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# EXCALIBUR

## Weekly

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### Vanier attacks point to need for tighter security

PJ Todd

Had York Security taken prompt action, the man who attacked two female students in their Vanier residence three weeks ago would not have escaped, says David Thompson, Resident Tutor.

The details of the attack, as related to *Excalibur* by one of the victims earlier this week, confirms Thompson's evaluation. "If the security guard had come immediately when he was telephoned and the police had been called they could have been here within 5 minutes. There is no doubt they would have caught the attacker. He remained in the building at least one-half hour after his first assault," said Thompson. It has also been revealed that security guards, on more than one occasion, so badly fumbled searches at Vanier College that students, dons and Thompson were forced to form their own search parties.

Because of the substantial discrepancies between statements made by Security Director George Dunn to *Excalibur* and reports from the victims and eye-witnesses concerning the January 16th attacks, one of the victims believes security is unable to handle the situation competently. In her attempt to discover why the case has been mishandled, the victim (who does not wish to be identified at this time) has spoken several times with Dunn.

"I asked Mr. Dunn if his guards were competent, like police officers. He said that his budget did not allow him to hire people like those with police training. He definitely gave me the impression that the guards were getting something not much more than minimum wage for pay."

The victim's account of the incident not only included the details of the frightening attack, but also the cavalier fashion in which the security guard, who arrived on the scene, conducted himself. "I woke up and a man was standing in front of my closet. He was looking at me, but he kept checking the door. 'Who the hell are you?' I asked him. He said, 'Oh, isn't this the 12th floor.' He sounded apologetic. He sounded legitimate." She told him to leave and he did.

The intruder returned to her room about 10 minutes later. "I woke up and I heard a noise at the door," the student said. The door opened suddenly and the man was back in her room.

"He shut the door and ran across the room before I could move. He grabbed my throat and said, 'Don't make a fucking sound or I'll kill you.'"

"I was terrified. He was extremely nervous, hyped up and gave me the impression that he was hiding out. I tried to calm him down and I offered him a cigarette." But, she continued "he lifted up my bed covers, keeping one hand on my throat. That's when 'rape' flashed in my head. I freaked.

"I let out some sort of scream and began to struggle with him. He squeezed my throat tighter, but I managed to get up on my knees in bed. That scared him." She reasons, "I guess he figured how difficult it would be to keep me quiet, hold me down, and get my clothes off." The intruder "jumped up", checked the hallway and ran out of the room.

"I went next door and screamed to the guy who lives there, 'call York Security, I've just been attacked.'" It was 6:45 a.m.

Twenty minutes later one security guard arrived at the woman's room. "I told him quickly what happened and instead of searching, or calling for assistance, he asked me, 'wasn't your door locked?' I told him that it usually was and that I hadn't locked it after the guy came in the first time. He (the guard) was smiling. He laughed and said, 'I can't believe you didn't get up and lock the door.' He was amazed and kept ridiculing me. I felt humiliated."

The security guard asked the student to repeat the story. "This time he wrote it down. He asked me if I wanted to call the police and when I said no, he laughed. So I said, 'O.K., call them.' He said, 'Oh, so now you want the police here.'"

