

"We are a city"—Armour

Physical Plant is well experienced in energy conservation techniques

Rest easily, there are no monsters lurking in the primordial sludge underground and John Armour, Assistant Vice-President (Physical Plant), has the proof in his hands.

For fifteen years, the twelve miles of underground sewers on campus had not been inspected when it occurred to Armour it was time for a look-see. Volunteers for such a task

being hard to find, an inspection company was hired to run a wheeled camera from manhole to manhole. "I was pleasantly surprised they were in such good shape," said Armour when he received the glossy photographs. "Two or three sewers showed settlement encrustation but they were quickly cleaned out."

dual oil/gas operation and 400,000 gallons of oil are in storage for emergency use. The contract with the gas supplier provides that supplies could be interrupted mid-winter. In return York gets its "best price" per unit of energy required.

When the gas bill comes, the amount due figure reads 2.75 million dollars; for the 400,000 gal-

lons of oil the sum of 250,000 dollars; add 2.2 million dollars worth of electricity; and 350,000 dollars for the water bill. The university has to look for the "best price".

lution network of essential services and transport supplies from one end of the campus to the other. To meet our water consumption requirements calls for 6.5 kilometres of fourteen inch pipe. Even small improvements in lowering consumption, such as finding a way to recirculate cooling water through the bearings of a

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The Student Network

Humour magazine launched by five York students

Students are praying for the swift arrival of reading week. The oppressive load of papers, term tests and the February blahs can be really depressing.

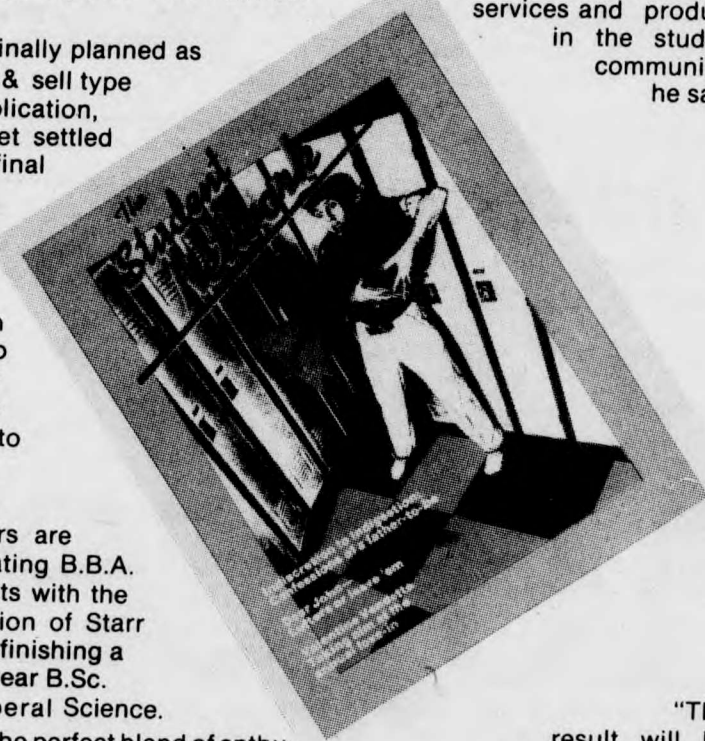
Relief is on the way in the form of a humour magazine that's been put together by York students Bruce Borden, Dan Simile, Ilan Dishy, Robert Ringwald and Lerrick Starr.

The Student Network's premier issue has hit the stands at universities and colleges Metro-wide with a Valentine's theme that will lighten the heaviest heart.

Originally planned as a buy & sell type of publication, The Net settled on its final

"There was no time to do a full marketing survey or plan. We investigated what we could, and sought input from many professionals in the daily media. The rest was just gut decisions made out of our collective experience."

Ringwald, who is the regional advertising representative, expressed surprise at the strong support of the local advertisers. "They loved the idea of a publication aimed at all the students in the city. Those with small advertising budgets feel they can get solid exposure of their services and products in the student community," he said.



form in the two weeks before going to press.

The partners are graduating B.B.A. students with the exception of Starr who is finishing a three-year B.Sc. in Liberal Science.

"It's the perfect blend of enthusiasm, business acumen and an experienced and professional creative team," said Starr while lugging bundles of the new-born publication to its new homes on campus.

The go-ahead to prepare for a February issue was made in late December. Financing, advertising sales, design and layout were condensed into a five-week schedule with little room for mistakes.

