

FRANK GIORNO

Words about CKRY have been few in this nook of the world. We in the printed media sometimes just don't have time to cram our minds with CKRY's musical strains. Last we heard, they were in a bit of a bind financially.

It seems that the golden tonsil boys have accumulated a debt of \$1,220 (projected to the end of January). Part of the debt was unwelcomed leftovers from last year when CKRY exceeded their budget by a few thousand dollars. This year they received a substantial cutback in their grant from CYSF, but despite this they were able to reduce their debt somewhat by working extra hard selling advertisement.

In the near future, they will ask for donations from friends. A group from Radio York has approached Bethune College and apparently the college is quite receptive to the prospects of a fledgling friendship. CKRY's main problem however has been connected to its relationship, or more properly non-relationship, with CYSF.

Last year several members of CKRY voiced some displeasure with the ULS (now ULC). John Thompson, the station's current manager reassures us that those members were acting on their own and not on behalf of CKRY. Getting down to the point, CKRY earned the wrath of the ULC, the people who run CYSF and control the purse strings. CKRY, in the eyes of the ULC, became a bastion of right-wing activity while CKRY maintained that they were apolitical. Politics aside, there is no doubt that this campus needs a radio station. A good radio station.

Students sampled in Central Square were, on the whole very favourable towards Radio York, most enjoyed the music, some would like to see Radio York expand outlets so that it can be picked up in the residences. A weak point with CKRY has been its nonexistent news department, but this situation, we are assured, is being remedied, a CKRY news department is in the process of being assembled.

CKRY does provide a useful source of information for campus events: during the summer they are one of the only sources of information for summer and Atkinson students.

Traditionally Excalibur has had little affection for Radio York. But as the airwaves get ever silent we begin to miss the verbal jousts which were so much a part of our Monday and Tuesday nights. Hopefully an injection of new funds can revive our waning disaffection.

Response on rape: more reality than myth

The following are letters from the York community in response to an article by Rex Bucali, entitled *Rape at York: Myth or Reality*, which appeared in the January 15 issue of Excalibur.

Is it the physical location of this institution which feeds the journalistic endeavours of the Excalibur staff and the smugness of York's security staff or is it the collective silence of the women here which allows this continuous flow of rubbish to be written and printed?

Your romantic coverage entitled: "Rape: Myth or Reality?" (January 15) would have us forget that this society is indeed based on the submission of one sex to the other and that York's few distasteful "incidents" are merely to be expected in a grouping of people this large... thanks but no thank you, Mr. Dunn.

It is perhaps frightening to you possessors of that magnificent organ to think that there are some of us penis-less creatures who understand exactly what is meant by the spreading of our legs! You would also have us believe that this most passionate of acts happens only to "comely women" during a "lonely vigil", or to "willowy nineteen-year olds", or by "a careful of drunken men" trapped by their uncontrollable desire to conquer. Indeed!

It is fitting that the motto of Sergeant Stanton's employers is "to serve and protect", but let us examine exactly who is serving and protecting whom from what. How many men does he speak for when he suggests that, should I be confronted by some man who would like the use of my vagina for however long, that I should simply relax and enjoy it. After all this is what I really want, what I really need, instead of all this silly "paranoia".

Is it so difficult to understand why a woman who has been raped remains terrified to speak when she knows that it will be her sexuality that is questioned by Stanton's breed, and not that of the rapist's? Perhaps, as the judge may note, he may have been "carried away" or she may have "asked for it", but we can be sure that whatever sense of dignity and self-respect the woman had before this took place will be violently torn from her in the courtroom.

Our minds and bodies have been raped by centuries of male engineering — we have been historically expected to

give our sex as a commodity for food, clothing, shelter, respect, love, security, prestige, success — for anything which gives us a little more than what we have got. This is commonly known as survival.

There may be thousands at York who believe that we live in a glass house, that "carnal crime is not being practiced at York" or, if it is, it is simply a necessary social evil to be silenced at all costs. Rex Bucali states that "there is something about the nature of rape which brings out the emotion in some people." I am sure that if castration were widely practised in this society it would bring out more than just the emotion in some people. I realize, however, that it is difficult for many to see the point of this analogy.

Those who can, will also understand that our bodies and our silence have been pregnant for far too long and that our mouths have a purpose other than being orifices into which things are shoved.

For the many people who read that article and believe that we have nothing to worry about, or that our "month of paranoia" has ended and that we can now get back to the business of political activism here at York, let me simply say that the flogging has just begun and that the backs of we "girls" at York are not getting any stronger by lying on them.

Carol McBride,
Harbinger Community Services

Fostering paranoia

Last week (January 15) Excalibur's murder mystery really took the cake as we are wondering what you are trying to prove this time around.

From October onwards, Excalibur has brought out an article every week on some aspect of campus crime, each article becoming more and more intense with respect to the increasing crime rate. In complete contradiction to the above, the content of the article "Rape at York" appeared to be more myth than reality.

