

# Security nabs York burglars

By ZENA McBRIDE

York security experienced several small victories this month in its fight against campus break-ins, catching thieves on two separate occasions. But the success was short-lived as York suffered its first armed robbery since early 1985.

The first occurred on July 1, 6:40 p.m., when a York security guard patrolling the Ross Building discovered that a ceiling tile over the south entrance of the Film Department (room 042X Ross) had been ripped out.

A suspect was apprehended at the scene of the crime and escorted back to security headquarters where the Metro police were called. The suspect admitted to committing the break-in, but nothing was stolen.

The second triumph for security came on July 12, at approximately 3:50 a.m., when a Bethune College office was ransacked, and glass doors on the first floor were broken. A search of the entire area ensued, and sometime later, a male person armed with tools was discovered in a women's washroom in Stong College. Police found out that the suspect is currently on probation for theft.

However, these small successes lose their glory in the light of another crime that was committed on campus at around the same time. On July 7, at 1:15 p.m., a person entered an unlocked apartment at 22 Moon Road, pointed a gun at the occupant, and proceeded to search the premises. He made off with \$2,200 worth of cash and cheques, various credit cards and personal identification, several valuable pieces of jewellery, and a tape recorder.

Fortunately, the occupant was not harmed physically, but remains very shaken by the incident.

The intruder, described as being in his early 30s and having sandy blonde hair, sported jeans, a burgandy leather jacket, and a baseball hat. He made no real attempt to disguise himself, wearing only work goggles to his eyes.

Upon leaving the building, the thief was seen to drive away on a small motorcycle along with another male, who had long, dark hair and wore a white windbreaker.

All evidence indicates that this was a well-planned robbery, with the assailant(s) stalking the victim for an indefinite period of time before the theft was effected, according to Safety and Security Investigator Eric Pond. The suspect seemed to know the layout of the apartment, and who the occupant was. In addition, the incident was preceded by several phonecalls to the residence, in which the caller did not speak at all.

While Pond maintains that this sort of crime is extremely rare at York, he admits that the graduate residences are not patrolled by York security, except "as required, or on request. The number of calls to

graduate residences is very small," he explains, "perhaps one call to each residence per week."

Although these residences are part of York's campus, most of the security enforcement there is left to the Metro Police. Pond attributes at this fact to a lack of security personnel at York: "If we patrol the residence, then there are fewer people available to patrol the more troublesome areas of the campus."

When asked if more personnel would be hired in the light of the higher crime rate this year, Pond replied, "There will be no increase in staff as far as we know; the budget for this year has already been set." In addition to a fixed budget, "Security is working under a fixed establishment," Pond explained. If Security wants to hire a new person, it must first "establish a new position within the department for that person," a process that may take three to four months, according to Pond. He cited as an example the newly-formed Crime Prevention Unit, which employs two people. They were promoted from the patrol group to do the job, but because these new positions have not yet achieved official status, their old patrol jobs have not been replaced by new staff. "Secur-

ity cannot expand indiscriminately," Pond said.

Meanwhile, Investigator Bob Stevens said that security is "doing everything reasonable to cope with the situation. York has the population of a small city, and therefore all the problems that go with it." Stevens hopes that as the Crime Prevention Unit gains impetus, "we'll be able to reduce dramatically the incidents of all sorts of thefts."

The Crime Prevention unit, as described by Pond, is divided into two parts: the first is concerned with campus-wide key control; the second is strictly crime prevention. Pond hopes in the fall to have security people go to each college to discuss safety awareness with the students. In addition, brochures will be distributed outlining a "common sense approach" to protect against campus crime. The women's defense training course will also fall under the jurisdiction of crime prevention, as well the escort service (which serves some 13,000 students, 1,000 of male). There will be a weekly York bulletin containing safety reminders, as well as a monthly newspaper (crime report) "telling people what is going on so they are better able to defend themselves," Pond said.

