

Six students talk about life at York

"One of the distinguishing features of York University is that it is developing a College System. Faced with the fact that the University must, by sheer weight of projected student enrolment, become a large multi-faculty university, York's planners decided that, if the basic ideal of closest possible relationship between teacher and student was to be achieved, one of the ways would be to build the University on the basis of smaller units—that is, colleges.

"Every First-Year student enrolling in the University is assigned to a college. During their undergraduate years, students are associated with their college for some of their formal studies and many of their extra-curricular activities. Each college has its own dining hall, seminar and small lecture rooms, Junior Common Room, and in most cases, residence. The residences are divided into houses, each of which has its own common rooms and recreational facilities. Approximately 15 to 20 per cent of students on the York Campus are in residence.

"As members of a relatively small college of approximately 1,200 undergraduates, students have the combined advantages of a small college and the intellectual vigour and excitement of a large university. Much of the academic instruction in the College Tutorial programme is led by members of the faculties who are Fellows of the various colleges. Moreover, each college has its own master, don, and tutors.

"The membership of the colleges is deliberately arranged to ensure that a cross-section of the student body is represented in each college. Thus, while each college will develop a character which may differ from the others in minor ways, no basic academic or social differences will mark the various colleges."— From the York University calendar.

There are 10,200 full-time undergraduate students at York. Of these, 1,266 live in residence. The other 8,934 are commuting students. **Excalibur** asked commuting students from Calumet, Stong, Vanier, Founders, McLaughlin and Winters colleges questions about their experience with the college system.

Excalibur: What did you think about the blurb in the York calendar about the college system? Do you relate to your college the way York originally planned?

Ian Richards, Calumet Second Year, liberal science: When I first came I was assigned to Calumet College and at that time being College F it had only just started. For that reason there wasn't a very organized system for College F in itself. I couldn't really relate to it as much as I could even to other colleges which I didn't even belong to.

Excalibur: Where do you go for all your extra-curricular activities? Do you ever go to any college sponsored activities?

Richards: Occasionally I go to activities at other colleges but Calumet College never really has any because of lack of facilities right now. I think maybe if it would have been already a better developed college, started a few years before I started at York then maybe I could have related to it more.

Excalibur: What about the relationship between you and the professors in the college?

Richards: I've hardly ever been to the college so I don't really know the professors in the college.

Excalibur: Where are your classes?

Richards: In Stedman Lecture Hall.

Excalibur: What kind of provisions or interest does Calumet provide for the day student? Is there someplace that you could stay overnight if you wanted to, does the college take an extra interest in the day student's special situation?

Richards: Right now if I had to stay overnight I would probably go to one of the other colleges and sleep in a common room or something. I don't really associate with Calumet College at all, for the same reason that I said before. It's because I never really could associate with it at the beginning, because it wasn't really much to start with.

Excalibur: How did you find your college tutorial?

Richards: I don't have any tutorials. Never did have any college tutorials.

Excalibur: Do you feel the college system has anything to offer academically?

Richards: Being a liberal science student I can't really relate as much as fine arts or arts students to the colleges and to the academic system set up between the professors and the students there.

Excalibur: Do you feel a part of Stong College. Do you go there an awful lot, do you spend a lot of your time there?

Carmel Preyra, first year Stong, general arts: No, just for one tutorial on Wednesday nights. Apart from that, no.

Excalibur: Do you ever go to any of the activities sponsored by your college?

Preyra: Depends really if they're interesting—if there's a dance and somebody good

is playing, or if there's an arts thing, I'd go to it. But if another college is having an interesting event, then I'll go there.

Excalibur: The York calendar talks about the college system being utilized to break down the multi-university system. Do you feel it does that? As a first year student, do you feel lost in a multi-university, or do you feel a part of a smaller college?

Preyra: I have a feeling of being lost at times, but I know that I belong to some college where I can go to and really talk to people and do things I want to. So I'm not lost in that I have a sense of a place to go to. But here in Ross building I'm lost.

Excalibur: Where are the majority of your classes?

Preyra: All over really.

Excalibur: Do you have good relations with your professors? Can you go and speak with them anytime?

Preyra: Really good relations. I didn't think I'd have such good relations because I always thought it was such a cold thing, like nobody knew your name, but I really enjoy all my courses.

Excalibur: Are your professors a part of Stong College.

Preyra: No they're not at all.

Excalibur: What kind of provisions does Stong College make for the day student, what considerations do they take for the day student's problems-of commuting, etc. Is there any place that you can stay down overnight?

Preyra: They have reading rooms, and listening rooms and all kinds of activities. I think you can stay overnight. You just have to talk to the don and he gives you a place to stay overnight.

Excalibur: Talking about your tutorial now, do you think there's any academic advantages to the college system?

Preyra: No, I don't care for it at all. I just go there because I have to.

Excalibur: After reading that piece in the York calendar, do you feel that it aptly describes the college system and what it does for you?

Paul Rebob, Vanier, first year, business administration: Yes, for most of the subjects, yes it does.

Excalibur: Breaking down the subjects a bit, and talking about your college breaking down the sense of a multi-university. Do you feel a part of a smaller unit? ?

Rebob: Yes, you can relate a lot easier to the people in Vanier. It's such a small place, not exactly so small, but you get grouped together and you can find a lot more people there.

Excalibur: Where are most of your classes?

Rebob: In Lecture Hall Two.

Excalibur: Do you spend very much time taking classes or sitting in the common room at Vanier?

Rebob: I spend a lot of time in the common room and a lot of time in classes.

Excalibur: Do you have good relations with your professors? Can you go and talk with them individually, or do you feel just a part of a class?

Rebob: I haven't really tried to talk to any of them really—some of them I don't think

