

student escort service and the safety division in particular. Occupational Health and Safety has since become a separate department from Security and Parking Services.

Yet problems arose in the spring of 1986 when York fell prey to a rash of office break-ins. The break-ins "created much apprehension since neither Metro Police nor York Security could catch (the thieves) coming through the ceiling tiles," Farr noted. "This focused the question on whether Security could do its job properly," he continued. "A lot of criticism was directed—and sarcasm misdirected—toward the Security Department."

The morale of security officers "plummeted to an all time low," according to the union's chief steward Claude Williams and grievances against the department were accumulating daily. Coinciding with the security officers' dissatisfaction was the escalating concern about campus security among the York community.

On October 21, following an attempted rape on campus and a gun incident in which police were not called to the scene, Catherine Lake, director of Women's Affairs for the Council of York Student's Federation (CYSF), and the Provost's office, organized an open forum on security. Improved lighting on campus, sexual harassment and assault prevention training, police intervention, and increasing the security staff were the focuses of the forum. Lake also presented Meininger with a petition signed by over 1,200 York members calling for improved security.

Santarelli failed to all but one of the issues raised at the forum (that of improved lighting). A week later, an entire six member security squad took their optional day off in protest of the department's "Timken schedule" (which involves five consecutive eight-hour shifts, followed by 56 hours off).

By the end of November, Santarelli resigned from his post following an *Excalibur* interview in which he made racist remarks against some of his staff members. (Santarelli was previously scheduled to retire in April 1987, but had withheld his resignation notice). "Security had an acute people management problem," an Administrative source later admitted. "Interpersonal problems in security were worse than they should have been since they were not treated as a managerial problem," Farr said.

Peter Struk, Assistant Vice President of Physical Resources, immediately became interim director of Security and Parking Services. Soon after, Farr, Struk and Don Mitchell, director of Personnel, began to conduct a hiring search for a new security director. To date, no suitable applicant has been found for the position.

IN THE MEANTIME, QUESTIONS regarding York Security have escalated into the public domain, as local newspapers, television and radio stations covered the issues raised in last month's open letter to Arthurs.

The letter was a concerted effort by both various members of the Security Department and the student body to collectively demand that the Administration implement certain policies on York security. Students called for a security advisory board with student representation, special constable training for security officers, and a closer liaison between York and 31 Division of Metro Police.

The Administration has responded promptly to the final request; significant incident reports are now hand delivered to Metro Police several times weekly. "We have to develop and maintain the best possible work-

ing relationship with Metro Police . . . and this needs lobbying," Meininger acknowledged. According to Struk, security officers have now been advised to call the police immediately in cases of assault, indecent exposure, break and entry, trespassing, and vandalism.

The letter also called for security squads to be briefed about major incidents occurring in the 24 hours prior to their shift. According to the Administration, this is now being done. Yet security officers claim that this policy has not yet been fully implemented. They say that although supervisors are regularly informed about incidents, officers are not. "It's a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing," said security officer Terry Wright.

The Administration has also agreed, in principle, to an expanded security advisor board, even though an ad hoc security committee was already formed last fall. In its three meetings, the committee discussed "lighting, cleaning systems, campus maps, and information systems," Meininger said. "The major point of the advisory committee was to bring together key administrators who could address concerns," he added. Meininger also noted that "security is an important enough issue to claim the ongoing attention of all the Administration."

THE KEY POINT OF CONTENTION between students, security officers, and the Administration is still the issue of training and duties of officers, and particularly the volatile debate surrounding special constable status.



JAMES HOGGETT

All groups concede that more adequate training is desperately needed for York's security force. "Training is perceived as inadequate, and I agree," Meininger said, adding that "most security officers try to do the best they can with inadequate training."

According to Farr, security officers "need customer service training, more training about the University itself, and sensitivity training about ethnic minorities." The scope of their knowledge, he said, should include "being able to size up and know how to deal with domestic disputes, drunken disorderly violence, petty thieves and vandals, and sexually oriented crimes."

According to Struk, "15 out of our 24 security officers have formal training in law enforcement, the military, or auxiliary police." He feels the department should implement a mandatory basic training program, an ongoing

development program, and "further offshoot programs such as public relations and emergency procedures," which security personnel could take to upgrade their status.

