



"He went that away"

A midnight ramble with York security

By Michelina Trigliani

I had the pleasure one recent midnight of making the rounds with a seasoned security guard, and must admit I was a little disappointed in the monotony of it all.

Expecting rapes, vandalism, thefts (in short all those incidents you hear about that make you shake your head in disgust) I was merely offered an exhausting tour of the numerous doors in this conglomeration of buildings.

Frank Spearing, my tour guide, has been with York Security force five years now. A bulky key collection dangles from his belt. An automobile, a flashlight, a report book and a walkie-talkie round out his tools of the trade.

A security guard on the midnight shift starts off from the Temporary Office Building and proceeds to check an assigned area of the campus. Frank was in Unit 1 that evening, inspecting Administrative Studies, Osgoode, Atkinson, Burton and the graduate Residences.

His job is primarily to lock up the buildings and check the floors for anything odd. After a thorough examination of these buildings, Frank moves on to check the parking lots, the previous evening, he had discovered a car with bashed-in headlights.

Security officers also guide policemen and emergency vehicles through the campus.

As he tours the buildings, he communicates with the rest of the security team via his walkie-talkie.

On duty with him are three watch-

men stationed in various buildings, another mobile guard and ESKIMO, (the code name for the switchboard operator on the 3333 number).

It is a pretty lonely job wandering about silent, sparsely-lit corridors at night and Frank admits he's been a "bit frightened" at times. He's learned to recognize regular noises and even a door that hasn't clicked properly quickly gains his attention.

But we had a pretty usual evening last week - until we heard a report of a guy riding his motorcycle up the ramp of the Ross Building.

Unlocking and locking doors behind us, we rushed through a maze of hallways and finally reached Frank's car. I must admit it was exciting speeding through the campus trying to catch a mid-night joy-rider.

As we rounded the hill at St. Lawrence Boulevard, a red-helmeted cyclist was merrily rolling along in the direction of Keele Street. "That's probably him," I offered.

After a quick ride up the ramp, we decided I was right. "What now?" I asked Frank.

Clearly disappointed at his lost quarry, he answered: "Well, we write a report and get back to the doors."

Vandalism keeps security hopping

By David Goodman

The incidence of on-campus rape is relatively light and the university's worst crime problems are vandalism and theft from parked cars, according to York Security chief George Dunn, interviewed by *Excalibur* last month.

Asked if the campus is a safe place to walk alone in at night, Dunn responded, "The crime rate here is not high in relation to the number of people and the amount of property."

According to Dunn, there have been only two reported rapes on campus in 15 years. But Dunn is not complacent about the low rape statistics. "Two rapes are two too many," he said.

Dunn told this reporter he has heard one claim that a rape per week occurs on campus, while a police report from 31 Division records a total of nine reported rapes and attempts last year.

"But considering the possible perpetrating factors, like the age group involved, the 'wild' residence parties and events, and the seclusion of the campus, incidents have indeed been rare."

Theft of valuables like tape decks and tennis rackets from parked cars is prevalent. Vandalism is also a problem. This past year over \$4,000 had to be allotted for the replacement of road signs alone.

Thrift of machines, furniture and other property are also problems at York. But this kind of theft is now occurring at the lowest rate in seven years.

Since parking lot attendants are not part of the York security team, they can not protect items left in cars. A simple solution may be for students to hide valuables under the seat or in the trunk.

University security officers are not sworn-in peace officers: if they make an arrest, it's a citizen's arrest.

According to Dunn the security force is adequately staffed at this

time, but a tight university budget prevents expansion of the force.

He believes that help from York students can stabilize the crime rate.

Security advises anyone needing the Metro police to call emergency services, who will contact the men in blue and have a York security man aid them with passkeys and directions if necessary. The same procedure applies for ambulances and the fire department.

Metro police of the 31st division also patrol the campus. Police patrols of the campus were stepped up several years ago.



"No he didn't"

Student security patrols York

By David Saltmarsh

Last year's York University's student security force will soon be reinstated.

C.M.D. Becksted, Security Staff Supervisor, said a number of students from last year's force will be back.

A few applications have been received from new students who have heard of it by word of mouth.

The student security patrols will be run like last year's, although because of budget restraints the Monday and Tuesday patrols may be cut.

Patrols will be conducted around College Complex I, Central Square, and Tait McKenzie.

Complex II has a good system with their porters who do some security work, so patrols in that area will not be needed," said Becksted. These patrols will run from 10 pm to 2 am.

Students who belong to this security force will be paid \$3.25 per hour and will be equipped with radios. "They have no more authority than any other civilian," Becksted said. Their function would

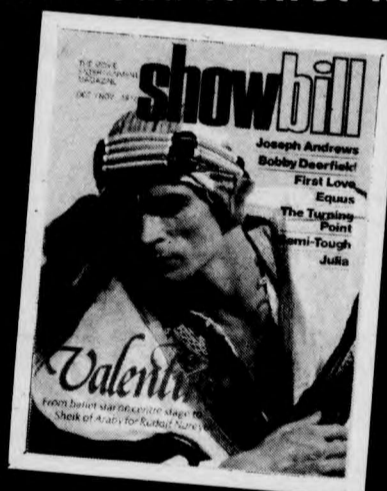
be "observatory and detection". If they see something they can call York Security on their radios.

Becksted is quite satisfied with last year's operation, and said, "the effect was largely psychological".

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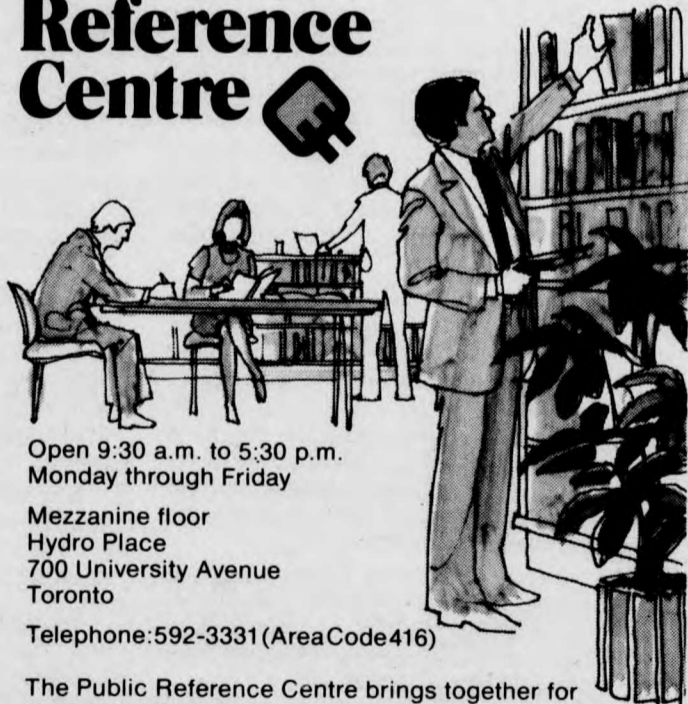
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