

The elusive can

# On European washrooms

By ROSEMARY McCracken

Cleanliness is a virtue we take for granted in North America.

We at least expect a certain degree of cleanliness in our public lavatory facilities.

Bars and discotheques are often equipped with WCs policed by a concierge with a small white plate for token "tips." But the individual is not expected to pay for cleanliness and order in public lavatories.

True, public washrooms often charge a dime for entrance to a toilet. But there is always at least one free cubicle where a poverty-stricken individual can relieve himself in dignity.

In Europe and Britain, eliminatory accommodation is a commodity for which one is expected to pay. To the wealthy, who abide in Hilton hotels, a franc here

and a five-pence piece there might seem a mere pittance. But for a hungry-eyed back-packer always on the lookout for his next meal, such sums are essential to keep life and limb together.

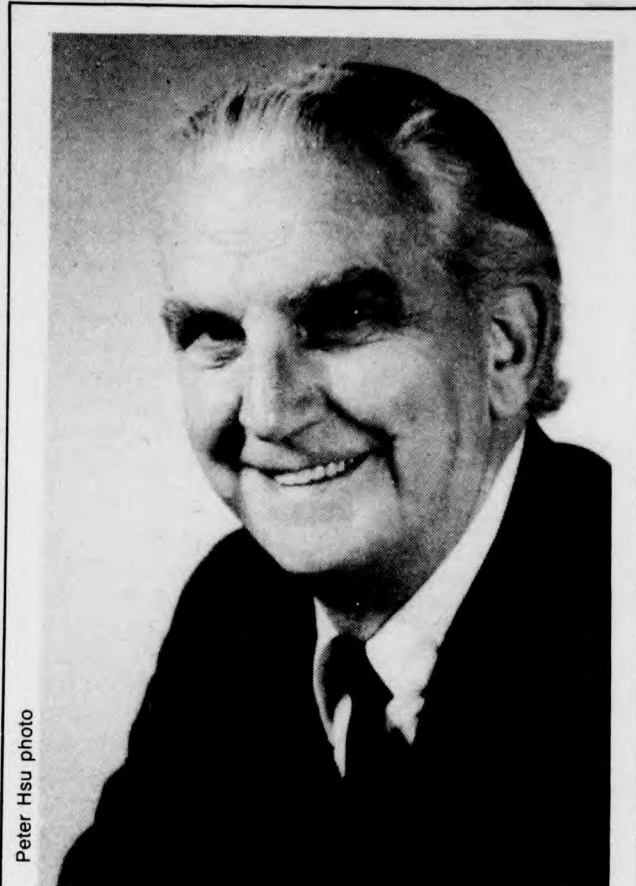
One afternoon in Paris, before the departure of my evening train to Amsterdam, I was barred entrance to WCs in both the public park and the train station. Because I had already changed my francs for Dutch guilders I was unable to make the required contribution. Legs crossed, I was forced to wait out my painful sojourn until I could board my train at 8:30 p.m.

European countries also boast of "mixed washrooms." My Canadian sense of 'reserve' would not allow me, although in painful need, to enter these establishments, after I saw a rather unsavoury male character from La Pigalle precede me.

A male acquaintance of mine in Germany liked to recall the time the female concierge burst in on five men at urinals and roundly denounced two for entering without first paying her. I'm surprised she didn't drag them off on the spot.

My prime concern while hitchhiking in Britain was to find a can when I needed it. Drivers often don't care if a hitchhiker disembarks in the pouring rain in the middle of Salisbury Plain; they care even less if the rider is left near a lavatory. Tea shops seldom are equipped with washrooms. Even highways were rarely arrayed with a camouflaging bush when I needed one most. Experience soon taught me to visit any toilet I came across—whether I needed it or not.

Come to think of it, my odyssey in Europe can be summed up as "the quest for the elusive can."



Peter Hsu photo

Dr. Kenneth Boulding will lecture on Societal Implications of Man's Increasing Impact on the Natural Environment this Tuesday, Nov. 27 at 4:30 p.m. in the moot court of Osgoode Hall.

Boulding is director of the programme of research on general social and economic dynamics at the Institute of Behavioural Science, University of Colorado. He is author of *Redistribution to the Rich and Poor*, *Transfers in an Urbanized Society*, and *The Economy of Love and Fear*.

The lecture, fourth in York's Gerstein Lecture Series, is free.

## Seneca College editor is expelled by administration over fees

WILLOWDALE (CUP)—The administration of Seneca College has expelled Bob Harms, the editor of the Seneca student newspaper, the Seneca.

Harms said he was expelled because "the newspaper is too anti-administration."

An editorial in a recent issue claimed the college administration had forced the president of student council to resign. The paper later apologized to college president William Newnham for "tactless and therefore irresponsible statements" in the editorial.