Various training programs have been considered by assistant directors Eric Pond (Special Services), Don Whitty (Parking), and Bob Stevens (Investigations). The motive behind training officers is that "the officer's job won't change, but his ability to perform it will," Pond said.

After finding the Humber and Seneca Colleges security training programs "too awkward administratively," Whitty and Pond are now in favour of the course package offered by Security Educational Services Limited, a private firm partially supported by the government.

The \$9,000 course would involve a total of 40 hours training (spread across five consecutive days) in the areas of law and procedure, security systems, emergency procedures, security administration, human relations and multiculturalism, and "lifestyle" and women's issues, according to Whitty.

An official training proposal is being sent to Struk at the time of the writing. In general, however, Struk feels that "eight hours (of training) a day for five days is inappropriate, since it is not optimal for digesting the course load." constables, as with the security forces at the Furthermore, any training schedule proposed is bound to cause logistical problems, since security officers must be on duty every day of the year.

Inherent in the problem of training, is the question of the role of York's security force. "Security officers have to function like police,"

Farr said. When asked why 95 percent of the security officer's job description pertains to parking related duties, Farr flatly stated, "I don't believe it." He later conceded that "the job description has to be clarified."

On the issue of special constable status, however, the Administration stands firm. "The big question is 'does the University want a security force that gets its terms of reference from the criminal code . . . or from the University?'" Struk asked. "We've chosen the latter, and prefer a non-threatening relationship between security and the community."

Struk and other administrators claim that it is advantageous for security officers to be able to use discretion in emergency situations. "We want them to have flexibility without the limitations of a special constable," he said. "It's a judgment call."

If security officers were to become special

University of Toronto, Guelph, McMaster, and Western, they would be empowered to arrest suspects on "reasonable and probable grounds." As well, they would be granted the option of carrying weapons such as handcuffs, billy sticks, and guns.

York's security force presently has the same powers of arrest as all Canadian citizens; an arrest may be made if a person is *seen* committing a criminal act. Police must be immediately called on the scene of a citizen's arrest. The Administration has also ruled that security officers shall not carry weaponry of any kind.

YET "NO SECURITY OFFICER should suffer damage to life or limb in order to protect York property," Farr said.

Ironically, this same view is the point of departure of those security officers who want full special constable training in accordance with Ontario Police Commission guidelines. They cite a recent case of assault against a York security officer, the October 7th 1986 gun call, a recent sniper incident, and frequent underground tunnel chases as examples of potentially life-threatening situations. "If people are taking shots at us, we need some sort of protection," said Rob Hughes, a York security officer. "Instead, memos are thrown out blindly after the fact."

"All we have are our flashlights and our badges," one security officer noted last fall. Flashlights have since been confiscated by Linda Warren, assistant director of security, who claims that they are "intimidating" to the public. Officers argue, however, that flashlights are needed in the mechanical tunnels and in cases of fire, such as the one which occurred on the fifth floor of the Ross building last month.

In a November 1986 letter to Santarelli, Joe Vanderklugt, a York security officer wrote "The major changes we would like to see are that the members of this department be better able to protect the community and themselves and if this means special constable status, handcuffs, night sticks, courses in law enforcement and self-defence, then so be it. As stated in a previous report to you, it is hoped that a serious injury is not what it takes to get action."

The bottom line, according to Pond, is that "there would be no advantage to having peace officers here. There are provisions already that if someone must act in a legal mode, they can. Anyone can make a citizen's arrest."

Yet until a new director of Security and Parking Services is hired, it is likely that few decisions will be reached or implemented regarding the future status of York security. In the interim, both the York community and its security force are growing anxious about the University's lack of an official security "mission statement."

Security officers complain that adequate training and a new shift schedule have yet to be proposed. Some students meanwhile are concerned that security decisions may be made without their consultation if an advisory board is not soon implemented.

"York is like a small city, extraordinarily complex and puzzling on a daily basis," Meininger noted. "It is important for all the community to be responsible to security (and) I'm sure that any ongoing consultative process will ensure the broadest representation."

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