

York's first homecoming; October 14

By Laura Brown

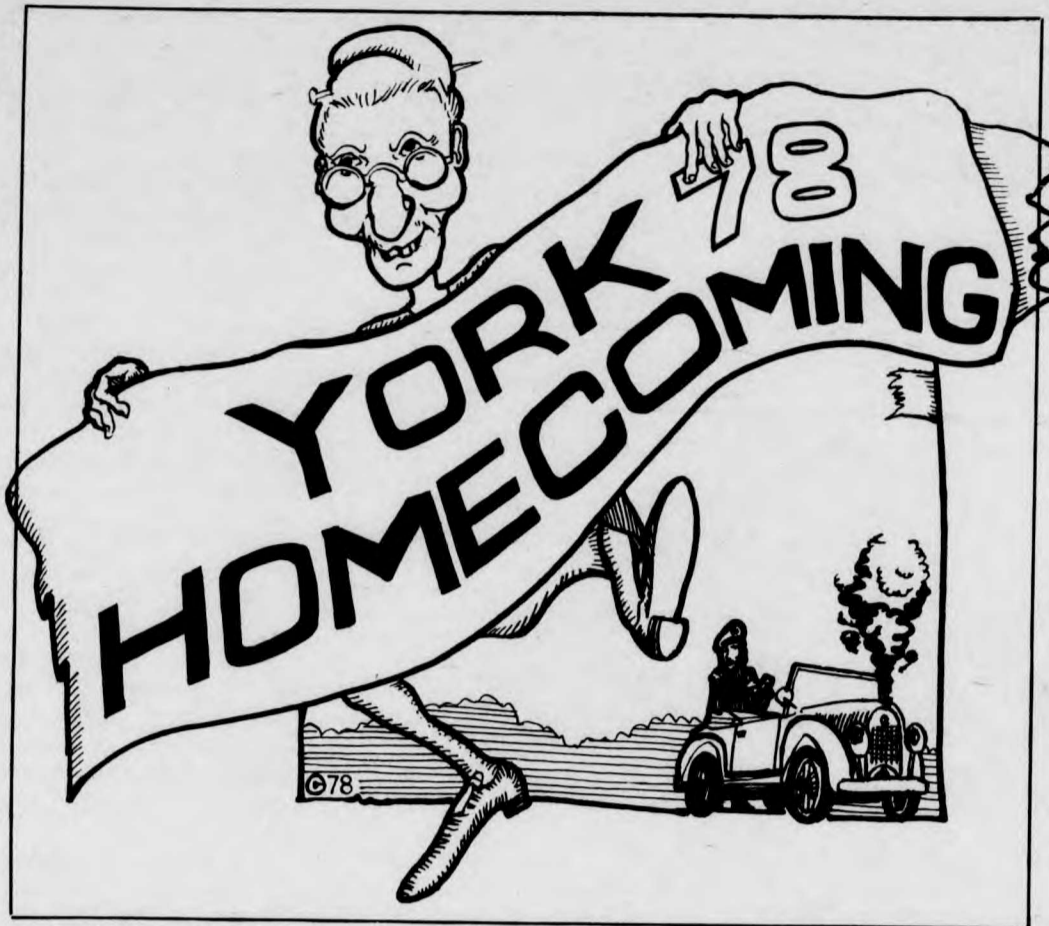
October 14 is the day slated for the first ever campus-wide Homecoming, which will welcome the entire York community and the university alumni to participate in various social and athletic events.

In the past 19 years of York's existence, 30,000 students have completed their degrees. These graduates represented by the Alumni Association, founded in 1965, have until this time retained a low profile in the university community.

The idea for a Homecoming has been in the works in past years, but the alumni association has been unable to create the traditional return of graduates to their alma mater because of lack of resources. This year, through the initiative of Ian Dawson and Nobby Wirkowsky of Men's Inter-Collegiate Athletics Council, the Homecoming will be underway.

The program was organized this summer by Dawson, Stong Student Liaison Officer Steve Dranitsaris, and the president of the Alumni Association Council, Drago Samsa. Time restraints accounted for hasty preparations, but the co-operation of the various college and faculty councils, masters and deans, ensured the completion of the program.

The scheduled events are not only geared to welcoming the alumni back to York, but will also provide enjoyment for all members of the York community. Morning receptions begin the day and are followed by lunches, dinners, dances, movies and varsity sports.



Highlighting the day's events will be the varsity football game and the Green Bush Inn Reunion.

The latter event to be held at Winters college at 8:30 pm, will be a nostalgic trip to the days when the Green Bush was the

university's only licensed pub.

"Since those days there has been a proliferation of pubs on campus and the Green Bush Inn has disappeared...but we're hoping that this will evoke pleasant memories and urge grads to return once again", Samsa said in an interview earlier this week.

