



FEATURES

The lore of humankind is rich with the myth of the lost city. Babylon's ancient city of Nippur is said to have had underground temples where prostitutes took their customers for sacred rituals. The legendary Lost City of Atlantis comes to mind, not to mention the twin cities of sin, Sodom and Gomorrah. Excalibur's Elliott Shiff and Gary Blakeley recently made the astonishing discovery that York too has a lost city.

# The Lost City of York: A journey into the unknown

By ELLIOTT SHIFF

Our journey began on a misty fall day. Blakeley and I set out at 10 a.m. in the direction of the Central Utilities Building where we were to meet our guides, who would be leading us through the mysterious lost city.

In all of his excitement, Blake-

ley forgot the flash and raced back to the office while I crossed over the hill. I was met at the door by a toothless old man who directed me to some stairs and around the corner into the Control Room.

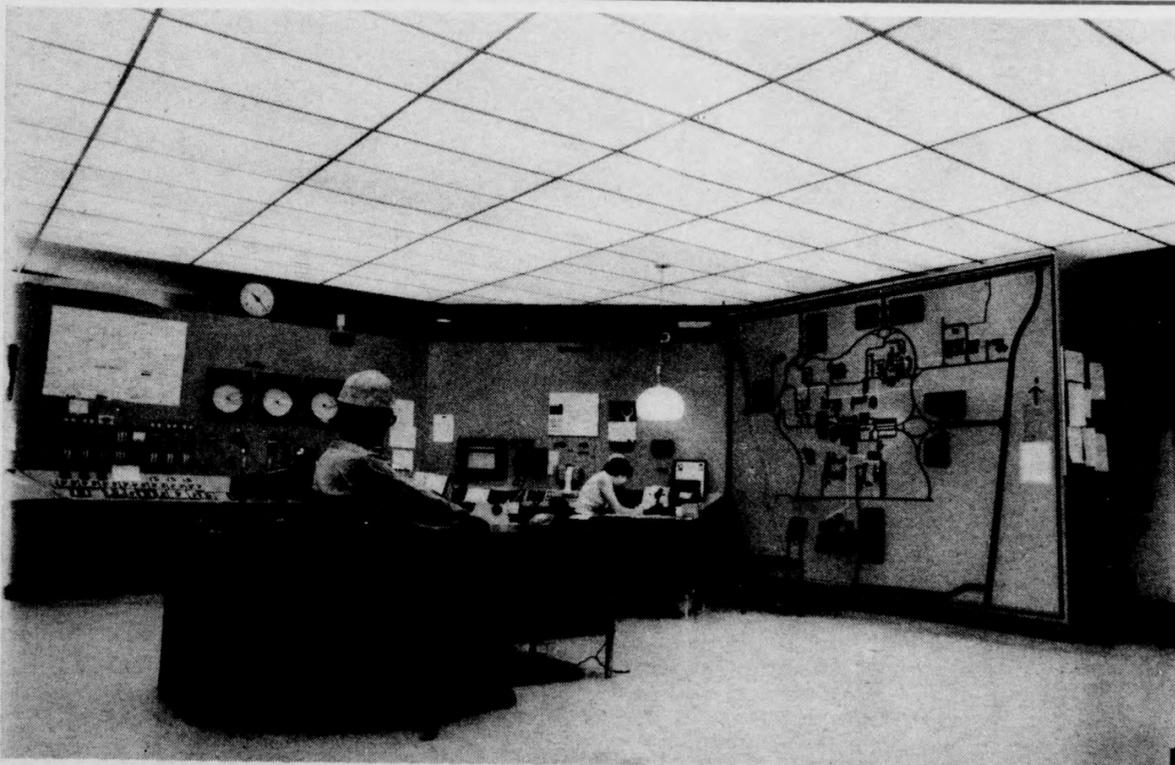
Upon quizzing the receptionist about the tunnel she muttered something about rats and dar-

kness and flinched when I asked her if she had actually been down in the tunnels. Blakeley arrived. A strange man in a construction hat appeared. In one hand he had a large tape deck, in the other a book about the afterlife. He told us he had been a worker in the lost city of U of T in a previous life.

Our keeper played opera music on his tape deck while we awaited the arrival of the assistant superintendent of the lost city who would be our guide.

It was now 11:30 a.m. He motioned and we followed him into a steamy room full of pipes and noise and sweating walls.

We descended into the tunnel,



**Left: The Control Room.** A keeper of the tunnels, decked out in high-tec hardhat, kept Excalibur investigators at bay until the arrival of "The Guide." The Control Room pumps life through the arteries of the University. The diagram on the wall demarcates the Underground City of York.