

## Green Scene

# Blue baskets finally make their way onto York University

by John Ferguson

York is one step closer to closing the reduction, reuse, recycling loop.

After the pilot study at the Administrative Studies building this fall and much research on the actual make-up of York University's garbage, York is receiving its first Blue Baskets!

The offices in the Ross building have been the first to move boxes as the project officially commenced on Feb. 25.

In an interview, York's Recycling Coordinator Paul Mayol said that all responsible parties have been consulted and have shown a great deal of co-operation in recycling fine paper.

York's custodial staff of the C.U.P.E. union will be an essential part of the project. The responsibility falls upon them to pick up, empty and service the many containers which are being deployed.

There are also many volunteers who have come forward in the Ross building, many from the secretarial staff, to help show others how to use the boxes properly. Soon the entire building will be full of fine paper recyclers policing and encouraging themselves. Add to this, the faculty members and there is no limit to the amount of resources which can be preserved.

The reduction target for the year is 25 per cent of paper waste. This is a

significant amount when we consider that paper is a major component of York's garbage.

According to Mayol, contamination is the biggest obstacle to York's recycling success. We need to ensure that fine paper receptacles are not treated as garbage containers. To ensure this, there will be memos and signs indicating what can and cannot be recycled in these containers. Mayol expects some hesitation at first as people begin to consult these information postings prior to recycling, but hopes that this will soon become second nature. York has also set up a recycling hot-line at extension 40444 to field any questions.

Simultaneously, the Waste Reduction Advisory Committee (WRAC) is working toward implementing waste reduction strategies in as many ways as possible at York. There may soon be a composting program for residents. Any suggestions for improvement should be addressed through intercampus mail to WRAC at the Construction Headquarters on Rideau Road.

It has been a long and arduous journey to get York to close its loop. Many efforts have been made to bring us into full scale recycling and these efforts now appear to be paying off. This should be only the beginning to a York which is a leader in earth-sensitive practices.

# Safe sex, a way of life

by Sue Pennypacker

Reading week has come and gone for students at York. I hope that everyone had a happy and safe vacation.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Reading week is, for many, a time to "get laid" in tropical paradises. People drink, run around half-clothed and lose themselves in the hot weather and party atmosphere. Often, people forget to take many of the precautions that they would take at home.

We live in the age of AIDS. The number one requirement of intercourse should be a condom. This is especially true for one-night stands or if you have sex with many partners.

If you plan on entering a long term commitment, you should be tested for the AIDS virus. Call the Hassle-Free Clinic at 922-0566 (women) or 922-0603 (men) for information regarding testing for sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS).

Another source for information regarding AIDS is the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) or the Ontario Ministry of Health. The phone numbers are 926-1626 and 1-800-668-AIDS respectively.

Please don't feel that you are invincible. Unprotected sex is a

## The dissent of (wo)man

very dangerous thing. Safe sex shouldn't just be a slogan, it must be a way of life.

Urge both women and men to carry fresh condoms at all times. It is sort of like defensive driving. One can't rely on the other drivers on the road to be alert and aware. You have to protect yourself. Set a ground rule for yourself: don't have intercourse or oral sex without protection

During vacation, people often forget about dangers which they are usually aware of: becoming instant friends with strangers. Many may fail to safeguard themselves against the possibility of aggression. Sexual assault is not ever the fault of the victim, but there are certainly precautions that people can take to lower the risk of assault.

\*Let people know where you are going to be.

\*Do not walk alone at night.

\*Take self defense courses.

\*Do not go out alone with strangers.

\*Try to stay on home ground when dating someone new.

All of these things may help, but they are not guarantees.

Women are regularly sexually assaulted by husbands, fathers,

boyfriends, relatives, etc. The tragedy of sexual assault is that there is really no sure way to protect yourself.

If you have been sexually assaulted, or if a friend has been sexually assaulted, counselling can help you work through the trauma. There are services available both on and off campus. The Toronto Rape Crisis Center offers non-judgemental counselling services to women and men. They can also help you support a friend who has faced the ordeal of sexual assault.

For information about free self defense courses (women only) call 597-1171. You can reach the crisis line by dialing 597-8808.

Although counselling is not for everyone, it can certainly help you understand your options. I hope that everyone takes advantage of these services either for information or support. They are weighty subjects, but we can't pretend that we live in a perfect world in which nobody gets hurt.

The only way one can be certain of avoiding AIDS is to abstain from sex and to not use unsterilized hypodermic needles. Sexual assault is a little harder to avoid. One would have to live on a deserted island to be safe.

Although these options are not always realistic, we have to protect ourselves as best as possible. Ignorance is no protection.

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