

NEWS DIGEST cont'd

cont'd from page 10

After a while, the entire program got a little depressing. While it was very educational and well put together it tended to leave the average viewer feeling that there is nothing good about the Soviets and that if you have ever heard anything good about them, you probably heard it from a Soviet.

Forum explores Soviet media

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

The Soviet Media unveiled itself to the Canadian public last Wednesday in an historical forum called "Reading Red," that consisted of both Soviet and Canadian journalists.

The panel discussion, held by the Harbourfront Forum and co-sponsored by the Canadian Soviet Media Interchange committee, sparked some hostility and much controversy among those in attendance. The audience insisted upon raising political rather than journalistic oriented questions. Alexander Borisov, the Dean of the Faculty of Journalism at the Moscow State Institute for Foreign Relations, avoided such inquiries stating that they were not the issues at hand.

The panelists spoke of the great changes occurring in the Soviet Union today. According to Anthony Wilson-Smith of *Maclean's* magazine, those included a new "frankness or openness" in the media. Borisov agreed with Smith, attributing this "openness" to the recent increase in democracy for the people. The discussion also touched on the tendency to report "bad news" or corruption as well as good news. In the past, such issues were avoided.

The Soviet media does, however, lack coverage on sex related crimes. According to Nelja Ramazonova, the editor of a Soviet women's magazine, this is because these issues are not a "problem on the same scale as in North America." The media in the USSR, as in Canada, tries to be quite open about everything that happens, says Elena Karelina of *Magnitogorsk Rabochy* newspaper.

Although there are some similarities between the media in the USSR and Canada, there are also many differences. Ramazonova points out that her magazine is less concerned about 'trivial' things such as advertising, fashion, and the question of sex, so they focus on the Soviet way of life.

In spite of these differences, both sides are willing to learn from each other. Borisov feels that there is only one way to lessen the mistrust felt by each country, and that is to "speak with one another and not to be afraid of friendly questioning."

The panelists generally believed that this "experiment," as Alice Klein of *NOW* magazine termed the gathering, is a good step towards better relations between the USSR and Canada.

Canadian school in France

By TRACEY REID

It is now possible for Canadian students to attend a university in France for about the same cost as attending an out-of-town university in Canada.

Laurentian University, in association with Blyth and Company, opened the Université Canadienne en France last week giving Canada

its first academic presence in Europe. What is so remarkable about the school is that it is completely Canadian, consisting of 250 students, faculty and staff chosen from over 40 post-secondary institutions across Canada. Courses offered are the same as those at many Canadian-based universities. This means that credits can be transferred back to schools in Canada.

Perhaps even more remarkable is the cost. Students may stay for one year and are asked to pay \$6,695. This includes tuition, all accommodations and airfare. This compares quite favourably with other Canadian universities' costs. Students may also apply for Ontario Student Assistance Program for financial assistance.

As well, there is no grade-point average which must be met in order to gain acceptance. The only requirement is that applicants must be from Canada.

The project, according to Sam Blyth, Managing Director of the University, gives students an excellent chance to travel while offering them a bilingual programme in language and civilization.

The new programme is located at Villefranche-sur-mer and the campus occupies a spectacular 37-acre estate between Nice and Monte Carlo, overlooking the Mediterranean at St. Jean Cap Ferrat.

Information can be obtained by writing to: Sam Blyth, Blyth and Co., 68 Scollard St., Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1G2 or John Daniel, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 2C6.

York community blacked out

By STEVE SOMER

Many York students found themselves in the dark this past Tuesday as the campus experienced a temporary power-shortage resulting in

the disruption of classes and other university business.

According to Bill Dale, the General Superintendent of building maintenance and Utilities in the Physical Plant Department, the power shortage "first occurred around 2:30 p.m. and resulted from a problem on the Keele St. feeder."

As many as nine buildings on campus were affected by the power-shortage that lasted approximately one hour. Among the facilities disrupted were: Founders, Vanier, Winters' colleges and residences; part of the Ross building including

Central Square; Osgoode Hall, Atkinson Residence; the Fine Arts Building as well as two of the Graduate Residences located on Assiniboine Ave.

The blackout was temporarily relieved by transferring power to the feeder located on Steeles Ave., while hydro workers repaired the Keele St. station. Dale stated that "with the 27,000 volts that the feeder handles, it's hard to determine when such shortages will occur and as a result, you can only deal with (this problem) as it happens."

YORKDEX

Student population at York (1960): 73
 Student population at York (1970): 16 860
 Student population at York (1986): 40 723
 Total population at York (1986): 47,195
 Number of undergraduates registered at York (1986): 30 551
 Percentage of undergraduates that are female: 58.06
 Faculty that contains the smallest percentage of females:
 Science, approximately 35
 Department with the greatest number of students
 (declared major): Psychology—2,573
 Programme with the least number of students
 (declared major): Urban Studies: 0
 Programme with the greatest amount of students
 (Second declared major): Mass Communications—259
 Number of letters to the editor that
Pravda receives daily: 2,000
 Number of letters to the editor that the
New York Times receives daily: 400
 Number of letters to the editor that
Excalibur received last week: 8

*all facts as of November 1986 unless specified otherwise.

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