

## Crowded classrooms may exceed fire code limits

By LIDIA CABRAL

Fire marshals are presently examining the occupancy rate of York classrooms and lecture halls in order to determine whether the number of students exceeds the limits set by the fire code.

The examinations are part of an investigation conducted by the Department of Occupational Health and Safety Services at York, and are in response to a report on fire safety in university buildings, devised by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). A set of advisory objectives on fire safety were outlined in a statement sent to all York University Faculty Association (YUFA) full-time members, to clearly illustrate what standards of classroom sizes are considered safe.

In the report, YUFA members were reminded that:

-Faculty members should be aware that overcrowding in classrooms is illegal and should any students be injured because of overcrowding in the case of a fire, for instance, the faculty member in charge of the classroom could be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties.

-For fixed-seat classrooms, the basic rule is that maximum proper occupancy is one person per seat.

-For non-fixed-seat classrooms, the number of occupants is determined by the size of the room. The rule is one person per 1.85 sq.m. of area in the room. For laboratories, the rule is one person per 4.60 sq.m. of area in the room.

-Faculty members who have any doubt concerning occupancy load in classrooms should report conditions in writing to appropriate university officials (e.g., the safety officer). If

the occupancy load is in fact illegal, faculty members should contact municipal building and fire inspectors, and/or cancel classes.

-In all cases, a written report of steps taken should be made, and filed with the university administration and the faculty association.

According to Howard Epstein, Executive Director of OCUFA, the statement to faculty should encourage professors to report unsafe classroom conditions to university administrators.

The OCUFA investigation into safety standards was prompted by complaints made by professors to find out whether they would be liable for any accidents students may endure during an emergency situation such as a fire. Epstein noted that professors who are unaware of the safety regulations of a classroom size are not liable for the offense, but that the blame would fall on the university. He added however, that "if professors, know that their classrooms are overcrowded and do not report that they pose safety problems, then they are liable as well as the university."

David Kurosky, Director of Occupational Health and Safety Services at York, said that although he knows of no incidents of overcrowded complaints made by professors to find out whether they would be liable until complete data is collected from the investigation.

## ANALYSIS

# Rising to the occasion

By WARD CLEAVER

In the sexually enlightened '80s, great strides have been made in the discussion of sexually related issues and concerns in North America and western Europe. The forums provided by Dr. Ruth Westheimer, and phone-in talk shows like 'Talking Sex With Sue,' have led to a higher level of sexual awareness and understanding, all in the name of "better sex."

In the 1950s, pregnancy, and even more so abortion, were taboo phrases on and off the airwaves. Homosexuality, as a regular theme of a television show, did not appear on weekly TV until 'Brothers' in 1986. Even then, it appeared on radical, alternative stations, and not on the mainstream ones.

The frank and beneficial discussions of abortion, pre-menstrual syndrome, bulimia, and anorexia indicate the extent of sexual education and sophistication. Progress in pay equity and job status of women are government responses to the enlightenment. Even TV, the most banal indicator of public attitudes, views tampon and feminine hygiene ads regularly. The plague-like menace of AIDS has, in a perverse way, helped to make (force) the public (to be) more sexually aware.

Despite the rise in sexual consciousness, the growth is too one-sided, says a noted sexual therapist/

researcher. Dr. Richard Shafto, head of the Babe Ruth Sexual Research Clinic, cites the absence of male sexual concerns, as opposed to female ones, on the public airwaves as evidence of the imbalance. An imbalance grossly favouring the attention and research dollars to female concerns. "When was the last time you saw a jock-itch ad in the middle of 'Dallas' or 'Dynasty'?" questions Dr. Shafto.

Criticizing the media for failing to equally publicize masculine sexual issues, Shafto claims that public ignorance and the resulting failure by men and women to press the government for more research into this topic, has allowed the government to not harden its promise for more research money. Shafto's most hard-pressing concern presently is ISE or Involuntary Spontaneous Erection. Because of his tight budget he has been unable to up the profile of his work, complaining that many men suffer, alone, needlessly not knowing why this happens or that they are not alone. Those men most commonly affected are between 18-35.

The doctor provided a scenario of the rise of the problem: "You're sitting in a vehicle, say travelling to work or school, and slowly you nod off to sleep. The condition is most frequent to mass transit riders, especially on subway trains and the back

of buses. Anyway, the ISE sufferer drowsily rides along with thoughts of last night's dreamgirl in his head. He awakes suddenly to find he is at his stop, but upon rising he notices that he has become a mini-circus, sort of 'Under The Little Big Top,' if you know what I mean."

Most embarrassing for first-timers, the more experienced ISE victim can usually sling a gym bag or briefcase to hide the engorged condition. It often gives the look of men getting off at their stops while playing the accordion. The problem gives rise to extreme embarrassment and mental anguish, although many victims have gone on to develop successful music careers."

