

Course guide gives student perspective

by Ed Prutschi

It's a course calendar with a twist. The York Federation of Students has just released its most complete anti-calendar ever.

Unlike the 'official' undergraduate course calendar, the federation's anti-calendar goes beyond description and actually evaluates courses, professors and teaching assistants.

"The university calendar doesn't give the essence [of a course]," Nick Marchese, executive research assistant at the federation said last week. Marchese also served as the course evaluations coordinator of the project which has been titled "The Other Calendar."

A student-run course calendar is not a new concept. Many universities across Canada, including Carleton and the University of Toronto, already have one. Even York had one back in the 70s called "The Counter Calendar."

The calendar is part of an ongoing

project by the federation "to affirm the right of students to have a say in [their] own education," according to its preface.

Its stated purpose is to give undergraduates a "student perspective" which will help in the difficult chore of choosing courses as well as giving students the "right to comment on the program and make a change."

And some changes have been made. Anthropology department chair Malcolm Blincow's Introduction to Social Anthropology course will no longer be using a text students found to be "ambiguous and difficult to understand." The course's new text is "an experiment" according to Blincow.

The project has received mixed reviews from York students. Most agree that the calendar is an excellent concept, but first year student Shaul Tarek complained the results were published too late to affect his course selections. David Kaplan, also a first

year student, said he had hoped more faculties would be involved.

Marchese said he will address these problems by approaching university departments earlier in order to prepare for next year's edition.

The project's success is still uncertain. The calendar was released later than intended, although Marchese is working towards a mid-June release for next year.

The refusal of both the Mathematics and Statistics department and the Computer Science department is disappointing, he said.

Computer Science chair Patrick

Dymond said his department was concerned about how misleading the results of such a calendar may be. "When students say a professor is great that may not necessarily be the view of the department and these evaluations can be misinterpreted," Dymond said.

Of course, the opposite may also be true. Dymond mentioned that his department had just recently changed its stance and has decided to participate in the project in one form or another next year.

"Some trepidation on the part of instructors" is to be expected, Marchese said. A professor who received a poor review in the calendar can expect to feel some sort of "moral

persuasion" to improve his or her work and it is because of this that many professors are hesitant to have themselves evaluated, he added.

Are professors really spoken to about their course evaluation results? "Absolutely," said Ron Singer, last year's chair of York's theatre department. He calls in each professor in the theatre department after the polls come in and "the results are discussed and taken very seriously."

Approximately 4,000 copies of the calendar have been distributed so far. The cost of the project is estimated to be close to \$10,000, but despite the cost and other minor setbacks Marchese said it looks like The Other Calendar is here to stay.

New cleaners to get less money

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fees between September 1991 and February 1992.

"Our business runs six months a year. It makes it difficult to work. The prices for maintenance are very high," said Charlie Korinis, owner of Shopsy's Deli.

His feelings are echoed by The Original Panzerotto and Pizza owner, Wally Park. "They were good cleaners, but not for the high maintenance fee," he continues, "In my case, I can't afford to pay the maintenance and the high rent"

According to McAllister, the student centre corporation owes them about \$25,000. Castle insists the figure is between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

McAllister blames the building's rapidly decaying appearance on the lack of staff due to budget cuts. The budget was increased to \$280,000 between last September and April which allowed an addition of three cleaners and a total of ten, double that of this year. Castle, however, feels that for \$225,000, there should be seven staff.

The corporation is now looking for a new contract that will save them \$50,000 a year. Members plan to open three separate bids for separate parts of the Student Center in order to carefully manage the cleaning budget. "We can't afford the level of maintenance we had last year," said Castle.

McAllister continues to maintain the Underground pub, the food court, and the top two floors of the center with a summer staff of five.

During the day, the staff works in the packed food court, while garbage collects elsewhere in the building. If a snowstorm were to hit tomorrow, the present staff could not handle the constant attention needed to keep the floors safe, said McAllister.

