

Downsview: a cultural wasteland

How York students kill time

By John Oughton

If this is your first year at York, you will probably be looking for diversion, once the initial excitement of getting lost on a large and badly-planned campus wears off. The university is located in a cultural desert named Downsview. Entertainment (unless you really like suburbs) only occurs on campus or in downtown Toronto.

Once the college coffee-houses are open, some of them have amateur or inexpensive music acts on Friday and Saturday night. The library has a recently-expanded listening room on the fourth floor with tape and recorder facilities on which you can hear a reasonably comprehensive selection of pop and classical music . . . as long as you remember your student's card.

Both the main campus and the Glendon campus sponsor free films and concerts throughout the academic year. Watch the Information and Publicity pages in

Excalibur and your local bulletin boards for these.

There is a York Art gallery in N145 Ross and college art galleries in Stong, Winters, and Founders which should be opening soon. There is not much drama to be seen at York other than in the fine arts performing arts series. This series also brings dance, music, special films, and writers onto campus. For a complete schedule, see the Burton Auditorium office or the faculty of fine arts office.

A number of establishments downtown offer free or inexpensive diversion. The Art Gallery of Ontario (on Dundas between University and Spadina) is always free to holders of student cards, as is the Royal Ontario Museum, which is on the corner of University or Avenue and Bloor. The latter has the best ultraviolet rock show in town hidden in its geology dept!

Good places to go for movies are

Cinelumiere, which plays an excellent selection of auteur-type films for \$1.50 weekdays, and Cinecity, which has special student rates.

Forget Ontario Place. Go to the Science Centre instead; there is much more to see there, and the architecture and general atmosphere doesn't reek as strongly of crass political commercialism.

So enjoy yourself, and if you participate in anything cultural around York or Toronto which makes you either ecstatic or nauseous, tell Excalibur about it, and we can warn or inform the rest of the university community.

Excalibur needs culture vultures

The cultural pages of Excalibur this year are going to be about as exciting as Mayor Dennison's dreams unless some new people interested in reviewing and writing about their fields of interest show up to help.

We particularly need writers with some knowledge of theatre, dance, art and/or literature. As payment, you get free access to most of the above-mentioned events and the satisfaction of having your opinions expressed to a wide audience who cannot contradict you immediately!

There is also a place for anyone who is interested in helping to lay out and illustrate the section. We hope to print, from time to time, creative work by York people — writing, photography or graphics.

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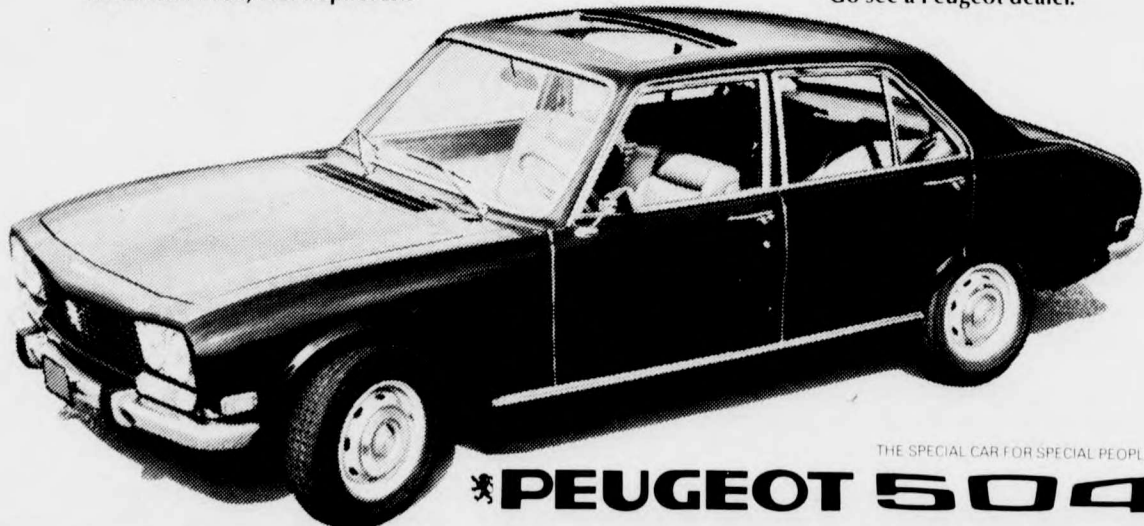
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