

Editorial

Collective planning a must for new Fine Arts centre

The Faculty of Fine Arts was elated last March upon receiving a \$4.3-million grant from the provincial government for a new and badly needed building to consolidate all Fine Arts departments.

York quickly chipped in another \$2.2-million and word quickly spread that ground would be broken before the first 1986 frost, and that the Centre for Fine Arts Phase III (CFA III) would house an experimental theatre where space could be manipulated, affording all departments innovative performance opportunities.

Alas, it seems that the Word was merely heresay. Not even an architect has yet been confirmed.

Meanwhile, the fragmented Theatre Department is scattered in 13 locations from its Administrative Studies Building offices, to its Wild Cat Road site, used for production studios and storage space. The Film and Video Department facilities lie low in the depths of the Ross Building's basement (with offices in Administrative Studies), and the Music Department resides in MacLaughlin College.

It is hard to believe that during the early 1970s, Burton Auditorium was a thriving forum for York's Fine Arts departments and such renowned artists as The National Ballet Company, The Art Ensemble of Chicago, and author Tom Wolfe. Burton even attempted an on-going subscription series to foster regular audiences.

Yet paradoxically, as York's Fine Arts scene proliferated, the performance series became bankrupt and six years ago, Burton was grasped from the Theatre Department's hands and given to the Conference Centre. It has since fallen into a state of disrepair and is rarely used for performances or, for that matter, conferences.

Why it has not been regularly maintained by the University is still unclear. What is clear is that none of the \$4.3-million provincial grant will be allocated to upgrading Burton Auditorium. Perhaps the poorly designed stage simply isn't worth further consideration.

Meanwhile, suggestions of a smaller proscenium theatre have been all but dismissed. Instead, the new Fine Arts Centre will house primarily office and teaching facilities.

As the situation presently stands, the CFA III Project Committee, comprised of Fine Arts faculty, York staff, and *ex officio* consultants when required, has drawn up a short list of eight architectural firms to be tentatively interviewed September 26 and 27.

A "Users Committee," to be "fully representative of the faculty," according to Fine Arts Dean Joyce Zemans, will work closely with the chosen architect in planning the new facility. An official Users Committee list has not been finalized, but at this time, students are conspicuously absent from the roster.

Current funding for the project has risen to \$7.5-million, and the latest verdict from York's Planning and Facilities Department and Zemans is that the building will consist of offices for the Theatre and Film and Video Departments, production and studio spaces, and a Fine Arts Student Council office.

Seven-plus million dollars is a lot of money, and the new centre has the capacity to revitalize and help consolidate one of Canada's largest and most respected university fine arts programmes. Consideration should be given to both the *specific* needs of the Fine Arts department, and to the *cultural* needs of York as a whole. The only way to achieve this is if students, faculty and staff are kept informed and allowed input into the planning of the new facility.

All too often at York projects are not made public until decisions are irrevocably confirmed. Let's hope this is an exception.



Letters

Member of York Security berates Jack Santarelli

Editor:

Imagine sitting in a class and the person next to you, possibly your girl or boyfriend, without warning clutches his or her chest and collapses to the floor unconscious. Normally ambulance attendants would be on the scene in minutes to give medical care and transportation to your friend. But this time the ambulance attendants arrive to greet a corpse. This resulted because there was no security working to escort the ambulance to the emergency scene. The ambulance crew didn't have a chance as they weren't familiar with our campus.

This is only a fictional scenario, but just the kind of situation Jack Santarelli, director of Security Services has created for this University.

Mr. Santarelli has created such vulnerability by implementing his guards on the Timken Work Schedule. This involves a 24 hour schedule of three rotating shifts. Each guard works five consecutive eight hour shifts and then receives 56 hours off before returning to the next tour of duty. Once every month a Timken Day occurs for each of the four security squads on a different day. On this Timken Day, each guard has the option of staying home and receiving eight hours regular pay, or working the shift at an overtime rate. If an entire security squad decides not to work the shift, and currently the morale within security is so low the Titanic has better odds of being raised, it is more than a possibility that there would be no security guards working on that particular shift on any given day.

