

'A real gas time'

Festival is ready, waiting

By MONICA WILDE

Whether you freak out on a trip that got too high or save your kicks for Pink Panther cartoons, Festival is ready and waiting for you.

"We just want everybody to have a real gas time," says Frank Holt, one of the Festival organizers. "We want them to meet as many people as possible, go to all the events, and do their own thing."

He's not exaggerating. Festival, York's version of Homecoming, is using its budget of \$8,000 to sponsor almost 30 events over the Hallowe'en weekend.

The big attractions are the football game Saturday afternoon against Guelph, and in the evening

the concert in Tait Mackenzie gym. Four groups are headlined; the Foundations, Lighthouse, SRC, and Jamf. Originally the Procul Harum were scheduled as top billing for the concert, but their contracts came back unsigned because of personality conflicts within the group. The group broke up.

There will be an aid centre at the concert for anyone having trouble with drugs.

"We know that kids on this campus take drugs," said Frank Holt. "We're not out to get them. We just want to be there to help them if they need it."

So start moving. Take your choice of the three dances Friday night in Founders, Vanier and Winters dining halls. You can collapse in the coffee house afterwards, or catch your breath between laughs at the cartoons in Stedman Lecture Hall.

Pack your blankets Saturday morning. There's a rigger game, a volleyball game, and a hockey game waiting, which need all the

eager supporters they can get. But save some of that lung power oomph for the football game that afternoon against Guelph.

After York's smashing victory(?), celebrate by attending the star concert at Tait Mackenzie gym. Then join the dances at Founders and Vanier Dining Halls, or hear folk singer Len Udow in the McLaughlin Common Room.

If you can still crawl out of bed on Sunday, stagger towards the car rally at Founders Coffee Shop. Or dazzle the world with your talent by painting the construction fences behind the Ross building.

The Green Bush Inn is sponsoring Festival weekend, so its activities are prominent. The pub is open every night from Wednesday to Saturday, except when folk singer Maury Hayden turns it into a coffee house Friday evening.

Festival buttons, which cover admission to all events, are on sale at \$5.50 each at the Central Square and at the top of the Vanier-Founders ramp.



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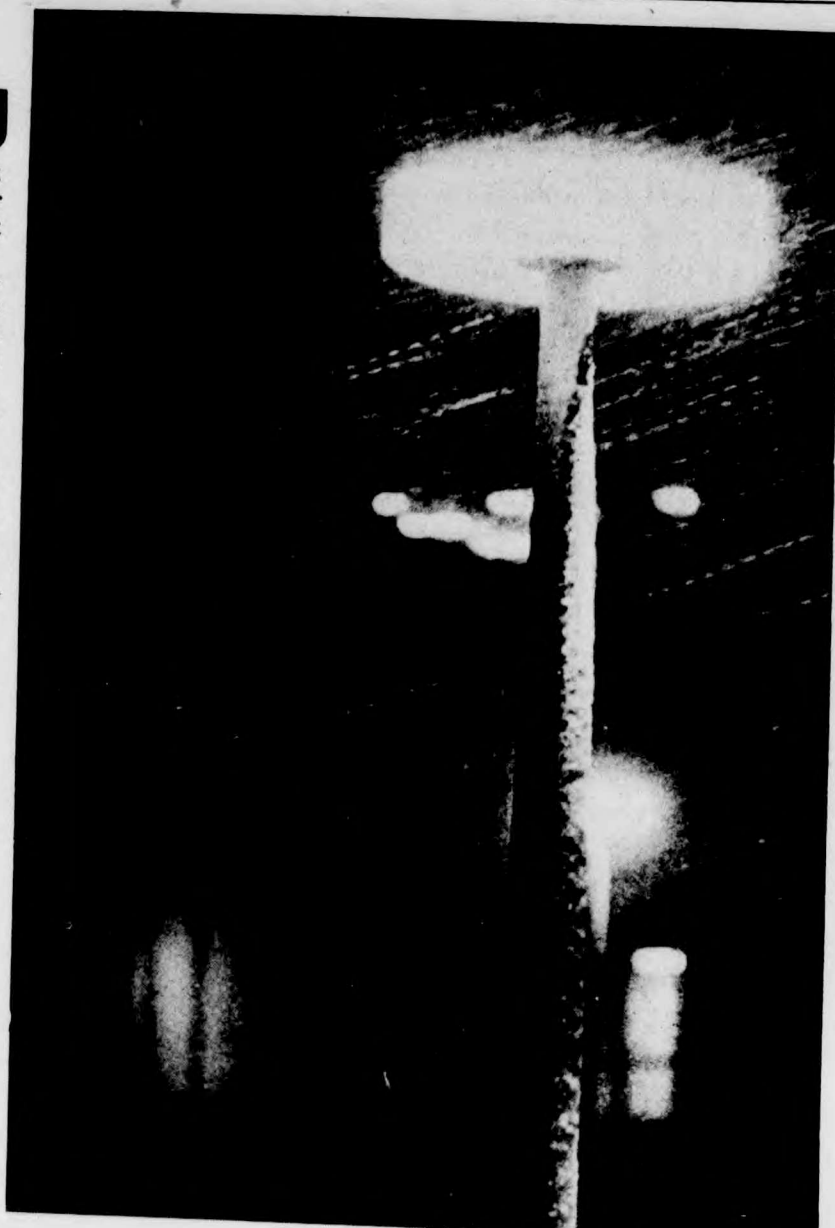
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Excalibur - Dave Cooper

