

York students question Toronto transport experts

By MIKE SAVAGE

About 200 people, mostly students from York's social science 378 and sociology 343, gathered last Wednesday night in the 123 year old Holy Trinity Church to discuss the present transportation situation in Toronto.

Neil McArthur of Atkinson College set the tone of the meeting by referring to transportation as the "essential part of our urban infrastructure." He turned the meeting over to the moderator Stanley Burke, York television co-

ordinator, who kept firm control through the session.

George Lacey, chief engineer of engine emissions for Chrysler Detroit, remarked on a recent CBC history of the Hudson's Bay Company and said "it could be called a history of transportation."

The automobile industry "gets more help from the public than anything else" he said. "We don't sell transportation either. That's the use our products are put to." The car, he said, "is the victim of a lot or controversy."

Lacey said that getting rid of the

car is "not as simple as one might think. Our whole society is built up around the car."

Lacey, challenged by a student, said pollution "isn't a matter of prime concern."

He referred to a U.S. department of health and welfare report in 1968 which states that 39 per cent of all pollution by weight can be attributed to cars.

Cars have only a five per cent environmental effect. If all the cars in Toronto were banned from the streets, he said, "you'd still have 95 per cent of air pollution left." Carbon Monoxide is less now than 30 years ago in Toronto, he said.

When questioned by a student on the fitting of air filters on all cars, he said "the public just isn't that interested yet in environmental problems."

A student accused Lacey of taking the "classic Detroit stance" on environmental problems.

Lacey replied that filters have been installed on all products at Chrysler since 1966. He referred to an abortive ad campaign for air filters for cars made before 1966.

Sam Cass, Metro traffic commissioner, said the Spadina expressway would serve 300,000 people.

"It must not split homogeneous communities. You couldn't destroy visual and historic sights. You could not dislocate populations. You must maintain aesthetics," he said.

Paul Baker, director of public relations for the Toronto Transit Commission, said that the transportation problem can be solved.

"We have to get away from surplus traffic to give you good service. We need that rapid transit line very badly," he said. "So far there's no way to solve man's transit needs equal to the subway."

John Vardon, Metro traffic planner, using 1964 figures as an

indicator, said average speed for highway traffic in metro during the rush hour was 17 mph.

Assuming a complete transit and expressway system in metro we can only expect 12 mph average speed now, he said. If there are no expressways built in the future, Vardon said, average speed will not go over seven or eight mph.

He predicted that accessibilities (getting from one point to another) "are going to go down and go down appreciably." A possible solution is more transit, he said.

On the subject of density of population he said, "essentially what we are talking about is how many rats can you put in the cage."

Vardon, when asked by a member of the audience how to

ease congestion in the city, said we must "apply economic pressures on parking spaces downtown."

"You will see greater economic restraints on the automobile downtown," he warned.

Peter Kay of the geography department of the University of Toronto attacked Sam Cass and his idea of a homogeneous community. The idea is based on the premise that it is a good thing, he said.

"The ghetto is a homogeneous community, and I'm not so sure it's a good thing."

Terry Fowler, assistant professor of political science at Glendon College, said the "impact of the automobile on big cities seems to be quite devastating."

Most air pollution is traced to internal combustion engines, he said.

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York briefs

York daycare centre has openings

The York co-operative daycare centre currently has openings for 10 more children. If you need care for your child please contact Jean Simons at 638-3874 or call the centre at 630-5934.

The centre is hoping to enlarge its pre-school (2-5 year olds) group, and children in that age grouping are sure of acceptance; however it also has limited spaces available for infants (3 months to 2 years). The centre operates on a non-authoritarian, co-operative philosophy. The parents spend one-half day per week in the centre, which helps create a family atmosphere and also cuts costs since only the minimum staff has to be hired. Fees are \$45 per month full-time and \$25 per month part-time (less than 20 hours per week).

Atkinson examines Americanization

The Atkinson college student assembly Saturday voted near unanimously to form a committee to investigate the Americanization of Atkinson college. The 40 students present appointed Bob Holden to the chairmanship of the committee which will examine the hiring policies of the college and investigate the recent resignation of professor Gwen Matheson. Matheson resigned earlier this year because she was forced to teach American studies at Atkinson when she preferred to teach Canadian studies. The committee will examine why Atkinson hired over 60 per cent non-Canadian faculty this year.

Stong college being opened Saturday

The first building of the second college cluster and York's fifth college — Stong College — will be officially opened this Saturday. The college boasts a French restaurant, a coffee shop ("The Orange Snail"), a fully equipped art gallery, a library-listening room, a music-theatre room (housing the York Masquers) and a building designed differently from the other colleges. Everyone at York is invited to the Open House at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 21.