"Granted it's only sixteen pages this time, but the fact we were able to produce a good publication in so short a time bodes well for our chances of success," said Borden. "We are very confident that with a little exposure we will create a magazine all the students of Metro will read and wish to contribute to."

"The result will be clever, unfettered humour magazine guaranteed to shoo the school-day blues," enthused Starr, "but we really want input from the students who read us."

"There are a lot of funny people at York. Strange people. I've met them myself and I'm hoping they will use us to have their material published."

Students are invited to submit articles, photographs, short stories, jokes, jests and gross "decencies" but they must avoid sexism, racism and steer clear of truly offensive material.

Submissions can be sent to The Net Editor, 9 Kenton Drive, Willowdale, Ontario, M2R 2H6 or for more information call 229-2703.



All construction on campus is supervised by Physical Plant

The most arduous task was just finding all the manhole covers on campus. No one had looked for them since their installation and in the interim some had been landscaped over and buried six feet deep.

"York has a population larger than Port Hope and Cobourg combined," explained Armour. "We're larger than Belleville and Orillia and catching up to Barrie."

Caretaking, postal services, engineering and maintenance fall in Physical Plant's bailiwick along with utilities, outside services and new construction and renovation work.

Under the heading of utilities falls the provision of electricity, fuel (either oil or gas), water, steam and waste water to all the buildings on campus. The university owns all the miles of pipes, conduits, ducts and mains. They all need occasional attention. The department takes on winter weather with its own snow removal, salting and sanding equipment and as well acts as a funnel for the telecommunications services which include telephone repairs and liaison with Bell Canada.

In essence physical plant is responsible for maintaining the environment in which the academic growth of the university is made possible. But the forty per cent increase in enrolment over the past three years has forced the department to examine its operations in order to maximize its efficiency.

Conservation

Energy conservation studies began in 1971, predating the energy crisis by several years, with work commencing shortly after the results were in. "Without energy conservation the university would require three million dollars more in today's budget," said Armour.

He describes it as "cost avoidance", not as "savings", as the maintenance demands of our aging campus are rapidly increasing. There isn't any money just sitting in a bank account.

Plans to convert the steam generators which heat the campus from oil to gas operation began in 1965. Work started in 1967 to convert the boilers to

large turbine driven water pump instead of using fresh water, means large savings in the long term.

22.5 million paper towels

Of the ten cost or responsibility centres, four major areas are the responsibility of Don Dawson, Director (Physical Plant Operations). Three of the key centres are utilities, maintenance and outside services, but the most visible to the student is caretaking.

Through the day and most of the night, the caretaking staff herd mounds of rubbish into 340,000 trash bags each year. They empty one hundred million telephone message slips out of waste baskets (all printed on campus), and 22.5 million paper towels are released from their semi-damp captivity in campus washrooms.

"I've been working for years to figure a way to make people use just one side of the paper towel and leave the other side for someone else," said Armour in mock seriousness. But he does have a solution at hand.

The quest for cost efficiency means paper towels have been placed on the endangered species list. Their replacement is a white enamel and chrome forced air dryer quickly taking up residence on the tiled walls and Armour is prepared to "defend the decision to the hilt".

On the flip side there are two miles of underground walk-through tunnels which are never seen by students. In these the maintenance workers repair and service the underground distri-

lution network of essential services and transport supplies from one end of the campus to the other.

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Climbing enrolment figures directly affect physical plant costs. The forty per cent increase in the last three years has placed a large demand for services in the department's lap.

More people means lights burn longer and their switches wear more quickly. Computers are plugged in along with calculators and electric kettles. All require additional space and power.

Air circulation fans, which were previously turned off for large parts of the weekend, are running longer and later to provide warmth for the expanded class schedules. The extended wear and tear factors into increased overall costs.

In the bathrooms the toilets flush 40 per cent more often, using considerably more water and placing excessive wear on the flushing mechanism which has a limited lifetime. Stall doors swing more often causing the hinges to wear. The seats go up and down and require more frequent replacement.

Even the floors, which see endless traffic throughout the day, are slowly worn thin.

Physical Plant's 17.5 million dollar budget (including Glendon) is barely sufficient to keep abreast of the rising costs of keeping the university running.

"There are people here for up to fifteen hours a day. We are a city," said Armour.

Walk through the halls one evening late at night. Stop and listen carefully. You just may hear a gentle heartbeat.



John Armour and Don Dawson