Through his research at the Ruth Clinic, Shafto hopes to alleviate the pressure for those with ISE. Aside from peer counselling, he hopes to persuade bus and subway seat manufacturers to use more vibration resistant foam in their cushions. He says that the vibrations, and the "motion of the ocean" are the prime causes of ISE. Shafto is also continuing research into a secondary aspect of ISE, that is EME—Early Morning Erection.

Saying that research is as yet incomplete, but preliminary studies indicate that EME is a leading cause of lower back trouble in men, he explained that waking up "piss proud" forces those afflicted with EME to contort and swivel, hoping that the first urination of the day lands in, or near, the toilet bowl. He did, however, express satisfaction that those with EME can easily turn to the bathtub for relief, provided they rinse afterward.

Dr. Shafto did caution that many times ISE is confused with an as yet unacronymed condition known as Arousal from Suppressed Urination. He said that through his work many men have found relief and satisfaction, releasing a lot of pent-up stress. But he warned that this work will not continue without a rise in his funding. "Getting funds for my work involves incredible 'hard' and 'soft' selling techniques. You wouldn't believe how hard it is to arouse the members of society to the desperation of the situation."

With his remaining budget dollars, Shafto plans to raise a group to do some hard lobbying for the cause. "It's hard work, and you're often alone up against it, but to know you're making a dent in society is thanks enough," Shafto concluded. Donations in hard and soft currency can be deposited in an envelope and sent to the Babe Ruth Sexual Research Clinic, Stiffy-on-the-Wain, England, or phone 111-1111 for more information.

## York goes under the dome

By REUBEN KINCAID

After much deliberation between York administration and the Government of Ontario, a final proposal has been hammered out that will allow the Ghermazian brothers (the builders of the West Edmonton Mall) to dome the campus of York University.

The final draft states that the entire campus will be covered by an inflatable rubber latex material, much like the bubble at the Tennis Centre. Described one York executive, "It will be air pressurized and heated." Said another, "The heating and snow removal costs will be significantly reduced."

The doming of the campus is the result of the provincial government's attempt to save money. When *Excalibur* contacted David Peterson he said that the tremendous cost saving will contribute to the province's deficit reduction.

The Ghermazian brothers were commissioned in February '86 to draft a proposal which was handed in to Gregory Sorbara (former Min-

ister of Colleges and Universities) and which was in turn accepted and approved last week.

The response from students and staff has generally been positive. One student, Jim Smith, a major in Leisure and Apathy, pointed out that tunnels can now be built above ground since it will not rain or snow on campus anymore. Smith also stated that this will save the Universities Tunneling Commission (UTC) millions of dollars, which is what the government wants.

The opposition to the dome comes mainly from the students of Stong and Bethune colleges. Their claim is that going back to residence without the clawing wind will not be the same if the dome goes through. The administration thinks that it has also found a solution to this problem. The Ghermazian brothers were asked to develop a giant fan that will be placed between Stong and Bethune to create "favourable conditions" for the people living in these residences.

The most favourable response has come from the Fine Arts Department. Each student has pledged to help paint the dome in their spare time. This means that the job will be finished quickly.

When *Excalibur* approached Drew McCreadie, President of the CYSF, and asked him what he thought of the dome he replied, "huh!"

Harry Arthurs has come upon a brilliant scheme to help offset the cost of the dome. "In addition to adding one thousand dollars to every student's tuition, we are going to sell box seats to the general public. This way they will be able to see the delicate workings of the university inside and out in the comforts of a climate-controlled environment. This will also promote interaction with York and the public," Arthurs explained.

Three cheers to the York executive, the provincial government, and the Ghermazian brothers to a job well done. Now all we have to do is find a name for the dome.

### ERRATUM:

• In last week's editorial, "The foreign student dilemma," the Vancouver Board of Trade estimated that foreign students bring in \$500 million worth of business, not \$500,000 as reported.

• In the article entitled "Agreement ratified by union," the basic wage rate which security officers receive is \$10.66 per hour, not \$11.28 as reported last week.

• *Excalibur* would also like to apologize to readers and Environmental Studies students involved in the recycling programme for transposing the third paragraph in the middle of the second paragraph in the story entitled "Students push for recycling." Our regrets for any problems this may have caused.

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## WINTERS COLLEGE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 1987

TUESDAY, 1st  
POETRY READING—K. Sherman  
5:00 p.m., Senior Common Room

JAZZ ORCHESTRA CONCERT  
7:30 p.m., Senior Common Room

THURSDAY, 3rd  
JAZZ BASH  
5:00 p.m., Senior Common Room

FRIDAY, 4th  
WINTERS STUDENT COUNCIL  
DINNER/DANCE  
6:00 p.m. Senior Common Room/  
Master's Dining Hall

MONDAY, 7th  
FELLOWS' LUNCHEON  
12 noon to 2:00 p.m., Master's Dining Hall

THURSDAY, 10th  
FELLOWS' CHRISTMAS PARTY  
5:30 p.m., Master's Dining Hall/  
Senior Common Room

FRIDAY, 11th  
I.V.F. CHRISTMAS PARTY  
7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Senior Common Room

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