Associate dean Brock Wallace said Harms was "asked to leave" because he had not paid his fees for the spring, summer and fall semesters of this year. Wallace said Harms had been repeatedly asked to pay.

Although he admitted not paying his fees for the current semester, Harms said he had paid his fees for the spring semester and that he wasn't a student during the summer.

The Seneca registrar's office said students with fees outstanding have not as yet been given a fee deadline.

Harms claimed that Wallace and director of student affairs, Dick Kirkup "told me to leave Seneca and never return."

The Seneca's interim editor Dave Lloyd said Harms was expelled "probably because he was a troublemaker."

Harms said the administration is privately using the argument that he was making the college his home, wasn't devoting himself to his studies and "they say they think I should get out into the real world."

## Mastroianni flick screened Sunday

The film "The Organizer" starring Marcello Mastroianni is being shown to raise money for the Artistic Woodwork strikers.

It will be screened this Sunday at 2:30 at Cinema Lumiere. Admission is :2.00.

For more information call the C.T.C.U. at 537-6765.

## Excalibur still needs new staff

Meeting today at 2 p.m.

No experience necessary

## Blood gifts down

The results of the Red Cross blood clinic held at Winters earlier this month are just in and Osgoode College had a startling donation increase of 500 per cent. Five law students gave blood this month as opposed to one at the Stong Clinic in March.

Total donations were down from the spring clinic. 364 students attended

the clinic this time while 501 students showed up at Stong. Winters, with 91 students attending, was the best represented college while Atkinson was the worst with only 2 students showing up at the clinic. The biggest drop was among Stong students, who in the spring turned out 128, Strong while this time 49 students came.

## Course complaints

# Psych students organizing

TORONTO (CUP) - Psychology students at the University of Toronto are complaining about the impersonality of their first year course, the dominance of behavioural psychology, and the lack of a programme in humanistic psychology.

Laurie Miller, a student member on the psychology curriculum committee, called the meeting to gain support for two new courses on humanistic and depth psychology.

Miller said the way psychology has been taught at U of T has alienated many people. He described the department's orientation as experimental, mostly concerned with manipulating phenomena to see how they affect people and animals.

He said many questions are not dealt with. The department teaches the theories of B. F. Skinner "very extensively" but downplays or leaves out the works of humanistic psychologists like R. D. Laing and Carl Rogers.

When Miller's request for the new

courses reached the psychology department, he was told there was no one capable of teaching them. Miller then called an organizational meeting to demonstrate the need for such courses.

Though course unions have had little effect in the past, Miller hopes that students can organize to gain changes within the department.

First year students raised a number of complaints about U of T's introductory psychology course. One said that the first year course, which is entirely based on tapes with students progressing at their own rate, has led to a lack of human contact between teachers and students and even students with other students.

Another complained that social psychology was understressed and physiology overemphasized. There were also complaints about one professor who reportedly has answered questions by saying "you wouldn't understand." Other com-

plaints dealt with the course load and the number of required courses in upper years.

Miller said he had sent notes to the chairman of the curriculum committee questioning a new course in methodology planned for next year. He was unable to attend the meeting at which the course was discussed, but had hoped that his comments would be taken into account. The chairman, however, said he had not checked his mail box. The course was approved.

The department said lack of funds was one reason why the courses Miller is pushing for were rejected. Miller, however, said he believed that priorities should be shifted.

"This is so important that money should be taken away from existing courses," he said.

"The main thing is that there are certain things that students want to learn," he added. "Humanistic psychology is not a unique course. It is offered in many places."

## Health hazards

# Warning to all office workers!

NEW YORK (LNS)—We usually think of occupational health and safety in relation to factory or industrial work, but the average office comes equipped with its own set of uncorrected health hazards.

Fatigue-inducing working conditions in offices have been documented. Secretaries and typists often develop back strain from poorly designed chairs. Offices are frequently poorly ventilated and airconditioning improperly regulated. In large offices a hundred people may be seated in one room—each exposed to the constant noise of dozens of office

machines. Harsh fluorescent lights cause eyestrain and headaches.

Since World War II sophisticated machinery has proliferated in offices together with increasing specialization of tasks and workers. Women bound to one machine, forty hours a week, like dictaphone typists, keypunch operators and xerox operators are most likely to suffer ill effects. The ear strain felt by a keypunch operator not only produces the fatigue commonly felt by secretaries—it might also lead to eventual hearing loss.

Although fatigue is probably the

major complaint of office workers, there are others. File clerks who stand all day may develop varicose veins. Typists are sometimes stricken with typist's disease, also known as washerwoman's sprain, a pain in the wrist caused by excessive swelling of the tendons around the extensor muscles.

Techological advances have brought another source of health hazards: toxic chemicals. Typewriter fluid, xerox toner and liquid type erasers probably contain damaging chemicals. No research into their effects has been conducted.

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