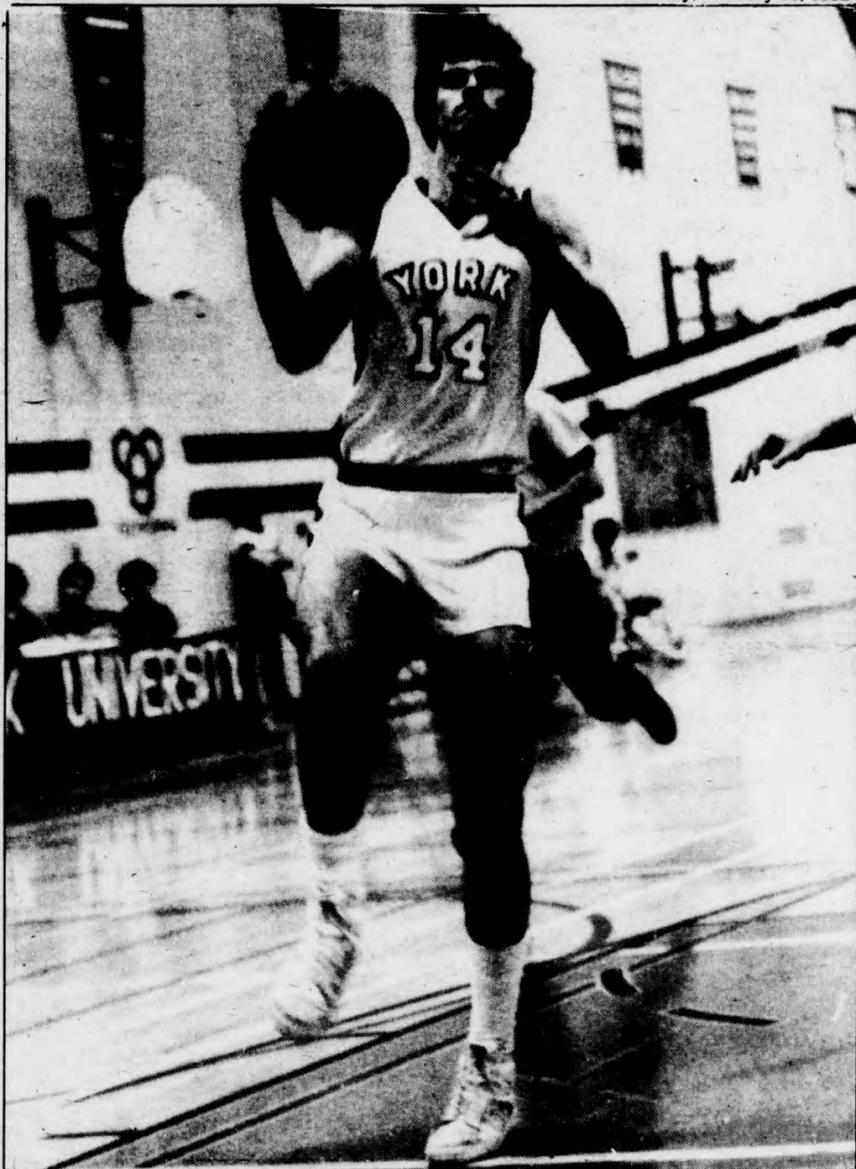
"I was shaken, upset, trembling, and this attitude was not helping me relate my story. I urged him to search for the attacker and then call the police. I figured if he called the police he'd want to stay in the room and wait for them. He was in no rush. It just didn't seem to occur to him that the guy could still be there."

But the intruder was still in Vanier. He walked down five floors and entered another female student's room. It was approximately 7:00 a.m. He surprised the sleeping woman and sexually assaulted her. He left her room and went into a washroom directly across the hall where he stayed about 10 minutes. The woman heard him leave the floor by the stairwell.

"If the stairwells and entrances had been sealed off," said David Thompson, "there is no doubt we could have caught the guy."

York Security was called to Vanier again, two days later, and performed no better. Thompson and the first woman attacked were called by a residence don who reported a possible spotting of the intruder. She had called Security, but five of the guards responding to the call came to her room instead of starting a search.

"The security guards were running up and down stairs, in and out of the elevators and asking girls if they 'had seen a pervert,'" said the first victim. "They were causing general panic and confusion and we just had to ignore them and try to calm people down and conduct a thorough search."



What can you say about David Coulthard, York's all-star basketball player, that hasn't been said before. Well, you can start by saying that the explosive Coulthard scored 50 points against U of T on Tuesday night to set a new OUA single-game scoring record.

### Japanese are still suffering

Michael Monastyrskyj

When writer Joy Kagawa arrived Monday night at Vanier College to speak "on the Experience of Japanese-Canadian Internment", the audience might have expected a condemnation of those responsible and a demand for compensation.

The author of *Obasan* did mention that, "In Canada we have still not punished our leaders for their war crimes" and at times she did express anger towards the internment and its aftermath, but throughout her eloquent speech she emphasized that everyone is capable of harming others. "Yesterday's victims," she said, "often become today's victimizers."

She might have just as easily said that those who suffered in the past remain victims today. Thirty-five years after the end of the Second World War, Japanese still feel the shame of having been dispossessed of their property and sent to prison camps.

Citing the eighty per cent rate of intermarriage and the lack of Japanese communities Kagawa points out, "There

is no Japantown in any Canadian city. We have obeyed the injunction to never again live in close proximity to each other. We are not at home in our own land and we have passed the dis-ease on to our children."

She asserts that Canadians "can not claim moral superiority." In fact, because it was civilian authorities who ordered the internment, Kagawa believes Canada's actions were more sinister than those that occurred in the United States where the decision to imprison Japanese citizens was a military one.

However, Kagawa does not dwell on the past. "I like to get off the victim-victimizer pole as often as I can. What matters is to love. And if people are blinded and can't love, it matters to try and understand."

Warning that too many people accuse without considering what wrongs they themselves commit, she explains, "If I add another voice to the din, it is a plea for quietness, to ask we learn to listen rather than to shout out—that most of all we heed the ones who are so oppressed they cannot speak out at all."

Perry Lejko