

# The Nylon Man: a York institution

Prank caller can carry on normal conversation "and then will talk about nylons and feet."

by Paul Gazzola

If you plan to live in residence you better get used to the sounds of ringing phones. Take Tatham Hall for example. A floor without a don suite has 16 single rooms and four double rooms, making for a total populace of 24 students. If you give a phone to every two students, add in the hall phone and the mobility of cellular phones, you have 13 different phones ringing anywhere and anytime. So, you'd better get used to the phones.

You also better get used to the obscene and prank phone calls.

There are the usual kind; the people who call and hang up when you answer, the unknown pizza order — maturity is not a prerequisite for university. Then there are people like the Nylon Man.

The Nylon Man, as you might guess from his name, calls up female residence students and asks questions about their nylons; if they're wearing any, what colour and what kind. If this doesn't raise questions about the guy then consider this: according to both male and female students who live or have lived in various

York residences, the Nylon Man has been calling for at least four years. He does not limit himself to one residence. He calls them all.

Known by a number of names, the Nylon Man calls at any time, day and night. Once the phone is answered, there is usually a long pause followed by a low, whispery voice asking the familiar questions about nylons. If the person who answers the phone hangs up, he'll call back instantly.

One female student recalled hearing the hall phone on the floor above ringing almost immediately after she hung up downstairs. Also, the calls are being made from inside and outside of the university — something that can be determined by the number of rings.

Although the Nylon Man is also sometimes called the Naughty Boy, it is not known for certain if they are one and the same. The fact that both seem to have been calling for the past four years and their voices are familiar could lead one to assume that they are the same. The Naughty Boy is usually looking for someone to spank him (with a hairbrush) because he has been "naughty."

The Nylon Man has been known to carry on long-term

conversations with people who are willing to talk with him. One first year residence student, Jane (a pseudonym), used to talk to him twice a week starting from the first week of school until February. He told her that he "gets all sorts of abuse but sooner or later gets someone he can talk to." He would also give her clues to his identity.

Among other things, the Nylon Man is supposed to be a fourth year music student who has a foot fetish, says his name is Steve and gets upset if you talk about his mother. How much of this is true, Jane does not know. She believes he is lying about his name but she thinks he is a musician because of his knowledge about certain instruments, especially the saxophone.

Even more interesting is his claim that "there's so many people who claim to be me, you wouldn't believe the number of people who want to be me."

The Nylon Man might even be schizophrenic, according to Jane. One minute, he can be carrying on a normal conversation and then suddenly he will talk about nylons and feet. Other female residents say he will say something rude and

then, if yelled at, will apologize profusely. When one irate student told him that he had a problem, there was a long pause and then the admission, "Yeah, I guess I do."

So why hasn't he been caught after four years? Well, one reason may be that obscene phone calls made to a residence hall phone aren't as threatening or as personal as calls made to your house. "Most people in residence," said a Tatham resident, "have their own private phones so they don't feel responsible for the hall phone. The prank calls aren't taken as seriously."

So, the Nylon Man has become a bizarre fact of residence life, even a novelty. A fourth year Tatham resident recalled that, at the beginning of her first year, she and other floormates would take turns talking to the Nylon Man. However, he soon became an annoyance, especially for those who didn't have a private phone and therefore had to rely on the hall phone. "Who's got time to run to the phone and answer it when it's this idiot calling?" was a sentiment echoed by a number of resident females.

Complaints have been made to security, said Jane, but "all

they do is tell us to put up a piece of paper by the phone and keep track of the calls." These "pervert logs," as one was nicknamed in Vanier residence, have the time of the call, who is calling and what the obscene caller wanted.

The last official word on the Nylon Man, as stated in the Major Daily Security Incidents for March 11, was "that the suspect in a large number of harrassment calls known as the Nylon man was continuing to make calls even though he has been identified and confronted." This, at first, appeared to be wrong because residence students in Vanier, Tatham and Founders say the Nylon Man hasn't been heard from for about a month. However, he was said to be calling Founders last Tuesday, March 27. It has not been determined if he has been confronted or caught.

Founder's residence tutor, Peter Fraser, York security investigations officer Bob Stevens and all other security personnel refused to comment. Fraser was dismayed that *Excalibur* knew that some phones in residence now have tracers on them.

The Nylon Man is being investigated by Metro Police.

## YASA and JSF clash during "peaceful celebration"

by Josh Rubin

Passions erupted at a Central Square exhibition celebrating Palestinian Land Day last Wednesday.

A Jewish Student Federation (JSF) member distributing literature outside the west bearpit (where the exhibition was taking place) was confronted by an angry mob who asked him to

leave. When this *Excalibur* reporter tried to take a picture of the attempted ejection, the group stormed me as well.

Menachem Neuer, who is also a member of the JSF's Israeli Public Affairs Committee (IPAC), claims that his group was merely trying to provide a balanced perspective. "We wanted to make sure both sides of the controversy were being represented."

Neuer was referring to several York Arab Student Association (YASA) pamphlets discussing the ongoing Palestinian demon-

strations in the West Bank and Gaza strip. The pamphlets were included in the exhibition, organized by YASA.

The explanation Neuer gave for his presence, however, was hotly contested by some YASA members, who claimed he was trying to disrupt what had otherwise been a peaceful cultural celebration.

YASA president Sa'ed Katkhuda accused Neuer of being a member of the militant Jewish Defence League, a claim which Neuer rejected outright. "The

Jewish Defence League does not exist in Toronto. Anyone who says otherwise is lying."

Katkhuda, who considers the West Bank an occupied territory, also denied that his group has any connections with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). He also suggested that the PLO is not actively involved in the *intifada*. "The PLO is interested in the *intifada*, but the *intifada* remains something both started and carried on by the masses of Palestinian people."

But Neuer was skeptical of

Katkhuda's claims. "If they're not connected with the PLO, then why are they spouting Arafat's party line?"

Afterwards, both Neuer and Katkhuda seemed to strike conciliatory poses when they both agreed to the need for a negotiated and peaceful end to the *intifada*.

Said Katkhuda, "We do not believe in using weapons to achieve peace."

According to Neuer, JSF policy also allows for a "peaceful co-existence."

### Photo of the Week:

Patricia Hutahajan's "Zen"

## Student protest gets meal card replaced by new scrip plan

by Sid "Midnight" Tyson

In response to the March 26 protest against the proposed \$2,100 meal plan, a task force of the University Food Services Committee (UFSC) has suggested a scrip plan for the 1990-91 academic year.

The plan, to be finalized this week, will cost each undergraduate residence student about \$1,625, including a cafeteria users' fee of \$100 to \$200.

The users' fee will cover the \$540,000 operating cost of housing and food services. Director of housing and food services Norman Crandles said that about \$366 per residence student is needed to cover this cost. Marriott will supply the housing department with the remainder of the \$366 per student not covered by the users' fee.

Marriott director Eric Cameron said the higher the users' fee, the easier it would be to improve service and food quality.

This universal scrip plan will replace this year's combination of board and scrip plans.

CYSF vice-president (internal) Caroline Winship said about 20 students were at the task force meeting and were incorporated into it, increasing the participation of students in the decision making process.

A final decision on the cost of next year's meal plan should be made later this week.