

York's splendor a match for Rome's ruins

Imagine receiving a surprise visit from an old friend from back home who came to the big city to see what York University was all about. Egad, you may think.

Well, you'd be thinking wrong, for York is filled with a countless number of illustrious sights, many of which once seen will never be forgotten.

How do you prove this to your transient guest? Quite simply. As an unpaid member of the non-functional York University Chamber of Commerce, I have access to an unpublished tourist brochure entitled York University: The Ivory Tower of the Future.

Basically, it describes certain sights which Yorkians see regularly but know little of their significance or aesthetic value. As a favour to my fellow students, the following are excerpts from the pamphlet, from the section Sights to Remember.

The York Bookstore: commonly known as the nutcracker, the bookstore is all that remains of an abortive coup attempted by the behaviouralist faction of the psychology department in 1962. Apparently these cerebral fiends wished to quietly submit all

students to a state of humble passiveness by driving them insane. This was done in the bookstore by creating incredibly long lines caused by inadequate cashier space, a ridiculous credit system, outrageous profit-making on the books and the ability never to have all the necessary books on student's required reading lists. Although the coup failed, the Bookstore is left untouched as a memorial to B.F. Skinner.

The Cafeterias: known throughout Canada as serving the worst food in the history of Canadian universities, the cafeterias live up to their reputation day after day by serving indigestible slop at high prices.

Let it be known that York cafeteria food is served so well as to end all students' constipation crises that representatives from three major laxative companies attempted to buy the recipes. However, Versafoods knows when it has a gold mine and as a result all residence students have found their washrooms a second home.

York Lake: Situated on the west end of campus, the body of water (6 feet deep) holds one of the unheralded legends of our

time...the mysterious third cousin of the creature from Loch Ness, the Elliot Ness Monster. Seen only by the light of the total eclipse, the monster closely resembles Howard the Turtle, who mysteriously disappeared after Razzle Dazzle was cancelled by CBC in 1966.

Keele St. fire hydrants: If you look down Keele St., bordering the campus you will see approximately eight fire hydrants spaced along the road facing an open field. You may think that these hydrants are for fires in the nearest campus building a quarter of a mile away, or for the gasoline storage tanks across the road. But, then you would be wrong.

Actually, the hydrants were part of the Fine Arts Department's surge for respectability in the field of realistic sculpturing. They now serve as a memorial to the Fine Arts Department's achievements, and to help withstand the dog boom which has overcome the York campus in latter years.

The Toronto Dominion Bank: the bank, in case anyone wonders why it of all banks is in Central Square, owns Central Square. For a delight and treat, open an account for a day

just to watch professors get paid. Watch their faces as they smile with delight, or wince in misery. Other than that, do not waste your time there.

York Enquiry Service (YES): This service actually serves two purposes. First, it does a good job of informing students how to get things done. Secondly, it serves as a monument to the stupidity of man who created the confounded, ridiculously inadequate, buruaucracy that exists at York.

The Vanier Tunnel: Originally built as an underground fallout shelter for the university, the tunnel was to have been converted to a residence complex in 1968. However, the Department of National Defence worried over the Communist invasion of South Vietnam, vetoed such a proposal, stating "You never know what those Commies will do next."

These are but a few of the adventures listed in the pamphlet. Others include the York Shuttle Buses, York's Funny Money Museum, the CYSF Budget Meetings and so on. Unfortunately space limits a description of all of them.

The CYSF Column

Senate's presidential search methods fine

By MICHAEL MOURITSEN

The names of eight nominees for the presidency of York University were released to the Senate at its meeting last Wednesday. According to procedures approved jointly by the Senate and Board of Governors, the eight candidates will have "an ample opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of the university community". During this period (which lasts until October 17), members of the university are able to submit to the Search Committee written comments on the candidates.

On October 22, 23, and 24, the members of the Senate vote on the eight names, marking an affirmative vote, a negative vote or an abstaining vote on each name. The Search Committee must submit a minimum of three names (each of which must have received a majority of Senate votes) to the Board of Governors, which then appoints the president.

As a member of the Search Committee, I am naturally quite pleased with the list of nominees. If you read the front page article in last Thursday's Globe and Mail, however, you will know that some senators expressed discontent when the list was presented.

There were no complaints about the calibre or qualifications of the eight names submitted, but some senators were "unhappy that none of the nominees were from York University".

Yes, none of the candidates are from York. In the search procedures which were adopted last spring, there is no requirement that any of the candidates be from York, nor that the committee should give preference to nominees from York university, nor that the Committee should distinguish at all between internal and external candidates.

As Mavor Moore, the chairman of the Search Committee, reported, the committee adopted no formal selection criteria. Each member of the eleven-man committee (which included faculty, students, governors and support staff) used his or her own judgement in selecting the eight candidates, and a final list was determined, after extensive personal interviews, by majority vote. Although some members of the York faculty were nominated and interviewed for the presidency, the Committee simply did not consider any of them (judged on their in-

dividual merits) qualified to be President.

The Globe reported that "One professor suggested that the Senate might vote against all eight nominees to force a choice that includes a York professor...". "In order to appreciate the significance of this suggestion, you should know one more thing about the search procedures: If fewer than three of the eight candidates received a majority of Senate votes, the Search Committee must present more names to the Senate for a further vote. (You might wonder, as I have, what kind of person would let his name stand after being passed over the first time, but that is another matter).

