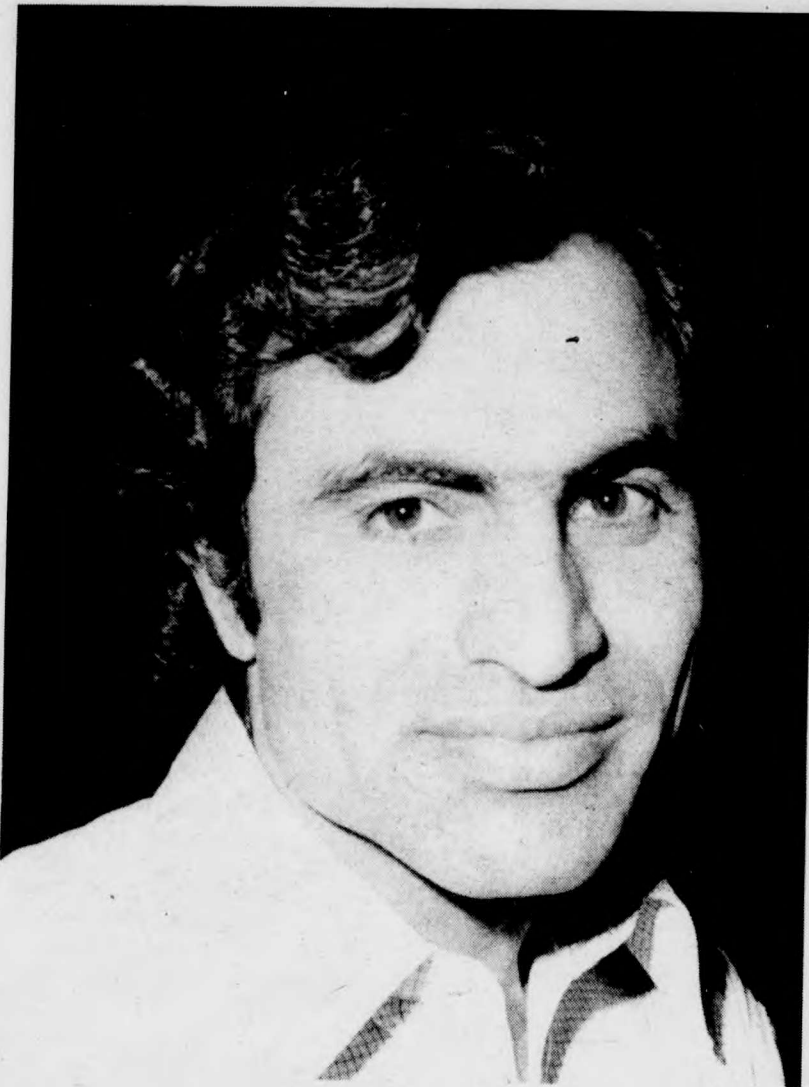


Spotlight

Breakthrough's eight-woman staff provides forum at York



By BRENDA WEEKS

The idea of organizing a woman's newspaper on campus started Janet Patterson and eventually a whole collective of women on the road to Breakthrough, York's "feminist" magazine.

Excalibur spoke to Breakthrough's editor, Lynn McFadden, and lay-out technician, Janet Craven, on Friday. They stressed the importance of the rest of the female staff (the "collective", as they call it).

"In fact, the December issue of our magazine has an editorial on the advantages of women working together in a group design," McFadden said. "We share all the responsibilities completely, be they in terms of writing skills, learning lay-out and design, promotion or reporting."

"It is interesting to note," she added, "that of our collective of eight women, most are over 25. You could almost conclude that women are not inclined to assert themselves, if they are going to assert themselves at all, until they get older."

"That is indication enough of the need to disseminate information of interest to the women on campus."

Craven, who knows lay-out well,

having been a lettering artist in various firms, said of the volunteer collective at Breakthrough that she had developed some rewarding friendships through working in the group that she might never have otherwise experienced.

In the current issue of Breakthrough, there are two articles written by men. One, by a fed-up social worker, informs women of their legal rights in areas in which they have been shafted in the past. The other is a tirade by an enlightened man, tired of the male exploitation of women in popular skin magazines.

LIBERATED MEN

Besides exploring the possibilities for women, Breakthrough tries to give voice to the men who are interested in liberating themselves from their own sex roles.

"We want to improve male-female relationships with our newspaper," said McFadden, "and the response in this regard has been so good, that men read it widely too."

"Our next step is to get Breakthrough beyond the campus, and into some bookstores," she said. "We currently hold a place on the racks of the Women's

Bookstore downtown."

Both McFadden and Craven agreed that the main problem has been in ending up with "four of five people doing all the work." There is a continuing need for more and more enthusiastic personnel. "After all," said McFadden, "ours is not a very slick newspaper; anyone could do it if she had the motivation."

"It is most important to have new people coming in all the time," Craven piped in, "because of the way people come and go in university. It would be a great tragedy to have all our energies and efforts up until now discarded, if the newspaper were to crumble."

Fortunately, Breakthrough's funding has been sufficient, and costs have been met. "Besides a thousand dollars from CYSF, the colleges have been very good in granting us money," said McFadden.

The next issue of Breakthrough will focus on the theme of children. The women at Breakthrough welcome and encourage creative efforts by York women in poetry, reporting, book reviews and drawing. The deadline for the next issue is January 5.

You can't slip this snoop

By MICHELINA TRIGIANI

As a police officer in his native Pakistan, Shafiq Malik's days were often filled with chasing local murderers. Well, it's two and a half years later and his job as "check-out operator" at York's Scott Library is quite a change.

"Malik" is the man who searches all our bags and briefcases as we file through the turnstiles in the library and he really likes it. "I was lucky to get a job here. I can see and talk to so many different people."

Malik finds strategies for sneaking out books "very amusing". People try rubbing out the YUL stamp, re-covering books, glueing back pages together, removing cards and pockets and girls often hide them under heaps of make-up. His Pakistani police days help; he catches about three people daily. "I can tell who's stealing and who's just forgotten and I usually find them out."

But it's not all work at York. Malik takes advantage of the social life on campus (he's single) and often attends club dances, movies and pubs. He bluntly calls "beautiful" women his favourites and admits to a weakness for the face and eyes.

He's a keen badminton player, loves to fish and go horseback riding and takes home movies to appease his artistic appetite.

"This summer, I travelled to Yarmouth and really shot some beautiful film." His favourite pastime is talking with people of various cultures, but the groups and cliques at York worry him. "We're all the same, you know."

Malik has been working for York since he arrived in Canada but he doesn't see his future here. He's already involved in an import business on the side and hopes, one day, to open his own handicraft and jewellery store.

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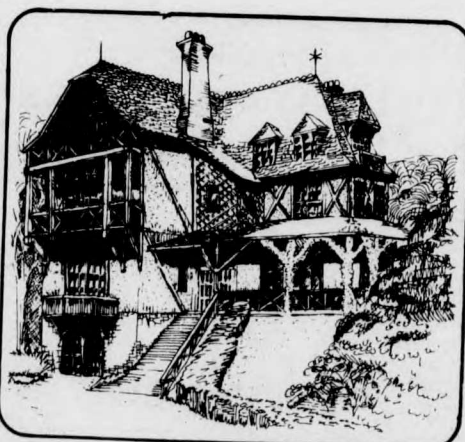
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