Highlighting the day is an event of great anticipation for both alumni and the students. With the York football team boasting three consecutive wins this year, the football game scheduled for 2 pm. against the University of Waterloo should rouse mass excitement. And, in the traditional Homecoming fashion, the game will have the ceremonial "kick-off" by university President H. Ian Macdonald.

Although the alumni are the single largest constituency of the York community, the only efforts made to maintain them as an integral component of the university have been through the small-scale events held by various colleges for their respective alumni. "Our most important objective this year is that the entire York community come to realize that the alumni are an important constituency and that they'll become even more important as the time goes on", Samsa said.

For those students who want to work at the Homecoming, contact your college council through the master's office. And for any further information, call Steve Dranitsaris, at 667-3315.

Myths on rape laws dispelled at conference

By Lydia Pawlenko

"Group rape is committed as a public social act, yet the law encourages the notion that rape is a solitary, sordid, and private affair perpetrated by a lunatic fringe who act alone under cover of night," criminologist Lorene Clark told feminists at "The Criminal Code: Rape and Prostitution" conference of Osgoode Women's Caucus Saturday.

Many myths dealing with rape, prostitution and pornography were challenged at the two-day conference held at O.I.S.E. last weekend, in an attempt to create an awareness of the deceiving "sugar-coating" amendments proposed to the rape and prostitution laws.

"The existence of commercial sex is a symptom of social corruption but the cause is sexism,

not female sin or neurosis," the Caucus stated in a printed brief. "The real sexual nuisance in our cities, the continual public harassment of females whatever their professions is not death wish."

"Personally, I'd be perfectly happy wearing a uniform," said Baba Yaga, a member of a panel discussing prostitution, in response to women who complained of continually being propositioned by men in the street. Baba Yaga is a former stripper, and founder of BEAVER (Better End All Vicious Erotic Repression) a self-help and lobbying group for prostitutes. "It is important that men be charged equally," Ms. Yaga told the conference.

The Osgoode Women's Caucus, unlike other advocates of decriminalization, does not feel that prostitution is inevitable or healthy. It deplored the fact that soliciting can be the basis of the conviction of a female prostitute but not of a client.

Lorene Clark, co-author of *Rape: The Price of Coercive Sexuality* and second year Osgoode Hall Law School student, accused bills C51 and C52 of being solely "anti-prostitute", even though "it is not women who create a demand for prostitutes, but men." She maintains that "as long

as there are demands, they will be met by those most vulnerable, the people who should be protected - the young and the addicted."

Ms. Clark also spoke of the gross injustices in the criminal justice's system of handling rape cases. The most shocking statistics she reported involved group rape in Canada, of which 83 per cent of the cases were stopped because of the reluctance of police to investigate further, often on the grounds of "doubtful authenticity," because the victim was not considered a credible witness.

Most of the complaints of gang rapes are rejected by police because some are "actively involved in that they assist in the sexual assault, while others play

more passive roles; from that of lookout to mere onlooker". In the cases the police claim it is hard to charge who with what. By not penalizing accomplices in group rape, the law may be inadvertently encouraging group rapes.

Economist and journalist Monica Townsend, former vice-president of the federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, condemned pornography as "less than human."

"The Criminal Code Amendment on Pornography was put together hastily and in reaction to events in Toronto", she said. She finds the laws controlling offensive material as being concerned with "corruption of morals".



Manpower cuts local statistics

OTTAWA (CUP)—Employment minister Bud Cullen has ordered all regional manpower offices to stop doing their own unemployment surveys because he finds their results embarrassing.

The embarrassment arises from the discrepancies between the locally produced figures and those of Statistics Canada, Cullen said. In most cases the regional surveys show higher unemployment levels than the official Statistics Canada results.

Cullen made the remarks at a September 26 press conference called in response to the release of government documents by NDP leader Ed Broadbent, which directed Manpower officials to keep survey information confidential or to stop doing them altogether.

Broadbent said the documents,

show that "local and regional manpower officials have been ordered to suppress information and basic data on real unemployment rates."

Included in the documents was a memorandum sent to regional manpower officials, dated May 15 and signed by Harold Hodder, a deputy minister in the manpower department. It says the estimates "have been a source of embarrassment for the minister".

It goes on to say "it is not clear to me why you need them, nor have any reasons per se been given for their development, I would suggest we avoid producing them".

The local surveys are for internal use by the department, Cullen said, and are not for public consumption. He also said the results are sometimes inaccurate or are simply a combination of

Statistics Canada figures, the number of unemployment insurance claimants in a region, and the number of people registered at local manpower centers.

Broadbent said the official Statistics Canada labour survey underestimates employment by not including what he called "the hidden unemployed", while the regional surveys give a truer assessment. The hidden unemployed, those people who have stopped looking for work because no jobs exists, are not counted in Stats Canada's survey.

"The real level of unemployment in this country far exceeds the official figures which are published each month. If this isn't so, as the government has always argued, then why is it necessary to suppress data from officials in the field?" he said.

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