

Mid-term Mania

Marcia Johnson

Well boys and girls, it's that time of year again. It's obvious in the bright-eyed faces of almost all York members. People are reflecting on last year and waiting in anxious expectation for the coming time. Yes, 'tis the season for exams.

This reporter was given the seemingly simple task of finding out exactly how York students feel about their impending exams. Reactions ranged from wild hysteria upon hearing that four-letter word to avoiding the question all together. A general reaction among first year students was genuine fear. Many of them are reminding themselves of how they fared on their first grade nine exam. Others, in various years are looking forward to exams. No, they don't go around wearing leather and chains; they just see exams as a way of improving their first term marks. There are those who are taking it in stride

and accept it as a fact of life. These are the people who barricade themselves in their rooms for weeks before their first exam. There are the rare cases which answered: "Exams? Are we having exams soon?" These are the ones to worry about. They're usually up 'till all hours of the night before their big test — in the pub. The irony is that they probably get the highest marks. Where's the justice?

The big question is: How do you get through December without an analyst? I had to look no further than a desk in Curtis D:

"If you can't baffle them with brains, dazzle them with B.S."

Of course there's a big diversity in work loads. Some students have five exams up to the twenty-third and others have none. Personally, I have no complaints since I fit in the latter category. No hate mail please. I just tell it like it is.

Happy writing!

Elliott prime poetry mover

cont'd from page 8

Maurice Elliott, with the English Department since the late 60's and currently Master of Winters College, is one of the prime movers behind the reading series at that College. It features York home grown, national and international poets: Robin Skelton, Al Puttman and Norma Uher have read there. So have a legion of Irish poets including Aaron Carson, Paul Muldoon, John Morrow and Tony Curtis. On Tuesdays, the readings are open to students and many have read there including Colin Smith, Peter Robinson, Bell Marsh, Robyn Butt, Donna Bartolini (who also acts as co-ordinator) and Andy Payne.

Payne is a student who has run the poetic gammut at

York. He has been published through the Creative Writing Programme. He agrees that poetry is thriving on campus but wonders whether it will continue: "The thing with poetry" he says "is that it has to compete with so many other mediums that reach more people and are more accessible, such as video and T.V. Poetry audiences tend to be marginal," he continues,

well nurtured

and are usually made up of the same people. Most of these people are other poets, so I question the audience that poetry gets. More work needs to be done to attract more people out to poetry readings."

Assembled together though, the audience points to a well-grown, well nurtured

blooming poetic tree in the York landscape. What is needed, however, is a larger audience and this could be accomplished through a concerted public relations campaign. All the ingredients are there. At press time, Winters College was gearing up to host an alumni party for Irving Layton and the students of his past workshops. No doubt many who have gone on to higher poetic heights will return. In fact a number of York Alumni have gone on to further poetic achievement including Judith Fitzgerald, Ed Carson, Brian Henderson and Ken Sherman. The next home-grown York poet who reads on campus might very well join the ranks of the most celebrated poets that Canada has to offer.

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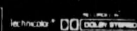


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