

Uncovering Central Square



ANDRÉ SOUROUN

By FERNANDO GARCIA

For the past three months I, Fernando Garcia, have gone under cover to expose the York University populous the most famous hallway on campus, known as "Central Square." To find out the answers that every studious York student asks themselves when they walk through this passageway: why are these Preps wasting space at this particular University, and what makes it a perfect campground for those who prefer to hang out in it?

There has not yet been a Roots sale but from three months of intense research, I have come to the conclusion that the only thing that could make this corridor empty on a week day would have to be such an event. To get properly prepared to take on this hard and dangerous assignment, I had to dress preppie and learn small talk. These are the two basic elements that are required for acceptance into this close-knit clique of Central Squarites.

In September, I picked the bench which was to become my home for the next few months and observed the natives engage in their native tongue (small talk). It was truly incredible to hear people being able to talk about absolutely nothing, but it was even more amazing to listen to the Central Squarites be repetitive by standing around in the same place all day, saying the same things. Within the second week of school I noticed that 95% of those York students that hung around in Central Square

smoke cigarettes. The one element that bothered me the most while under cover, was that none of these rich preps bought their own butts, but turned to myself to single handedly supply their habits (on top of them being the laziest students on campus, they are by far the cheapest).

By the time October rolled around, I had accomplished one of my primary goals to properly research this article: I had become a full-fledged Central Squarite with all the privileges that accompanied it. The new privileges bestowed on me were immense: I could now walk through the Central Square corridor and was guaranteed to see someone I knew who I could spark up some "intense heavy-duty" conversation with. Other privileges consisted of being able to date other Central Squarites, and being invited to all the "hip" and "groovie" Central Square parties.

Now since I had become an honest to goodness real participant in the greater meaning of life, I was taken aside and told "The Unwritten Laws" of being a proper Central Squarite. These laws have never in the history of York University been revealed to the University's general population. This was the hard core information that I had spent two months with these spoiled brats trying to dig up. The Central Squarite laws are:

- 1) always say how much you hate Central Square;
- 2) only say if asked; I have only been

at Central Square for five minutes and will not be here in another five;

- 3) while sitting in this hallway always claim you're going to class or the library in the immediate future;
- 4) never eat the food at the Central Square Caf, because it is possible that you can get food poisoning;
- 5) always ask your Central Square buddies if they're going to the Open End Pub Thursday night;
- 6) if you have cigarettes do not tell anyone;
- 7) if you're asked how you are doing in school, lie, say you are doing well.

It is now December and many Central Squarites are cramming for their exams. The hallway is always full at noon, so one day plant yourself and maybe you will find the magic of the benches. Who knows, we might engage in some idle little small talk.

Colleges show lips

By JAMES FLAGAL

It's not often that you'll see a college master in leather. Then again, it's pretty rare to see Winter's Master Maurice Elliott strut in an authentic 50's leather jacket and T-shirt in front of hundreds of York students in perfect form. But for an inter-collegiate lip synch competition, some masters will do anything to show their college is number one.

Last Thursday night, five colleges competed in the First Annual Lip Synch Competition, held at Winter's Dining Hall, and organized by Winter's Social-Cultural Representative Marco Alla.

First up was Winters College, led by the ever cool and slick Maurice Elliott. Harking back to the *Grease* soundtrack, Elliot led the Winters' college troupe in a boppin' rendition of "Summer Lovin'" as girls swooned to their Master's serenade.

But the energy level was just beginning to rise for the event as

John Mageau, alias Elvis Presley for the evening, hit the stage with Jail House Rock to screams and applause. Right from the start, it was obvious that Mageau knew the song backwards and forwards from probably repeatedly practicing in the shower.

And finally, the true show-stopper of the night, Calumet College, grabbed first spot with their version of "You Don't Have To Take Your Clothes Off." David Orban and Gil Brown made some of the prettiest back-up vocal girls imaginable, and the number easily possessed the most creative choreography and the best lip synch.

Placing for the event took place as follows: First went to Calumet and a tie for second between Vanier and Winters with Stong College coming in third and Bethune College bringing up the rear in fourth position. Alla hopes this will be an annual event.

Cockroach insurgency at York

By THEODORE CLEAVER

In the past few weeks, York students have seen an outbreak of terrorist attacks involving hundreds, perhaps thousands, of angry, hyperintelligent cockroaches. The roaches, granted the power of speech and group thought by unidentified experiments in the Life Sciences facilities, have united to demand their own campus and an unlimited supply of cheese doodles. In an exclusive interview, Excalibur's Theodore Cleaver speaks with Rex, the cockroach terrorist leader, at the *Cock and Bull*.

EXCALIBUR: Let's get straight to the point, Mr. Rex... why are you leading these terrorist attacks on innocent students?