Daycare centre rock festival flops

Last Thursday's "Daycare Thing" may have hurt rather than helped the daycare centre. Daycare volunteer Stew Simpson reports only 50 people came and their donations were not enough to allow the centre to meet its expenses for the night. This means that the centre will have to find other methods of raising money. The most likely method will be an appeal to the college councils. Last Thursday's failure also means that when the centre approaches the university for new quarters, they will not be able to claim they have any mass support. Their lease is up at the end of the academic year and facilities that have been offered by college 'F' will not be available for at least two years.

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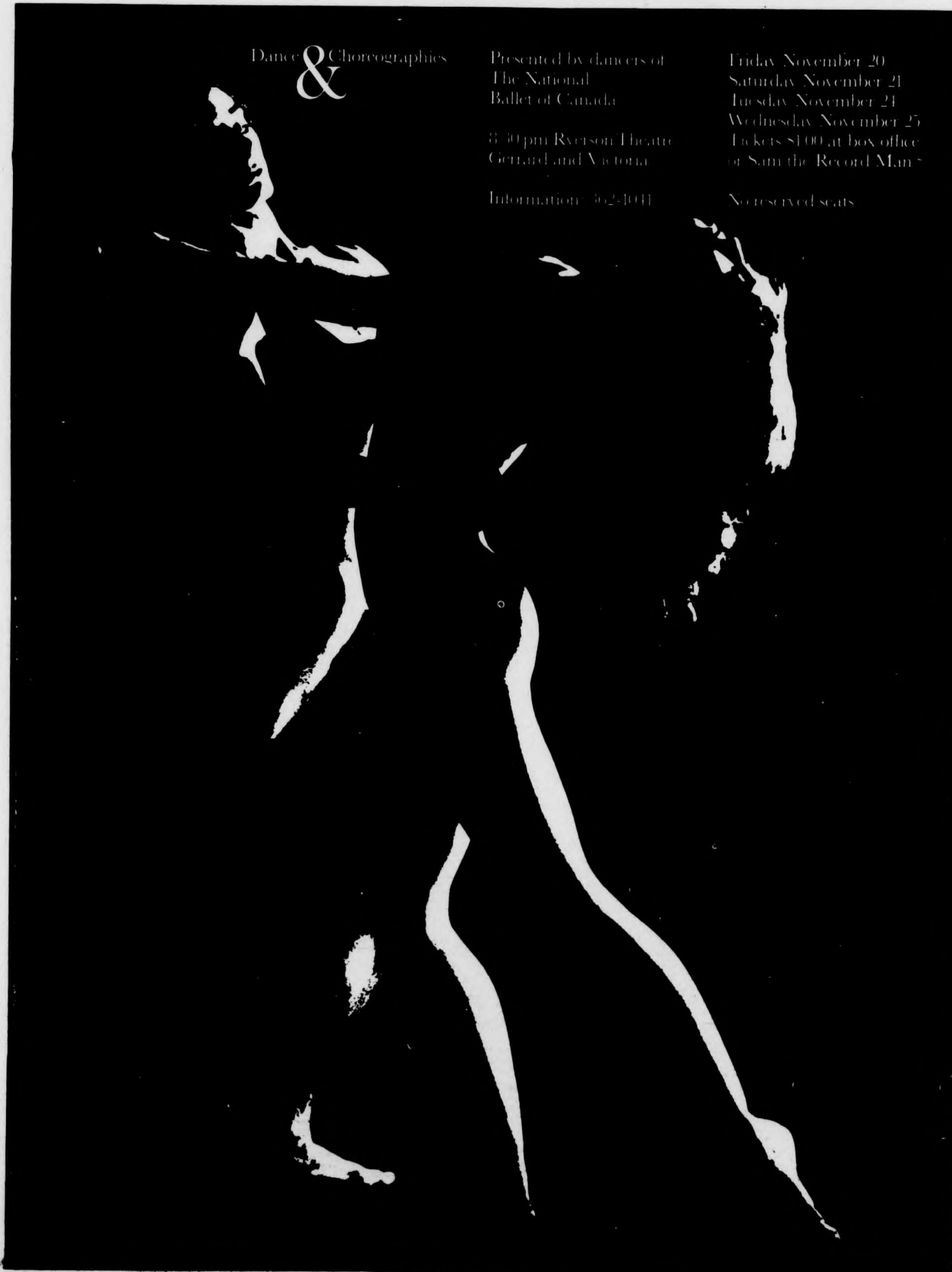
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