Emergency Services Centre - 3333

University

York's security men go back to school

'We're trying to get more of a service image'

For many people who come on to the York campus, the first person they see is a Security Officer at the main gate. He gives directions, explains that he's sorry, but no they can't park on top of the Ross Building ramp and in general takes the greetings and abuse common to anyone on the firing line.

For those on campus who think they smell smoke or want advice on what fire regulations must be satisfied before they can hold a dance or meeting, they call one of the Fire Safety Officers.

And for those who want someone to yell at or complain about, there are the Parking Control Officers who are usually somewhere around.

These men, 35 in all, work in the Department of Safety and Security Services and this fall they've gone back to school for an eight-week course to upgrade their qualifications and generate ideas on how to maintain closer touch and good relations with other members of the University community.

Designed by Alex MacDonald, lecturer in law enforcement at Seneca College in Toronto, the course provides basic training in investigative and reporting work. But it also calls for talks with members of other departments of the University including Psychological Services on changing moods and lifestyles on the campus.

Service image

The department's director, George Dunn said in an interview this week: "We're trying to get as far as possible away from the police image to more of a service image with the University population.

"We're here to protect individual members of the community as well as University property — but not to interfere with the lifestyle of students."

As well as providing normal security checks and preliminary investigation of thefts and damage, his department is responsible for fire prevention and safety inspections, traffic and parking control, issuing keys, maintaining the Lost and Found office and giving advice on any of these to individuals or groups holding special events on campus.

A pilot project similar to the course now being given was held at Seneca last summer and with its success, Dunn decided to expand it this fall for all members of the depart-



Seneca College lecturer Alec MacDonald lectures a group of Safety and Security Officers at last Tuesday's class. The men are taking an eight-week course

ment. They meet twice each week for lectures, films and general discussion of common problems.

The men come from all parts of the world — Burma, Spain and the Netherlands to name a few — and most have no formal police training, although many have military experience.

Interviewed as a group at their session last Tuesday, the men said they have had "very little trouble" in the course of their work and have generally good relations with the campus community.

Lost children to stray dogs

But the work, as the hours and temperatures, are varied. "We get everything from lost children to stray dogs," one officer said, "and then there's the fellow who swears up and sponsored by their department to upgrade their qualifications and examine ways of becoming more integrated with the campus community.

down his car was stolen from A lot and you find an hour later he'd parked in G lot and forgotten about it."

And it's the automobile that causes the most headaches for the security staff. Nobody likes to get a parking ticket, or be told he has to park in an outer lot — especially if it's 10 below and snowing.

The fact that the men have to put up with the weather too, and that parking rules and regulations are made by a committee of students, faculty and staff doesn't help much and as Dunn said, "they do take a fair amount of abuse from people."

Cars are also a major target for theft — particularly tape decks and radios from unlocked vehicles. That and the theft of wallets, purses and "the odd coat" from the Ross Building are the main problems in what the men claim is a basically quiet year so far.

In terms of physical violence, they could remember only one minor incident with Security Officer Harry Larkin adding: "We're not physical at all. At our age now we're lovers, not fighters.

"Besides, a lot of us have children the age of the people here now and that means a lot." With a few exceptions, most of the men are over 45.

No police powers

At the University of Toronto, the security officers have the power of special constables — the same powers as a regular police officer — while they're on duty.

But at York they have only the formal authority of an ordinary citizen. The only equipment they carry is a two-way radio connected with fellow officers and the Emergency Services Centre.

Dunn said he hopes to continue courses in future after evaluating this one, but on a "more university-oriented basis". And he added that for men who complete relevant courses at other institutions such as Seneca — "we would certainly consider reimbursing them."

Bahamas host to writers' workshop

York's Centre for Continuing Education, following its successful summer writers' workshop at Glendon College, will offer a second writing workshop with an added dimension. Next spring the workshop will combine a tropical vacation in the Bahamas with a seminar for writers and artists.

Budding novelists, dramatists and poets will have the opportunity to consult with published writers about the techniques and styles of all forms of writing and to discuss their own manuscripts with professionals and other students at the Bahamas Writers' and Artists' Workshop, March 15-24.

Artists will work with Dennis Burton, well-known director of the Three Schools of Art in Toronto and writing workshop leaders will include Austin Clarke, lecturer in 20th Century Literature at Duke University, John Herbert, author of the controversial "Fortune and Men's Eyes", Christopher Davis, lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Pennsylvania, Diana Wakoski, one of today's most exciting young poets and Gerald Lampert, co-ordinator of York's summer-writers' workshop, whose novel "Tangle Me No More" was recently published.

"We hope to discover promising new talent whom we can pass on to interested publishers", says Lampert, who is also co-ordinating the Bahamas workshop. "We can't create talent but sometimes we can help".

Seminar discussions in fiction, poetry, drama and art willbe held for Workshop participants in the mornings, with afternoons left for sunbathing, swimming and discussions on the beaches of the Island of Abaco at the Treasure Cay Beach Hotel.

Anyone interested in attending the workshop should call the Centre for Continuing Education at 635-2505.



Jorge Rosner of the Chicago Institute, one of the foremost exponents of Gestalt Therapy in North America, will present his approaches to Gestalt Therapy at OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor Street West, this Friday, November 19, at 8:30 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, Mr. Rosner will conduct a workshop on "Innovative Approaches to Gestalt Therapy". Information on how to obtain tickets for "An Evening of Discovery" and how to register for the workshop is available from the EGO Programme, The Centre for Continuing Education, which is sponsoring Mr. Rosner's visit to Toronto. Telephone: 635-3276.

Radio York features

dds

Two special feature programs have become regular features on Radio York. "Cracked Wheat - It's Canadian" (Thursday at 2:00 p.m.) maintains a magazine format. Fridays at 10:30 a.m. "Campus Report", a news documentary, deals with events of each previous week.

Recreational dance

Recreational Dance Programs for men and women, involving technique and contemporary creative work (beginners and advanced) will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Tait McKenzie Building every Tuesday. The program is sponsored by the Department of Physical Education.

Treasure Van

Treasure Van, a sale of artifacts from various parts of the world sponsored by World University Services, will be located in College G facilities in December.

Pool hours change

& Sodds

Recreational Swimming hours at the Tait McKenzie Pool have been changed to 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, effective immediately until March 31, 1972.

Berkeley report available

A brief report from the University of California at Berkeley, summarizing faculty attitudes on the issue of student participation in governance, is available from Ben Barkow, Room 275, Behavioural Science Building. Characteristics of staff associated with pro and con stances are discussed in the report.

Quote of the week

Canada is the greatest country under the Stars and Stripes.

 James A. Macdonald, editor Toronto Globe, speech in Massey Hall to Assoc. Clubs of America, 1914.