Excalibur experienced a case of wide-eyed innocence by questioning the origin of the paranoia, disregarding the fact that the previous articles in-



Rich Spiegelman photo

stilled it. Or maybe they do not read their own newspaper? Some of these articles were misleading just for the sake of pushing the point home — as seen in the hypothetical case of the tunnel attack.

Naturally, fear will be built up among students who lack communication with each other due to the wide open spaces and the college system.

Until a greater sense of communication is felt among York students, Excalibur should guarantee an honest evaluation of the events that occur on campus. It can start with the awareness that it is one of the major sources of communication at the university and, therefore, should question whether honest crime reports make or break a community.

Furthermore, we are questioning the last paragraph of the January 15 article on rape at York which mentions an "acceptable level" of crime. We are not aware that there is such a phenomenon as an "acceptable level" for crime. Once crime exists, one would think it unacceptable.

How can York security be satisfied that "carnal crime" is not being practiced at York? What does it consider the rape in the parking lot, the attempted rape last December, the mugging at Winters and many other crimes that have occurred within York's lifetime?

Security seems too preoccupied with parking tickets and towing to see the "carnal crime" being practiced, not to mention the property losses of two students at Bethune College (one involving \$60 and the other \$500). How can this be

an "acceptable level"? If this is the case, then maybe we should reconsider what "Myth or Reality" really is.

Irene Wittman
and Naomi Laird

Shower friends?

The article in the January 15 edition of Excalibur (*Rape at York: Myth or Reality?*) reeks of an obvious male bias. We are referring specifically to the incident that took place in the shower in Stong College. First, the incident as related in the article is twisted to fit the preconceived opinion of the reporter on the issue of rape, and second, it is also a deliberate misinterpretation of information that was received from a confidential source.

What kind of (man?) frequents women's showers and attempts to scare the occupants? A polite and friendly one naturally? We would like to point out to reporter Bucali that this incident was never reported as a rape or attempted rape, but simply as a case where an individual's privacy in the shower was infringed upon.

We're not trying to say that women should walk around campus in a state of paranoia, but the reality of rape is not something that should be taken lightly. The reporter is attempting to label simple common sense (i.e., not walking across campus alone at night) as paranoia. Regardless of the statistics (one actual rape on campus), the existing reality for women is that it could happen to them.

The girl in the shower
at Stong College

Harbinger's column

How to say no to a rapist and survive

Rape: "to seize, to force (a woman.) n. A carrying away by force; carnal knowledge of a woman against her will." (Cassell's Compact Dictionary).

In order to prevent further philosophical or semantic debates as to whether or not York women have anything to worry about, Harbinger feels there are a few things that should be known in the way of both prevention, and in dealing with the actuality of rape.

To begin with *prevention*, probably the best preventive measure any woman can take is to learn exactly how to defend herself in the event of an attack of any sort. There are many *self-defence courses* throughout the city being offered as well as at York. However, if you have not taken a course there are still some basic axioms to go by. The most crucial point to remember is *to be alert, to be aware* of your surroundings at all times and in particular when you are walking alone in unfamiliar

territory.

A few other points to be kept in mind when walking alone mostly consist of common sense items: if you think you are being followed, look around you to see exactly where you are and where you can get to without appearing freaked out! Get to the nearest place where there are people or to a well-lit area, and if this cannot be done by walking there, *run!* If you are approached by someone, don't be afraid to reject his come-ons immediately — at least then he will understand that you mean exactly what you say... and if he persists, start yelling "HELP" or "FIRE" or "POLICE, PLEASE HELP", or something to that affect — people are very nervous about coming to a scene where someone is screaming "RAPE"!

It is important to try and break away physically at the first opportunity if at all possible, or when your attacker is not ex-

pecting it. If this is not possible, it is certainly possible to attack with whatever you've got! The areas most likely to immobilize him at least until you can get away are groin, stomach, the kneecap, shins, nose, eyes and temples, or the instep of the feet.

There are a number of things you can do if you are raped — you can go home and hope that the memory of it will disappear, or you can deal with it in some fashion that may ultimately leave you feeling a lot better about the situation and perhaps prevent someone else from having to go through it themselves. If you choose the latter, you should report the incident as soon as possible to the first person you see. If you don't do this, the case may not be accepted in court.

Do not take a bath or shower before you have been examined by a doctor, as you will wash away evidence that you may want the police to have, should you press

the case in court. Then try to write down any information you may remember about the whole incident including a description of your rapist if possible. If you do decide to go to the police, remember that their questioning may be quite insensitive and demoralizing — try to bring a friend or a rape crisis volunteer with you throughout all of these questioning sessions and in court.

The final point is that whether or not you want to go to the police, or to charge the rapist you should go to a doctor immediately and have a VD test and a pregnancy test done, as well as a complete physical examination including an internal examination to make sure you did not receive any injuries internally.

Remember, there are people who are skilled to deal with your crises and who care enough to see you through the whole experience. (Rape Crisis Centre, 368-8383.)