



York's Women's Centre celebrates their 17th anniversary with 2 Nice Girls at the student centre pub.

Hate messages greet band

by Lilac Cana

Texan folk-rock band 2 Nice Girls heated up the crowd at York's Student Centre Restaurant Club last Wednesday, October 16. But not everyone on campus welcomed the idea of an all woman band playing in public at a university venue.

"The status quo is just not used to feminist programming," said Elissa Horscroft, vice president of equality and social programs for York Federation of Students.

Two weeks before the concert, M.J. Kelly, director of programming and events at the Student Centre, said she began to receive dozens of phone calls on her personal line "with a lot of 'hate dyke' stuff in them."

She didn't know who the callers were and when they left their messages. At one point, out of frustration, Kelly said she smashed her answering machine against the wall.

"I started becoming afraid as a woman for the first time," she said.

As well, posters which advertised the event were taken down all over campus almost as quickly as they were put up. In one section of

Founders College, a pile of ripped-up flyers was urinated on.

Kelly said she was "appalled by the narrow mentality of people on this campus."

Over all, she says that the only "negative feedback" she's received about programming has been for the feminist-oriented shows she's booked at the Centre. Rock band Mother Love Bone, musician Lorraine Segato and writer Sonia Johnson's appearances were among the most poorly attended at York, Kelly said.

But Kelly said the 2 Nice Girls concert was successful in spite of the fact that it lost money.

The band was also there to help celebrate the 17th anniversary of the York Women's Centre.

"My mandate is to program for every market on campus," Kelly said. "Since it is students' money [that funds acts], of course there's financial pressure on my part. But I have to allow for every event that is successful."

Kelly said she plans to continue booking "risky" acts in the future with "alternative programming" on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"Acts like Bratty and the Babysitters and Faith Nolan are as influential and important as any other. They help define Canadian culture," she said.

Women's studies expands

by Maggie Borch

After years of lobbying, York's Women's Studies program is finally expanding to the graduate and doctoral level.

"York will be the first university in Ontario to offer either of these programs", said Thelma McCormack, the program coordinator.

"It became clear we needed different kinds of curriculum," said McCormack, adding that the program is "exactly the type of thing that keeps a university alive".

"It is new and will attract people, therefore changing the ambience of York."

Pat Robertson, a women's studies

Rejected students get "dead-ended"

York continues to overpopulate campus

by Lilac Cana

As York continues to allow more students to vie for limited admission space, government funding - from both federal and provincial levels - continues to get axed.

According to Sheldon Levy, York's vice president of Institutional Affairs, the University is "already past the maximum enrolment number (40,000) for any new incoming students to benefit" from government funding increases.

The university is looking to limit enrolment in the next two years. York planned the 1991-1992 school year to be "a period of stable enrolment with only one percent increase," said Levy.

But by November 1, when York finishes tallying up this year's total crop of undergrads, graduate, Atkinson and Glendon students, there will have been an increase of two percent.

By next month York will have 40,950 enroled students, up from 40,144 last year.

"We're hopelessly overcrowded," said Rob Centa, external vice president for the York Federation of Students. "We need more classroom spaces, more buildings. This is all, of course, a result of years and years of underfunding."

According to Centa, a total of \$3.2 billion has been cut from post secondary education funding by the federal government.

Levy said figures from the application centre showed that for 21,096 applicants this year only 5,000 spots were available at York. This year's cut-off grade was 71 percent for the faculty Arts.

"The students who don't get in become dead-ended," Levy says. "They can't all just go north or wherever else [outside Ontario] to get into a university. It's tragic, really. I think that any government policy that limits the opportunity for education is a bad policy."

But while Centa "fully believe(s) in accessibility," he said there is very little that either students, professors and tutorial assistants can do to curb York's overpopulation.

"It's now up to the provincial government to maintain funding levels, and for the federal government to reaffirm their support for post secondary education," said Centa.

Activists angered as U of T gives award to king of Spain

by Maylin Scott
Canadian University Press

TORONTO — The University of Toronto has awarded the King of Spain an honorary law degree, but critics say it's no crowning glory for the university.

The university honored King Juan Carlos of Spain October 10 for his commitment to democracy and the free elections in Spain in 1936.

But activists are upset that next year Carlos will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus—funded by Queen Isabella of Spain—to the new world.

Carol Couchie, a member of the Native Students' Association and the 500 Years Coalition, said some people were offended by the king's speech which talked about next year's celebrations.

"For the black and native communities, it's hardly a celebration," she said. "The so-called discovery of America was the start of slavery and exploitation of these groups."

Dave McKee, a member of

the 500 Years Coalition at U of T called the ceremony hypocritical. He said the coalition distributed the leaflets outside the ceremony to offer analysis of the Columbus celebrations.

"The king is a very powerful symbol," he said. "He himself should be challenging people to think, as we approach the anniversary. What are the democratic ideals being celebrated in 1992?"

But Gordon Cressy, university vice-president, said the decision was made in the mid-1980s, before anyone was discussing Columbus celebrations.

"The degree was done a number of years ago," he said. "It was given out this year because this is the first time the king could make it over."

"The basis for this award is resounding. This person brought democracy to Spain. In Latin and South America he is viewed as a hero. It is overwhelming what he did."

Cressy said there are no official plans at U of T to celebrate Columbus's voyage.

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