



Bryon Johnson

Coming Home

Erina Ingrassia and Bruce Gates

With a touchdown here and an *ein prosit* there, York University toasted its second annual Homecoming with alumni returning for the festivities.

Said Steve Dranitsaris Alumni-Affairs Officer, "I would say it was modestly successful. The only disappointing thing was the audience response at the Homecoming Revue."

The weather did not look promising, and temperatures barely hovered above freezing, but the boisterous merry-making, aided by that quintessential social lubricant, held the day — especially among the 1500 who endured on the windswept steppe that serves as York's football field and watched the Yeomen humiliate visiting Waterloo, 24-1.

For those who were not into the rah rah spirit of football, there were numerous art displays, talks and pubs — not to mention a nighttime revue.

"That's something I've always wondered about. If Physical Education is Phys. Ed., and Natural Science is Nat. Sci., why isn't Fine Arts Farts?" Thus began Valerie Douchinsky, York's 1979 Homecoming Queen, emcee and valedictorian, who

took York's alumni on a tour through this year's special highlight: The Homecoming Revue.

Presented by the Faculty of Fine Arts, the variety show was the best bet of this year's program and provided an hour of lively entertainment.

Valerie recalled the past years as an undergraduate at York — spending more time in the coffee shop, trying to get an M.R.S. instead of working on a B.A.; the terrible snowstorm of '75, leaving everyone stranded on campus for an entire weekend; and puzzling over the meaning of Tentanda Via.

The variety show also included some fine singing by the Andrew Triplets and the York University choir; comedian Larry Horowitz; Ilsa, the Nazi leader of the resident barracks; and York's gymnasts.

Another of the university-wide events was "Yorkfest", Bethune's own version of Oktoberfest, held at the Tap 'n Keg. It drew a mixed bag of onlookers and participants — including two dressed as an old-time mountie and his damsel in distress. (Who was that damsel in distress anyway?)

"When you have to pay for the beer it's

pretty bad," laughed one alumnus as he quaffed a brew at one of the several college barbecues around campus. He was one of many alumni who were back for a good time, to meet old classmates and their former professors.

Rosalind Gaskin of Glendon College sat on one of the concrete benches outside in the Administrative Studies courtyard talking to a friend and sipping a Fanta Orange. York isn't really her alma mater but while "Glendon has had these types of reunions, I never went to any of them, so I thought I would come up here to see how York has changed."

But it hasn't changed much, said the former English major who graduated in 1977.

A considerable number of alumni said that their university degree did not help them in the job market. Rather, many felt they were overqualified in their present positions, but almost all of the alumni interviewed said they felt their university education benefitted them more on a personal level.

"Universities were never meant to lead you into a career; colleges are for that," said one.

However, others have found themselves in key positions in the business world since graduation. John Grainger, who is president of the York Administrative Alumni Association, is now a corporate planner for Texaco. He graduated with his MBA in 1975.

"I wish there could be a hundred more of these homecomings," he said as he tended bar with friend Howard Mendelssohn at the Administrative Studies Wine and Cheese party.

"I feel a little nostalgic," said pal Howard who also graduated with his MBA. "I can't help thinking I spent some good years of my life here."

"Tradition is an important thing," he continued. "But York's still a young institution and it takes time to build up a tradition."

To that Steve Dranitsaris added: "Homecomings take a lot of time to develop. They're not going to become a success overnight."

But this year's was better than the one before, said Mendelssohn. It takes time to build up an alumni following. "Hopefully, it will be even better next year."



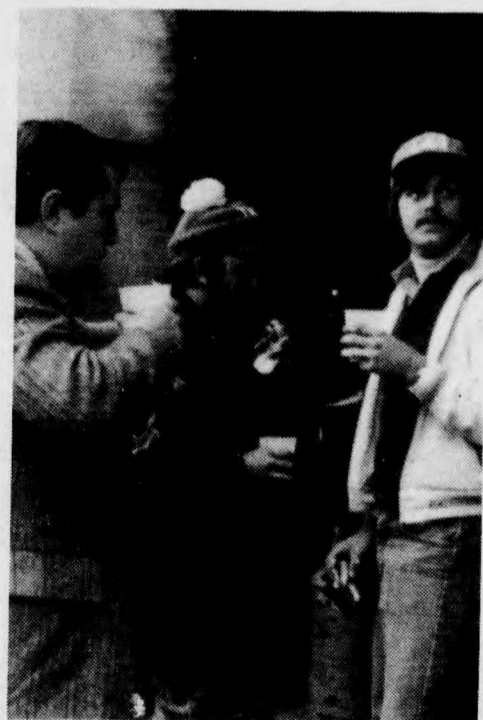
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Big Mac kicks off day...



Esther Marks

While Homecoming Revue draws laughs...



Mary Doil

And alumni tipple.

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