The professor who offered this suggestion was Brayton Polka, acting chairman of the Department of History in the Faculty of Arts. His suggestion was greeted with a mixed reaction: vigorous nods of approval from Atkinson philosophy Professor Walter Carter (who is known to nod vigorously a lot in Senate), and giggles from the more articulate senators. Professor Robert Haynes correctly labelled the Polka suggestion as petty, and observed that York would become the laughing stock of the country if the Senate

deliberately defeated the names of such distinguished Canadians in order to push a York candidate.

You will note that Professor Polka did not express unhappiness with the quality of the people on the list. He is upset that none of them is from York. And because he is upset, he would have the Senate sabotage the entire search procedure.

If the Senate wanted to ensure that internal candidates would be included on the list, the time to do it was last spring, when the procedures were being drafted. The time to adopt special criteria is not after the names have been presented.

Professor Polka's proposal is cheap and irresponsible. To defeat the entire list in order to push a local favourite would be a disservice to the university and an insult to the eight candidates who have allowed their names to stand. It would throw the university into an internal crisis that would rival the one of last December.

But then, there are some people who actually thrive when the university is in a mess. This is a theme to which I will return in future columns.

Letters to the Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request.

Comic and article appreciated, but take out news

In your third issue of Excalibur, I really enjoyed the Black/Hsu comic strip as well as the article on Esmonde McInnes. Please devote more of your paper to creative endeavours such as the afore-mentioned.

I really couldn't give a st about the news, though. Try to phase it out of Excalibur. It is space wasted.

RON KASMAN

Maiolani replies to two letters criticizing her opinion

In response to the two letters criticizing the article quoting me in the Excalibur of Sept. 19, I would like to say the following:

First of all, due to limitations of space, my conversation was considerably abbreviated, resulting in some change in emphasis.

More importantly, I feel that the idea that the York University daycare centre is a "cooperative" at this time, is a farce. Many decisions are made by a small "clique" — few by the parent body or the parent board. For

example, although the constitutional responsibility for hiring belongs to the parent board, two separate members of staff were hired without the knowledge or consent of the chairman of the parent board, preschool section.

During the summer, the administrator (not the parents) decided that the Centre would participate in an experimental kindergarten program. It was not until after the program was nearly over that the parents were informed of the nature of the program. When I asked, prior to the beginning of the program, what would be going on, I was told that it was definitely not experimental.

There are relatively minor examples of how UN-cooperative the Centre is.

The decision with regard to moving the preschool section to temporary quarters pending the completion of the new Centre was also made by the administrator — without even the prior consent of the parents of the children involved. Mrs. De Wit accepted full responsibility for this decision in her phone call to Mr. Root on the evening after the move.

Daycare centres are held to certain minimum standards and are required to be licensed. This licence is not transferable to premises other than those inspected and approved at the time of licensing. There are also limits put on the number of children which any given centre is allowed to enroll. (Any daycare centre is liable to be shut down if it over-enrolls.)

The Centre was not in danger of being closed

down because of any action which I took, it was in danger of being closed down because they deliberately disregarded the regulations under which they were supposed to be operating.

With regard to fees, I would like to point out that the \$75 fee at the York Centre applies only to those parents who can, and do, put in 4 hours per week of their own time at the Centre. The FULL fee is over \$100, for shorter than average hours (most centres are open from 7:30 to 6:00 — the York Centre is open only from 8:45 to 5:15). This also means that, except for meetings, the staff of the daycare centre works the same hours as other university staff. The fee which I now pay is for full-time (not part-time) daycare including transportation.

Considering the amount of parent time involved, the staff is more than adequate, and it was Mrs. DeWit, not I, who maintained in an earlier article that it was not. She also maintained that they are under-paid which Mrs. Hilborn now says is not the case.

In view of the large increase in fees over the last two years, and the fact that the Centre does not have to pay rent, cleaning, or utilities, I can find no explanation for the large deficit other than mis-management.

It was obvious before Mr. Fabian and Mrs. Hilborn pointed it out that I am only one person, and I do not believe that Excalibur implied to the contrary. It is also true, however, that many parents have removed their children from the centre due to their dissatisfaction with it.

The centre does not enjoy a good reputation on campus, nor does it apparently deserve to.

I feel the discrepancies in the quotes from the Centre with regard to staff, facilities, university cooperation, etc. are evidence of the desire to present the daycare Centre to the university community as something other than what it is. I feel that this deception is unfair to parents on campus who want information about responsible daycare for their children.

MARJORIE MAIOLANI

Service done by Excalibur, status of penthouse raised

I should like to thank you greatly for the service you did me in the latest issue of Excalibur. The attention and respect you have shown toward the penyhouse apartments in the Graduate Residence has raised the status of my lowly \$92.50 a month domicile (\$8 less than I was paying for a dingy, cold basement apartment) to that of a plush suite befitting presidents and kings. To put it another way, quit crying on my shoulder, Mac. It's time to realize that a "community newspaper" will command more respect through maturity over sensationalism.

NAME WITHHELD