REX: Because the faculty are too soft. If one of their own goes down, they just hire someone else. Who really cares if a Natural Science prof gets attacked by the Free Cockroach Coalition. The FCC has more to worry about! We have to get the stu-

dents because they're the ones who'll pay attention! Professors, well, no one really cares about them. Get them while they're young. When they're impressionable. Only the young ones can help us now.

EXCALIBUR: But by doing that, you're turning public opinion against your group. How can you expect the students to support you if you're attacking them?

REX: That's a good question, and I think I'll leave it hanging for a little while. We have a plan, but can't quite speak about it just now.

EXCALIBUR: Was there a reason for your original attacks all taking place within Stong College?

REX: Completely random. We just happened to be passing by, and one of our members—Sid, I think it was—smelled some cheese doodles. We love cheese doodles, you know, and so we all just zipped in and came out of a shower drain. Scared

the hell out of some girl, too. But it was certainly worthwhile. We got the cheese doodles, and the revolution got off to a great start.

EXCALIBUR: Your demands are somewhat odd. Can you justify the call for an independent cockroach campus?

REX: Well, you have Glendon... seriously, we'd really like somewhere to be ourselves, to be roaches with abandon. We want the streets to be paved with cheese doodles, and like that. I don't think that's all too unreasonable; do you?

EXCALIBUR: Well, I'm not too fond of cheese doodles...

REX: Okay, that's understandable. They're full of chemicals, and there really isn't all that much cheese in 'em. But that's why they're so appealing to cockroaches, man! You humans are sick... corned beef and cabbage, hash browns... chicken pies, for Chrissake! A roach can't live on some of the junk that comes out of your Central Square cafeteria. It's downright disgusting!

EXCALIBUR: So you're saying that the food there isn't even fit for roaches?

REX: Exactly. And you people are EATING it! Ooh, it makes me want to spew! When I think about what humans consider food... jeez...

EXCALIBUR: I see. You're saying you want the food here at York to be brought up to cockroach standards.

REX: Don't say brought up...

EXCALIBUR: Raised, then.

REX: That's nice.

EXCALIBUR: So in reality, all you roaches want is the betterment of campus food. I think we can all get behind that.

REX: Yes. And that's why we want the students' involvement.

EXCALIBUR: I guess that's commendable. Rex, it's been a pleasure and an honour.

REX: Don't mention it. Pass the cheese doodles.

University to phase out all students

By LOU GRANT

In a soon to be released planning report, the York University administration plans to phase out the student population in four years. The report, alleged to be a cloaked Presidential reply to the Gilmore and Hare reports, was by the Department of Trees, Bushes, Parking Bumps, and Volkswagen Beetle Act (TBPBVBA) after a month of intense survey in the washrooms on the ninth floor of the Ross Building, and the Faculty Club.

Hailed by other universities as a dramatic response to chronic provincial underfunding of Ontario universities, the plan calls for the termination of accessibility to York's post-secondary education programme after the 1991-92 academic year. The date was chosen by the TBPBVBA because it allowed those undergraduates and post-graduates doing four year programmes time to complete their academic work. Most importantly this time will allow the department to prepare York for the

1996 Olympics—if Toronto should get the selection. "You can never have enough trees, bushes, parking bumps, or Volkswagen Beetle art," commented Department chief Wolfgang Arbour, "people like 'em."

The plan, although officially unavailable, has been met with great delight in the coffee stations and cubby holes of the ninth floor Ross Building. Students, long the bane of administrative and services personnel will not be missed. As one ninth floor drone put it, "It's the best thing possible. I'm just sorry it's not for four years. You know, it's bad enough they (the students) use our parking spaces, and share our elevators and building space, but they even use our Senate Chamber. The respite in the summer, without the students, is just too short. Permanency has a wonderful feel about it."

Cited as a model for similarly underfunded universities (there are no others so underfunded), and for those equally overcrowded (again, no others), the York plan is based on

several corporate benefits:

- (1) With the removal of students from York's campus the office space/classroom problem will be immediately rectified.
- (2) There will be greatly reduced professorial and TA staffing, although those remaining academics will continue with research, writings, coffee drinking, and squash on Wednesdays.
- (3) Previous undergraduate residences will be used for low-cost elderly housing, until the Toronto Olympics, when residents will be removed for the athletes. The graduate residence will be used similarly, with high-rent replacing low-rent housing. As well, the Olympic eviction tradition will be continued. With the end to university grants, York, like any corporation, has to seek out extra income sources. A possible 'Molson Indy', like the one at the CNE, has been suggested. The use of York lands for outdoor concerts, has also been sug-

gested, with the restriction that no members of the Council of York Student Federation executive be involved in the organization.

(4) Parking, long a problem at York, will be greatly reduced once the students are gone. The empty parking lots, and the presently wasted green space, will be rented out by the administration for industrial/commercial development.

(5) The Tait-MacKenzie Building is slated to be converted into a health spa. These facilities will be used as bargaining gifts to entice those looking to develop York

Although no student groups have had access to the report, some sources have indicated that possibly in its absence the CYSF and its executive will be most effective as a student government.

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