

Stong to celebrate twentieth birthday

by Roslyn Angel

Stong College will celebrate its 20th birthday on November 21. Olga Cirak, Assistant to the master of Stong, has organized an evening of festivities to commemorate the occasion.

A reception in the Stong junior common room will start off the night's events, and guests will be able to view an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Merlin Homer, fellow of Stong college, in the Samuel J. Zack's Gallery. A dinner will follow in the college's main dining hall that will include various speeches, as well as dinner music performed by the "Glinka Piano Trio" consisting of Julie Shier (bassoon), Bruce Stasyna (piano) and Danielle Waxer (clarinet). Later in the evening, "The Magical Faces of Michael Ross," a stand up comic and magician, will be featured.

Scheduled to attend Stong's anniversary will be: York provost Elizabeth Hopkins; Virginia J. Rock, founding master of Stong (1969-1978); Joan Wood, president of the York Alumni Association; Karen Baker, chair of the Stong college executive committee; Allen C. Koretsky, the current master; Olga Cirak; and honorary fellow, Alfred Stong Jr.

Going against the tradition of using the name of a prominent Canadian citizen, such as Colonel Samuel McLaughlin or Governor George Vanier, Stong College was named after the Stong family, pioneers of the land that York University is built upon.

"It was a conscious decision to name the college after our own pioneers," said Koretsky. It was an attempt to "create a meaning for our name from what we do and what we stand for rather than taking meaning from it. 'Stong' will be known not only as the name of the family who owned the land but as one of York's most distinguished colleges," said Rock in approximately 1970, prior to the naming of the college.

In an attempt to establish some distinctiveness, Stong college is based on four main themes: the study of English language and literature, multiculturalism, physical education and social consciousness. Social awareness is based on the "recognition that we are part of a larger community," says Koretsky. Stong students are currently involved in a neighbouring programme, where they "act as mentors to students at Elia Junior High School," explains Koretsky. Events include film nights and an annual exhibition of art work by the Elia students, displayed in Zack's Gallery.

With these themes in mind, Koretsky suggests that Stong's main goal is "to support and supplement the students' extra-curricular activities."

But how has Stong changed in the last two decades? Cirak suggests, "The students have changed. They are more interested in getting their education; they are more serious about it. Without that paper (BA), they won't get anywhere." Cirak believes that Stong as a college has not really changed much. "We are basically the same, just older and wiser."

Excalibur covers burning issues



Stephen Moses

Damage done to the Excalibur office early Sunday morning.

by Nancy Phillips

A fire was set in the newspaper box outside the Excalibur office at 111

Central Square Sunday morning. Two Security patrols discovered the fire at 6:10 a.m. and put it out with a fire extinguisher. Across the hall from the newspaper box

someone used ash to draw a happy face on the wall, reminiscent of last week's cover.

The metal box, the papers in it, the wall, ceiling and floor, were all

scorched.

Security estimated the damage as \$200, although Excalibur's business manager, Merle Menzies, said the real cost will be closer to \$500.

The officer who discovered the fire, John VanDerVenne, was not available for comment.

Investigations officer Bob Stevens said, "I think the Security response in this case was first class."

York fire marshal John Colpitts said the fire alarms did not go off despite substantial smoke because Central Square has heat detectors, not smoke detectors. He said the fire was not hot enough to set off the alarm, and that "it wouldn't have got too far because of the heat detectors." He said smoke detectors are not used as there would be too many false alarms caused by people smoking illegally in the halls.

Stevens said there will be no investigation as it is an isolated incident and there are no witnesses or suspects.

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All Members of the York community are welcome to attend.