One reason for bottom of the barrel level morale is that for the security guard a weekend off only occurs every four and a half months. This in itself is likely to cause an influx in sicktime. The guards have presented to Mr. Santarelli many alternative and suitable working schedules such as a twelve hour shift, which have gone heedless. As well, the guards voted unanimously against the Timken Shift. The calamity isn't helped any either with the security union, the United Plant Guard Workers of America (UPGWA) being in bed with management. Many grievances have been swept under the carpet as the case against a tyrant security squad supervisor. In fact, some members feel they would be better served without this union and retain their own lawyers, as no direction is being given by the UPGWA.

It is obvious that with the implementation of a work schedule such

as Timken, Mr. Santarelli does not hold any regards or concerns about the well-being of his employees. Soon, many guards will be knocking on the doors of Osgoode Law School requiring knowledgeable divorce lawyers. And why bother to work in a cold blustery January snow storm when the guard can be warm and safe at home and still collect eight hours pay?

Can you imagine the next time you lock your keys in your office or hear a fire alarm sound in your college residence?

Cross your fingers.

Member of York Security

Student security 'not humane to employees'

Editor:

It's our responsibility; not only as students, but as fellow student security officers, to inform the York community of the dealings of the co-ordinator of student security at this fine institution.

Being York student security officers in our first years of study at York University, we took pride in donning student security jackets. Moreover, this pride was transferred over to the service we provided to our fellow students and to our colleagues.

But ever since the former co-ordinator of student security (Anthony Albanese) left his post, the atmosphere and the overall air of congeniality seems to have blown in a different direction. What we mean, is that since the present co-ordinator of student security has taken her post, the humane aspect of this (York Student Security) job has plainly vanished. Moreover, having gone through the rituals of being handed jobs like driving the York Security vans, or working the parking lots or walking the Ross Patrol, we thought that the same rituals will hold place this year despite the fact that a new co-ordinator took over the latter post. On the contrary, handing out jobs this year seems to occur in a family-oriented manner, meaning that some people who are close (socially) to the co-ordinator not only seemed to get the "easy" shifts but they seemed to get daily shifts (one a day for one week).

This latter fact helps to explain why we are writing this letter. The purpose of this letter is to broaden the residence students and all the other students' awareness to this unfortunate dilemma facing them when they want to or are thinking of applying for a job with York Student Security. We want this "family"

to offer jobs to a wider range of students and not to fill daily spots with the same people. In our opinion, with the aforementioned changes, the quality and dependability of this fine service should not only increase but will be able to maintain its standard of service. Besides, we hope the co-ordinator lands soon on the runway of reality. Being open people in our conversation with others, we expect to be treated the same way. Besides, aren't we all human???

Names withheld by request

Reader bemoans loss of cafeteria for non-eating

Editor:

I must reply to the latest edict of Housing & Food Services, that being the ban of all non-eating activities in our newly renovated Central Square Coffee Shop (CSCS). Would that I could afford a full-page ad on page 5. (Query to the editor: did they pay for the privilege, or is it a government job?) [Ed. note—They paid.]

CSCS is the focal point of what is, essentially, the student centre of York University. This facility, as the name states, is "central" to the out-of-class study body. Its function as an informal eatery/gathering place/study area is integral to the student lifestyle here, which is shaped by the exigencies of timetables, termwork and tests. Who has time to go through the food routine, and then relocate to meet classmates/study/write a letter to the editor (yes, ungentle reader, with the penning of this note I am now cast as a disrespectful, un-cooperative miscreant by the Director of Housing & Food Services), all between classes? For that matter, where to relocate? And what about coffee while you scan or scribble?

It is too bad that the informal student body is no longer welcome in CSCS to pursue, alongside eating, those activities which have naturally and of necessity become attached to the central food outlet.

The reason, obviously, is lack of space. Despite the renovations, there is no more seating capacity than before; enrolment, on the other hand, is growing. How many of you have never experienced the mob scenes in and around CSCS? So, let's solve the problem.

Let's build a student centre, with facilities which will, among other things, accommodate such activities as are (now unacceptably) practised in CSCS. (I don't nominate the Director of Housing & Food Services—

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