## Phone registration system will be tested next spring

cont'd from pg. 1

computer, and if courses are unavailable, the computer tells why (for example, the student may need the instructor's permission or the course is filled). Two features of the touch-tone system are that students can instantly cancel requests as well as have the computer repeat requests. According to Berman, the computer can also recognize serious problems and then transfer the caller to a human operator, or refer him to another phone number.

Sound too simple to be true? Yes and no. While the installation and programming of a touch-tone enrolment system is complex and expensive (Berman and Salusbury offer a rough estimate of \$250,000 for equipment alone), the actual enrolment process for the student will be simplified. For instance, Salusbury said that the Faculty of Arts may "do away with mandatory advising, and concentrate on spending more money on better (instructional) publications."

What this boils down to is putting the onus completely on the student to meet all degree requirements. "In this way, it's all the student's responsibility," stressed Salusbury. However, each faculty will independently decide on advising procedures.

At Brigham Young University in Utah, their campus-wide touch-tone enrolment system, installed in 1984,

was met with approval by students, faculty, and administrators. During the first year, it took students an average of six minutes to complete their registration. It now takes each student about three minutes to register, although Salusbury said that the system receives more phonecalls. After their first year of touch-tone enrolment, only 100 students, out of 27,000, used the old walk-in method of registration.

Berman and Salusbury are not yet sure if York students would still be able to enrol in person, if they chose. "Why would anyone want to come on campus?" Berman asks.

The project team is considering several options for funding the new system. There may be a user fee, or a mandatory deposit including in tuition fees, or even a fee if a student does not opt to use the system. A fourth option is to appeal to the colleges for funds. Whatever route is taken, however, it seems that the student will ultimately pay for this new, time-saving device.

After testing the touch-tone system on a group of students next March, students will fill out questionnaires to offer feedback on the system. Then for the Winter-/Summer enrolment of 1988, more departments will participate in the experiment. "It'll be three to four years until we're in full thrust," Berman speculates.



**OF THESE I SWING, BABY:** Suspended from the upper reaches of mammoth Ross Bldg. is a work of art. An AGYU staffer denied any knowledge of or involvement with said exhibit. Feverish Excal snoops discovered a connection to the Faculty of Education.

## Survey to determine reasons for high drop-out rate among first-year York students

By VICTOR FIDALGO

A phone survey to determine the reasons York University has such a poor retention record of first year students will be conducted by the Institute of Social Research (ISR) this August.

A study undertaken in the summer of 1984 revealed that York was losing many more first-year students than the provincial average. It was discovered that 21.74 percent of students in the Faculty of Arts, 25.93 percent in the Faculty of Science, 30.11 percent at Glendon College, and 31.58 percent in the Faculty of Fine Arts did not return to York following their first-year studies. These figures include both students stopping-out (those who drop out but later reenter) and permanently dropping out.

This new survey will be attempting to find out the reasons behind these alarming statistics by interviewing

about 650 students. "The study will be done on first and second year dropouts and first year students that have stayed on," David Northrup, the research coordinator at ISR, remarked.

The study will consist of approximately 100 questions which Northrup has divided into five major themes: the background of the student (age, sex, and high school marks, for example), the level of commitment by the student to the institution and his or her academic work, why the student chose to come to university, and the student's level of social and academic integration.

According to Northrup, "these findings should help us get a better feeling for who leaves the University and why."

The study should have all of its interviews conducted by the end of September and a final report is scheduled for April, 1987.

**All the Financial Services You Need. Right here on Campus.**



**UNICOLL CREDIT UNION**  
Curtis Lecture Halls, Rm. 112  
York University, Downsview  
M3J 1P3 Tel: 667-3239



**An Educated Choice, Financially Speaking.**



**UNICOLL CREDIT UNION**  
Curtis Lecture Halls, Rm. 112  
York University, Downsview  
M3J 1P3 Tel: 667-3239

