

A survivalist's guide to York



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The changing face of York

By PAUL O'DONNELL and STUART ROSS

The trembling neophyte wades through the concrete slabbage of York University, his first day on the campus a baffling nightmare. Spotting what appears to be a self-assured veteran, the neophyte approaches and asks directions. The seasoned York student rises to his full height, preparing to take the innocent under his wing—when suddenly he realizes that even he can't answer the question.

Every September, the York campus has undergone so many changes that the returning students often find themselves as lost as the rookies. Departments move from building to building, new edifices rise mysteriously from the Downsview wastelands, Wednesday's Turkey Steakette special is replaced with Honeyed Yak Nuggets. In short, York's 600-acre sprawl can be mighty intimidating to all its inhabitants.

How, then does one make sense of the York campus? A map is essential, and so is a good pair of shoes. You can find a map in the CYSF's

(York's student government) student handbook, *Manus*. That is, if you can find the CYSF office (try 105 Central Square). *Manus* also contains a phone directory, some upbeat propaganda, and a dictionary of most everything York has to offer—from A to Z, including CREQ, DIAR, YES, CLASP, BOG, WOB and even EOB.

All roads here lead to the Ross Building, the monolithic central structure that houses classrooms, offices, banks, retail stores and eating and drinking locations. Ross also holds the notorious Bearpits, which are safer than they sound. There used to be all sorts of concerts, political rallies and debates held in these sunken sections of Central Square, but these events were banned from the Pits in recent years, and now the Bearpits are just a good place to sit while poring through your trusty *Manus*.

Just about every day, you'll find up to a dozen tables set up in Central Square. There you'll find, among the entrepreneurs, represen-

tatives of various campus political, religious, ethnic and cultural organizations. So go join a club or two. They provide great methods of putting off doing your already-overdue essays. And you can make all sorts of friends.

The Ross Building also contains the Scott Library, where you can listen to tapes and records, watch films, or just curl up with the latest in print.

A key location to be familiar with if you want to figure out where to go or what to do, is the Office of Student Affairs, located adjacent to the Green Machines, near the West escape route from the haute cuisine Central Square Cafeteria. This office will direct you, answer even your dumbest questions, or at least send you off to another office that *can*.

There are seven colleges splashed around the Keele campus. Each college strives to create a unique identity. Their approaches to student government, culture and education vary. If you don't specifically choose a college when you apply to York, the powers that be just throw you into one at random, or according to which (if any) college tutorial you've enrolled in. Your college will provide you with plenty more choice locations to hang out in and will also offer you a place where you can feel a sense of

community amid the faceless horde threatening to split the campus wide open.

Once you've plunged on a little further into the year, you'll probably want to know about a few of the other services offered here at York. First of all, there's the Campus Connection, a service that provides peer counselling—they'll help you cope with a wide variety of day-to-day and personal problems. CLASP is a legal aid service that will provide you with certain legal advice, help you become familiar with your legal rights, and provide support in court. Another nifty service is the Writing Workshop. The folks there will help you with any essay-writing problems you might have. They won't compose your paper for you, but they'll help you structure it, help you with your writing style, and explain the intricacies of footnotes and bibliographies.

Once the dust settles, and you start to fall into the routine of things, getting the knack of begging your teachers for extensions, getting used to the Yak Nuggets, catching all the new tunnel graffiti, you'll be glad you came to York.

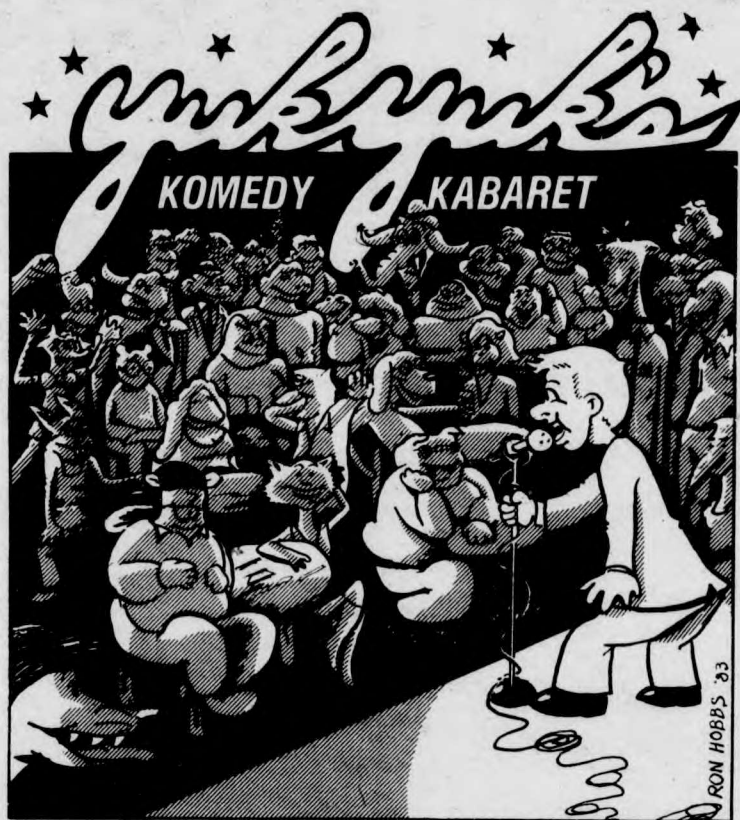
And remember, there are 40,000 students at York and 685 acres of land. That gives each student .01 acres of space. Enough to pitch a tent.



Peace, love & Excalibur.

This year's editors (pictured above) invite you to explore the groovy world of journalism. Dust off your beads and pay us a visit at 111 Central Square, the office of York U's Communal Newspaper.

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