

York's graffeti poor but

# 'Candy is dandy, but sex won't rot your teeth'

By JIM DAW

York's public image is being damaged by the crummy graffeti in our washrooms.

In these days of falling enrolment, when it's how you play the recruiting game that's important, we should pay more attention to such important details.

At present York and the U of T are about equal. A survey of washrooms on both campuses revealed there is a direct relationship between the IQ demonstrated in the graffeti and the number of cubicles per washroom. So a well directed initiative by York could put us miles ahead in this area.

What better way to advertise the creative genius of York students?

Yet the graffeti scene is a real disappointment. In the women's washrooms there is nothing to spark the imagination or perplex the mind. In fact we are not aware of one inscription in any women's washroom on campus.

Many of the scrawlings in men's washrooms look like the work of sexual deviates, frustrated studs, racists, sexists and pea-brained assholes.

The outhouse bards, earthy philosophers, political commentators and original humourists are few and far between.

Since the first of the year my favourite comfort station has been the scene of constant warfare between Jews and goys, gays and straights, real wits and half-wits.

An explanation of the difference between Jews and apple pies prompted some replies. "After reading this I made sure I wiped the toilet seat three times to make sure I wouldn't catch this ass's disease" and "If you have so much guts about your religious convictions why don't you go to CS106 (Jewish Student Federation offices) for a chance to elaborate on your views."

Suggestions of genocide and death by torture were matched by four letter rejoinders and various menu suggestions. That it is subtle



propaganda in favour of racial understanding or the work of two or three neanderthals might not be evident to our young visitors.

If universities are the leaders in liberalizing sexual mores it is not evident in our washrooms.

Men still get a kick out of advertising the size of their Padoobies and their dexterity at playing with them. A few jokers were inspired to list different ways to paddle their pickles progressing from the use of liver to a tin tear drop.

The shock value of words mommy taught us not to say is small so fewer people seem to scrawl them indiscriminately on walls. Words of this type are more often used in passages designed to erotically stimulate the reader. But their shock value is maintained when used with homosexual connotations as most men still consider that form of sex a bit kinky.

Closet queens tend to clutter up the walls with a debased form of enticement to other males. Then the resulting backlash from prudish or sexually hung-up men takes up more space.

Poems like: "Call me sweetheart,

call me dear, but please fellas don't call me queer" or advertisements for blow jobs that will sizzle your balls prompt only repressive, intolerant replies.

One was like the old joke about mental health: "Stupid gays. I'll kill you all." There is also name calling, more suggestions of death by torture and even heavy analysis — "Gays are obviously a sick manifestation of a sick society." To which someone replied: "How come this is one of the few societies that doesn't sanction homosexuality? Is everyone 'sick' but you, shithead?"

There are some clever exchanges however, such as: "Out of the closets and into the streets" replied to by "What is this a hanger revolution."

Exchanges between homosexuals are sometimes educational. Beside one fellow's advertisement someone else wrote: "Dear. Whoever you are, there have got to be better and more human ways of meeting people than this."

At Glendon, graffeti has a bicultural flare — the blokes and the

frogs fake pot shots at each other on the walls.

The rest of the wall space in washrooms is taken up by stale humour about things like the rabbi's new business — making attache cases from foreskins — and announcements that Moby Dick is not a social disease.

Political commentary is minimal. The York guerrillas tried to mount a spontaneous tunnel liberation movement but made the fatal

mistake of asking for permission first.

The recent addition of a women's movement mural is an encouraging sign of life however.

In the washrooms there are occasional expressions of support for the Kraft and the Dare boycott as well as such things as "South America will save the world;" and "Brotherhood is powerful too."

But the graffeti with socially or academically redeeming qualities is sparse.

Part of the problem is the low level of competition which has become traditional. A special officer to censor the hackneyed jokes and crude sentiments may be necessary for a short while.

Think of the possibilities if more people decided to out-do those pearls we so seldom find at York. Such as the one "Nothing that alienates is human to me — Ecnoret", an adaptation of Terence's aphorism "Nothing human is alien to me."

Creative minds from across the country would beat a path to the Ross Building.

Let no one again be moved to write:

"When shit house poets have all died I'll build a monument high and wide A monument to their mirth and wit A monument of solid shit."

## United church calls for abortion reform

In calling for reform of Canadian abortion laws, the United Church says "to be wanted is essential to human development", explained Ruth Evans at York Monday night.

Evans, a member of the United Church task force on abortion, was speaking about the morality of abortion in a discussion sponsored by York's Student Christian Movement. She was to be one of three panel members, but gave the only prepared talk when the other speakers cancelled out because of illness.

No matter what the moral stance, Evans said the issue of abortion must be taken out of the arena of government action. At present, abortion is illegal under the Criminal Code except in instances where the mental and physical health of the mother is seriously threatened.

If the government can now say who must not have an abortion, 50 years from now they might say who must have an abortion, Evans said.

She spoke about abortion as something "deeply personal and self-involving", not something to be discussed coolly, objectively, and analytically. When people make up their minds on abortion — either pro or con, they do so on the basis of their own experiences, she claimed.

She called such decision-making the "only real hope for change in the future".

Michael Smith, a York graduate student, spoke impromptu for the Roman Catholic church position. He agreed with Evans that abortion was a key moral issue. For Catholics, he said, questions on abortion and contraception brought to the surface many undercurrents and questions about the monolithic super-structure of the Catholic church.

In giving more details of the United Church's position, Evans said doctors who broke the code of ethics of the Canadian Medical Association in not referring a woman to other medical sources when they refused abortion aid were condemned along with doctors who charge more than the fee schedule for abortion.

The church also commended members of the nursing and medical profession for their responsible work in abortion.

Evans said contraception information, if made readily available, would circumvent the whole moral dilemma of deciding on abortion. She urged citizen groups to set up contraceptive counselling services.

## Hunger strike at U.S. consulate

A hunger strike in protest of the Greek military regime was held outside the U.S. consulate in Toronto last weekend. The American government openly supports the Greek government through arms supply.

The protestors hoped to bring public attention to the military oppression in Greece, which has led to the death of possibly four students and the arrest of anti-military demonstrators throughout Greece.

Bedded down in sleeping bags on the sidewalk in front of the consulate the protestors set up signs demanding "Freedom for the Greek Students" and "Americans out."

Demands for Canada's secession from NATO was an important issue. Canada through this common defence program is linked to the support of the military regime in Greece.

The protest action was planned to coincide with the

151st anniversary of Greek independence and followed a period of growing dissent throughout Greece.

Law students had seized the Athens Law School. They were eventually driven out by attacking police who left injured students bleeding in the streets. Violent demonstrations also forced the closing of the Polytechnical school in Salonica. The Greek press is now being censored by the military after several journalists reported on the student unrest.

The demonstration in front of the consulate ended Sunday night with promise for further actions to "make Canadians aware of the Greek struggle and to let those in Greece, the people more involved than anyone else, know that someone outside cares."

Those who wish to give support to the struggle in Greece should contact PAK (The Pan-Hellenic Liberation Movement) Box 594, Station Q, Toronto 7.