This picture has no real news value except that it very eloquently records the first time snow fell at York this year.

Compulsory pension is issue with union

By BRIAN MILNER

The compulsory pension, not wages, seems to be the key issue as members of the Building Services Employees' International Union, local 204, prepare for further negotiations with the administration of Nov. 14.

Surprisingly, many workers said they would accept a smaller wage increase if the "pension thing" were settled. Until then, said one negotiation committee member, "we'll have trouble."

What exactly is wrong with the pension? Most unions fight hard for pension benefits.

At York they appear to have a good one, yet the union members want it modified; many don't want it at all.

There are two reasons for this. First, the very word "compulsory" has upset the workers. They're like the decision to enter the plan to be their own — not the administration's.

Second, all of the workers feel that the percentage of salary taken out for pension benefits is too high. Between five and six per cent is taken out of every pay check.

"It's the same as they take for the professors," one union committee representative said.

Another said that if the plan is not made optional, they'll settle for one-and-a-half per cent; they may ask for it anyway, even if the plan is made optional.

An early settlement to the pension problem could lead to a general agreement and contract acceptance. As one union member said: "This was the big stumbling block to start with."

The willingness of the administration to compromise on the pension issue may well decide the outcome of the entire negotiations. As one woman said when asked about the pensions:

"I can't see killing myself now to live later."

Women cleaners really at bottom of heap

Women cleaners at York receive a base pay of \$1.89 an hour. The base pay for men cleaners is \$2.30 an hour.

The women are presently asking for an increase to \$2.30, but the administration has offered only \$2.06.

Even if they got the raise they want, they'd still be the lowest paid workers in the Building Service Employees' International Union, local 204.

Night shift women cleaners are offered \$2.21 an hour, and this has caused some resentment in the union. A spokesman for the women cleaners told EXCALIBUR why:

"Day men might have felt this was bringing the women (on night shift) up close to them. We've heard the murmurs amongst them," she said.

"Yet," she added, "I feel the women work every bit as hard as the men. The majority of women (residence cleaners) have 50-53 beds to strip. So many each day." Each room has to be

housecleaned and the garbage emptied. As one woman said: "It's no picnic keeping these rooms clean. Most of us have families and we have to do . . . same thing at home again, without pay."

Not all women cleaners spend their time making beds and vacuuming though. Many night workers pass their time cleaning offices, and vacuuming as many as 80 a night.

Women do not however do such things as washing floors. Most agreed that the heavy cleaning is left to the men.

Unlike the male cleaners, the women don't seem too militant. They want a better deal, but are not as ready to strike for it.

McLaughlin College women cleaners, for example, were nearly unanimous in their view. "We all don't want to go out on strike." One said she would have to get another job if anything like that happens.

For many of the women cleaners, any cut-off of pay would mean a slashing of essential family income.