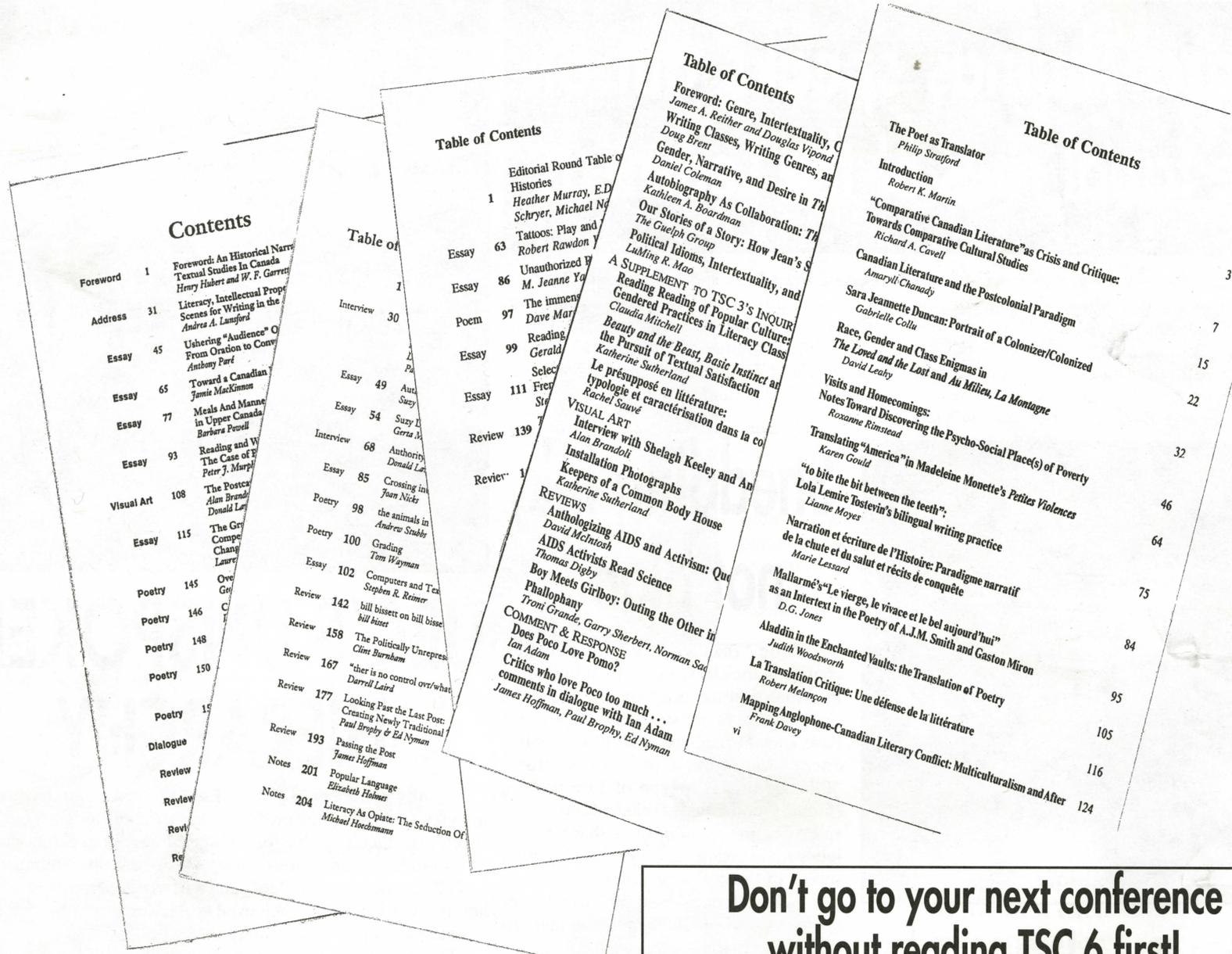
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## What People Are Saying About TSC

TSC is "unique and influential"  
Frank Davey, University of Western Ontario.

"TSC is among the front ranks of Canadian journals"  
Robert Kroetsch, University of Manitoba.

"Textual Studies in Canada is one of our best new journals—I never miss an issue!"  
Andrea Lunsford, Ohio State University.



## Why You Should be Reading TSC

*Textual Studies in Canada*, Canada's Journal of Cultural Literacy, is a refereed, biannual journal of scholarly criticism dedicated to "reading" Canadian cultural "texts" in all media. In non-technical discussion, *TSC* addresses the growing diversity of the Canadian liberal arts. Through a variety of multidisciplinary approaches to current criticism and analysis, it conveniently combines discussions of Canadian literature, visual arts, popular culture, current pedagogical practice, critical and rhetorical theory, and interdisciplinary studies. *TSC* is the journal for those who want to challenge their disciplinary preconceptions. *TSC* is the journal for intellectual risk-takers.

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*Textual Studies in Canada* provides a collaborative, multidisciplinary forum in which researchers and teachers can address issues related to the study of texts within a Canadian context. We encourage submissions from established scholars, but we also invite into formal academic discourse less experienced authors, especially promising graduate students. Articles viewed by the editors as appropriate for the journal are refereed by two consulting readers. These readers are asked to respond not as "gatekeepers," but as "trusted assessors" willing to offer collaborative feedback. Articles normally should be 2500 to 6000 words (10 - 24 pages), including photographs, diagrams, and notes. All articles should include (on a separate sheet) a one-page abstract and a short biographical note. Contributors are requested to submit two copies of manuscripts, which should conform to the MLA style and be accompanied by a self-addressed envelope to which return postage has been clipped.

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