

# Umbrellas, keys and condom machines: York's lost and found

by Paul Gazzola

Located in Central Square across from the Post Office, York's lost and found is a unique gauge of student honesty.

"On rainy days, you get a lot of people coming for umbrellas," says student security officer Richard Ooi, who freely admits his subsequent trepidation for bad weather. "They don't come for the umbrella when they've lost it but when they need it." Umbrellas aside though, Ooi, a fourth year business major, praises York students for being honest and mature.

The lost and found is something

of a rarity at York. Besides having no line-ups, it performs not just one but two jobs with friendly efficiency. According to Ooi, the staff, who are all members of student security, spends much time providing information on handling lost items. The lost and found also provides campus maps.

The lost and found is home to the usual clutter: keys, textbooks, jackets and, of course, the umbrellas. However, now and then you get the unusual. One guy, according to a staff member who asked not to be named, was in search of a lost condom machine.

One problem the lost and found does have is convincing parts of the York community that it has only honest intentions. One man,

Ooi recalled, informed the office that he had found an expensive watch but would not leave it with him. He instead left his name and number so anyone inquiring could call him.

"Some people don't trust us at all," Ooi admits. This distrust also extends to the general public. The anonymous staff member said most people don't even bother checking for a lost valuable having assumed that whoever found it, kept it.

This distrust is unfounded in both cases. Once something is turned in to the lost and found, it stays there for up to four months. After that, most items are given to Goodwill. Unclaimed keys are melted down, and books are donated to book sales.

When asked, many students say they would turn in lost items because they want the same consideration shown to them. But, if you lose a pen, forget it. Finders keepers.

Then there are the people who won't take no for an answer. "At times it really pisses me off," Ooi warns. "People just assume whatever they lost has been turned in." When informed of the opposite, they get testy and troublesome. And some just don't give up. One woman kept popping in for six months looking for a purse. Also, you should be able to describe what you lost, a request that is both cautionary and practical.

After all, as Ooi says, pointing to a large pile, "most umbrellas are black."

## Prof dies in crash

Kitty Lundy, an assistant professor of sociology at Atkinson, died in a car accident this past weekend.

Lundy received a BA and MA at York, and a PhD from the University of Toronto. She began teaching at York in 1971 and became a full-time faculty member in 1989.

A memorial fund has been set up in Lundy's name, and donations may be sent to Steve Longstaff, chair of the sociology department at Atkinson.

## Help make your campus beautiful

Staff Story

York's provost has assembled "a small mountain of spring bulbs" that she hopes will beautify the main campus in the midst of the many different construction projects taking place. Elizabeth Hopkins states in a release that she wants the community's cooperation next Thursday between noon and 3:00 p.m. to plant them.

Hopkins would like people to meet at the information booth east of the "mound" on St. Lawrence Blvd. to begin planting.

The group will then move toward Osgoode where "non-alcoholic hot chocolate will be served; and we'll wind up planting around the woods to the south of Osgoode . . . we have to plant, rain or shine, that Thursday, so please wear rubber boots, dress warmly, etc.," states the provost. She asks that budding agriculturalists bring a small garden trowel with them.

The provost states, this is "the first of a series of bizarre and entertaining events designed to bring us all together in the common pursuit of improving the quality of life at York."

## Record company boycott dropped

by Trevor Burnett

Several weeks after announcing a boycott of Canada's largest record distributor, Polygram Records, the National Community Radio Association (NCRA) has dropped the boycott.

The NCRA is a 29-member

organization comprised of campus radio stations, including North York's radio station CHRY. During the boycott, only 25 of the member radio stations were actively involved, although CHRY was not.

The boycott was dropped because Polygram decided not to levy a fee of up to \$325 a year for recorded and promotional materials and services. In a telephone interview on October 13, Polygram's Montreal-based representative Dave Freeman wouldn't specify exactly why Polygram decided to drop the fees, but thought the boycott had developed because of misunderstandings.

"There seemed to be a basic misunderstanding between the NCRA and Polygram which evolved into the boycott," said Freeman. "We never wanted it to go that far, and very few stations


actually contacted us on the matter. However, we've resolved the problem with these stations on a one-to-one basis."

Many campus stations became irate over Polygram's decision to start charging fees, because they felt they were doing the distributor a favour by promoting and playing its artists on the air.

CHRY's music director Edward Skira assessed the general consensus. "There are 29 members in the NCRA," said Skira. "If they charge all of us \$300 a year then that's about \$9,000. By us playing their artists we're giving them free advertising. They certainly don't get free advertising on television or in magazines."

Although CHRY was sympathetic with the boycotters, said Skira, it did not join in the boycott as its position at the time was more non-interventionist with a wait-and-see attitude.

# Staff meeting today—4 p.m.



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