The decision to hire Johnston Brothers, a privately run company, was attacked last year by York's Canadian Union Of Public Employees local, who have sole responsibility for cleaning York buildings. An arbitration hearing which will decide whether the student center has the right to hire outside of the union will continue on Oct. 6.

Johnston Brothers has been invited to submit an offer, which McAllister expects to be the same as last year's \$225,000.

Goddesses and the New Age Movement Hosted by Cerridwen-Hecate, Wednesday September 30 from 5 to 7pm, in 315C Student Centre. We would like to invite ALL people from York to this informative session. We will be talking about the re-emergence of the goddess through the efforts of those involved in the new age movement.

A Survey of Attitudes to Astrology and Astronomy Presented by the Students for the Exploration and Development of Space. Wednesday September 30 at 5pm in 315 Petrie Science Building. Guest speaker Dr. Mike DeRobertis will present the results from a 1991 survey on astrology and astronomy of over 1500 first year Arts and Science students.

Welcome Back Dance Saturday October 3 at 8pm in the Grad Lounge, 7th floor Ross. Hosted by the York University Hispanic Association. \$5 for members, \$6 for non-members. ID required.

Black Women and AIDS Presented by Black Cap (Coalition for AIDS Prevention) and BLGAY. Speaker: Tessa Chaderton-Shaw. Monday October 5 at 3:30pm in 313 Student Centre.

York Greens Meeting Tuesday October 6 at 4:30pm in room 311B Student Centre. We are an autonomous chapter of the Ontario Greens. Everyone welcome. For information call 727-8348.

Mixing Bananas and Potatoes The troubled territory of queer boy/girl activism. Speaker: Becki Ross. Tuesday October 6, at 5:30pm, in Stedman Lecture Hall D. Presented by BLGAY.

Submissions to Drop Everything must be printed on the forms provided, and be in the envelope in the Excal Production Room by noon on Wednesday.

DROP EVERYTHING

Calling All Nations Monday October 12, at 11am, at Queen's Park and then the Bickford Centre. Sponsored by 500 Years/October 1992 Coalition including the YFS. Celebrate 500 years of resistance and survival. For more information call David Hermolin 736-5324.

The Goddess and the Celtic New Year Wednesday October 14, at 5pm, in room 315C Student Centre. Hosted by Cerridwen-Hecate. Samhain is a generally misunderstood holiday. We will talk in detail about this holiday, the neopagan movement and where the goddess fits in.

Bible Study Old testament. Mondays at 12:35pm, in suite 453 Student Centre. Hosted by the York Catholic Community.

York Fencing Club - Fencing practices and lessons. Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 to 10:30pm, in the Upper Gym, Tait McKenzie Building. Accepting new beginners, the membership fee is \$30. No previous experience necessary. Call 771-0646 for information.

York Alcoholics Anonymous Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:45pm, in 103 Founders College. Open to anyone

who has a desire to stop drinking or who thinks they may have a problem with alcohol. There are no fees for AA memberships. Contact Graham at 654-5517.

Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Peer Support Group Discreet and confidential. Addressing personal issues. New time starting October 6: Tuesday 5:30 - 7:30 pm, at 315C Student Centre. Any hesitations call Doug at 736-2100, ext.20494.

Le Cercle Français The official club of the French Department and all other persons interested in French culture and language. Our office is at 343 Student Centre, 736-5086, contact Louise Chaput, or 833-1576, contact Alexandre Sévigny. Et tout ça, parce qu'on est jeune!

York By Cycle A York-based bicycle user group. The ring-posts are popping up everywhere. The more bicycles come on campus, the more they will be planned for. For more info call Ed or Mel at 322-9440.

Student Christian Movement Support third world cooperatives and alternative trade. We carry Bridgehead coffees, teas, and Rainforest Crunch. 214 Scott Religious Centre, 736-2100 ext. 77275.

Interested in Tutoring? The York Portuguese Association is offering you the opportunity to tutor inner city youths. For more information contact Christina E. or Victor at the YUPA office, 124A Winters College or call 736-5584.

Ride Board Going somewhere? Need a ride? Have extra space in your car? Announce it and reduce your costs. Located outside the YFS office.

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