



TED CHRISTENSEN

OBLIGATORY BEEFCAKE: Unable to make sense of new sculpture (shown below), two York students at left punch own heads in frustration; their friend merely hangs head in shame.

New sculpture challenges senses

by HENRY SUM

York's getting a new face-lift!

Alan Barclay and Linda Holway, with some help from the people from the Art Gallery of York University, have erected a new sculpture on the sight where an earlier construction of Barclay's was vandalized two years ago. Entitled "Portrait Head: Elevation", the new work is situated on the large jutting concrete podium between the Behavioural Science Building and the Farquharson Life Science Building.

Sculptors Barclay and Holway have been working on the piece for the past three months. Bringing most of the pre-cut wooden panels and the platform base with them from their home in Nova Scotia, they've been busy this past July erecting the eight foot high structure and firmly fastening it into the concrete podium with heavy duty anchor bolts. This and

the sculpture's galvanized sheet metal surface should make it a formidable obstacle to any future vandals.

The new work, funded with money from the insurance claim on the former piece, is a "profile," explained Holway. "If you're overlooking the sculpture, you can see immediately what it is without any trouble at all."

"We adapted the design from a real person's head" Holway said. Holway arbitrarily chose a profile of her Uncle Tom from a family album of hers. "We simply extended the contours on this face downwards eight feet."

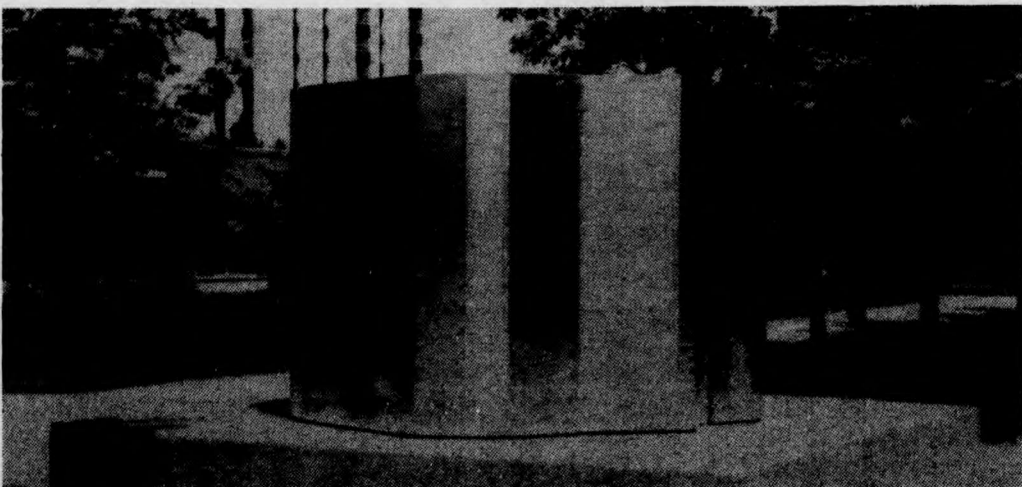
"It's not instantly recognizable" concedes Holway. Uncle Tom's profile is particularly unrecognizable since the adjacent buildings, Farquharson and Behavioural Science, do not offer a high enough vantage point to see the profile. A view from the upper most floors of the Ross Building's north end is shrouded by trees and the profile appears upside down. An

aerial view might however be attempted from Vanier College Residence with a telescopic lens.

"For me it's something that works as an idea," explained Barclay. "Something that you struggle to make sense of without it just being handed to you. It was just another way of orientation. Instead of being able to position yourself physically so that you can get the most comprehensive view, it prevents you from getting this most advantageous view so that you have to try to get the whole idea of the piece in your head. You are continually forced to engage with the piece as you've got to keep walking around trying to decipher, 'Ah, that's the nose . . . I think that's the nose?'"

"To me, it's a way of playing around with what you see and what you think. Idea and perception. You walk around it and the planes change and the form changes. You can still, as you walk around it retain that sense of walking around a Henry Moore or something. It's an abstract object. Yet the forms have been generated by something quite real. I think you can sense that all these things have a meaning. That they're all tied together by their reference to the head from which they're derived."

Both sculptors say they would like to do more portraits in the future and perhaps experiment with semi-transparent materials like wire mesh. They would also like to link the person's head to a sight in some way, something they couldn't do with the present piece because of a lack of a continuous contact with York. "Who here might have made sense to portray? The janitor? The president?" asked Barclay. In the meantime, being weatherproof, rustproof and with a predicted physical life of 10 years by the sculptors, the York Campus has a new addition to its large outdoor sculpture collection.



HENRY SUM

JANITOR OR PRESIDENT? Art piece replaces sculpture vandalized two years ago.

Retirement policy violates Charter: faculty rep

By ANNA DUPAS

Grievances have been filed against the York University administration by the York University Faculty Association (YUFA), which is mobilizing against York's mandatory retirement policy, which is being forcibly applied to three of its members.

By July 1, 10 YUFA members had reached the legal retirement age of 65. Seven were willing to retire. The other three members, however, wished to continue work, either full-time or with a reduced workload, and presented their requests to the administration.

YUFA chairperson Hollis Rinehart said that although the University administration has the power under the YUFA/York Collective Agreement to grant these requests, it offered only "various arrangements which depend on the members retiring."

YUFA is therefore preparing to take the administration to court over the mandatory retirement policy, saying it violates Section 24 of Canada's new Charter of Rights by discriminating against employees on the basis of age.

At issue in this case is also whether York is legally considered a public or private institution. If it is determined by the court to be a public institution, then the Charter of Rights section on non-discrimination on the basis of age applies. If York is determined to be a private institution, then the section does not apply.

As well as filing the grievance, YUFA's Negotiating Committee has presented proposals for

cont'd on p. 2