

NEW

New bicycle patrol on campus

By DEBORAH DUNDAS

"Women can feel safe and free on campus again," says Glen Wells, a part-time student security officer who proposed and helped to establish a bicycle patrol at York campus over the summer.

Wells proposed the idea to the Department of Security and Safety because he felt that the limitations of existing foot and van patrols left parts of the campus underpatrolled. According to Wells, certain crimes—including sexual assaults—increase in good weather and the bicycle patrol seemed to be the most expedient way of ensuring added security.

The bicycle's mobility and the patrol's high visibility enables it to cover an area it would take three or four foot patrols to cover. During the winter months and on rainy days officers who would usually man the bicycle patrols will be added to the foot patrol, increasing security by approximately 20 percent. Wells noted that such an increase is justified in those instances, as security problems on campus tend to move indoors during inclement weather.

According to Michael O'Neill, Director of Security and Safety, and Eric Pond, Assistant Director of Special Services, the patrol should

also act as an effective deterrent against crime.

Maintenance of the patrol will cost the Security and Parking Department approximately \$30,000 per year. The initial capital expenditure of \$1,500—the costs of the bicycles and related safety equipment—was donated by members of the York community: The Orange Snail; Bethune College; Founders College; the Open End; The Absinthe; The Provost's Office; Student Affairs and Parking and Security.

Wells admits that the bicycle patrol is not going to dramatically change the direction of campus security. "There are a lot of things to be done, but you've got to start somewhere," he says.

The only opposition to the patrol came from Marcia Cooper, CYSF's Director of Women's Affairs. Cooper said that her main objection was not the bicycle patrol itself, but the way the administration handled the allocation of money. O'Neill or Pond should have presented a full plan to CYSF, not a part-time Student Security Officer," Cooper said. Cooper added that "it seems [O'Neill and Pond] are not serious about the bicycle patrols [because] if they were serious, they would have approached CYSF."

O'Neill and Pond took exception to Cooper's allegations. Both insisted that they supported and encouraged the idea, and that Wells took it on himself to raise the initial capital expenditure when he was informed that the funds were not in the department's budget.

Pond also noted that this department "would always prefer to work in cooperation with other groups such as CYSF. However, there are occasions when our experience and background indicates that we must go on a different pathway."

The patrol will operate year-round with extended hours during the school year and will cover the footpaths, parking lots and exteriors of buildings lying inside the circle defined by Fraser Drive. The patrol will move indoors during bad weather and cover the pubs, Complexes I and II and the Ross Building.

Currently, the bicycle patrol consists of two mounted officers who cover Fraser Drive from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the school year, and from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. during the summer. If community response is positive, new patrols may be added, and continuation of the program will be guaranteed.

YORK INDEX

Rooms available for lecture/seminar purposes at York: 186.

Buildings on York campus: 37

Buildings on Glendon campus: 7

Postal codes that York possesses (including Glendon): 7

Members in York University's senate: 173

Days in which there are classes during the fall/winter session (Faculty of Arts): 121

Newspapers published at York: 9

Years that *Excalibur* has been publishing: 21

Men and women who held appointments as members of the full-time faculty at York in 1986/87: 1,131

Men and women who held appointments as part-time faculty: 900

Full-time graduate students who held positions as Graduate Teaching Assistants: 300

Ranking of York amongst Metro Toronto's 500 largest employers: 15th

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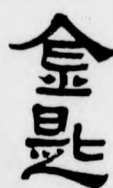
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