

PERSPECTIVE

BY ROB CASTLE

York's Paper Chase

Imagine there are hordes of you out there contemplating applying to law school just as I was a year ago. Having finished my fifth week at Osgoode, I thought it might be helpful to give some insight into the mysteries locked away in York's version of *Paper Chase*.

But I immediately was unsure how best to unlock those mysteries. Should I write about the

LSAT and how to prepare for it or should I describe the fear I experienced waiting to hear if some law school would give me the chance I'd always dreamed about? The ways to approach the subject seemed endless until last Thursday when I received a letter from an American friend studying first year law at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland.

It was the answer I'd been looking for. My friend, Carla, was extolling the experiences of the initiate studying law. As I was writing back to her I realized the best way to tell you about law school was to share our correspondence with you. (I hope Carla won't mind!)

"Dear Rob,

... I had to stay up all night on Thursday, writing and typing a memo for my research class... Everything must be catching up with me, as I have not been feeling well the last three or four days, (feeling) mostly shaky, lethargic and weak. That's why I'm staying in on a Saturday night. I usually start off the week in good shape, but by Tuesday night I have realized that it's hopeless to try to stay caught up with the week's work, so I just hold my breath and pray to God I don't get called on in whatever particular class I haven't done the reading for..."

"Dear Carla,

... It is absolutely impossible to keep up with everything during the week. You start off on a high (comatose high, that is) Monday morning. If all went well on the week-end, and it rarely does, then you've spent two days working and getting caught up on the previous week's work. This, you foolishly feel, is going to carry you through the first half of the new week. HAA!!!! By Monday night you realise

you're behind and the catch-up game starts.

Monday evenings are hell. The next day I have all my courses. If I'm lucky I can call it a night around 2:00 a.m. By the end of the day on Tuesday, death, however painful, would be a blessing. Who has the energy to carry on and read for yet another day of classes? (Besides, you never understand the damned cases anyway.) Wednesday and Thursday you do your best to coast until Thursday night when you begin to feel human again and be up to reading for the two classes on Friday morning.

Ah, the week-end returns. Peace, you think, re-enters your life and you can relax. Foolish you. Friday night is the beginning of the catch-up cycle. A social life is now a thing of the past. Parties are no longer fun get-togethers, but are study sessions with your legal cohorts.

When does it all end? One might be flippant enough to suggest in three years, but who wants to be flippant? It never ends, or it finally does when you retire from the bench in 50 years. Carla, our introductory text referred to studying law as a "high adventure." I see it rather as a gradual process of mental deterioration!..."

So there you have it—the inside scoop on law school. Now, you're probably saying that I'm exaggerating, that it can't possibly be that bad, that I'm just trying to scare you. Well, whatever the case might be, I don't think I would have missed these past four weeks for anything. If law school is nothing else, it's a test of all the skills you've ever developed and definitely worth experiencing.

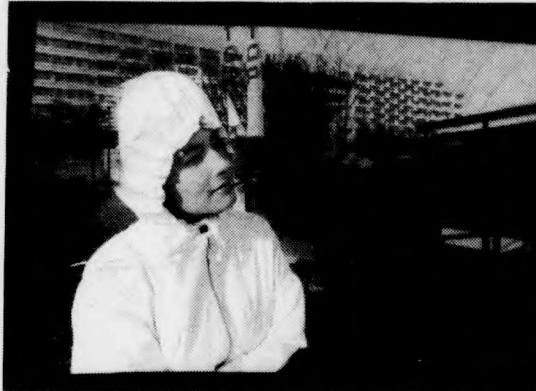
Rob Castle, a first-year student at Osgoode, was last year's CYSF Academic Affairs Director

QUESTION ENGINE

REPELLENT EDITION

By LISA OLSEN

"Should York build a student centre, and (b), Have you ever had a knuckle sandwich?"



Ceri Marsh, Film I
"Yes, we need a centre that everyone can use, not just the ethnic groups. (b) At age 8, Todd Chase punched me in the stomach at a baseball game. He didn't like me too much."



Steve Algra, Psychology III
"Yes, for the size of the University it would help in unifying the students. (b) Once, a few years ago. Eight guys in Hamilton decided to beat me and my friend up."



Paula Riberro, Biology Grad
"What we need is better cafeterias, better food and lower prices. If the student center would provide that, then sure. (b) At age 7, I once stole a girl's lunch—her sandwich. She didn't like that and tried to beat me up."



Kleber Da Silva, Public Policy/Administration I
"Yeah, definitely, because of the crowded conditions. (b) Sure, for wearing a hat once in grade 3. Also, I was usually the guy who took the blame for everything—I liked being the underdog."

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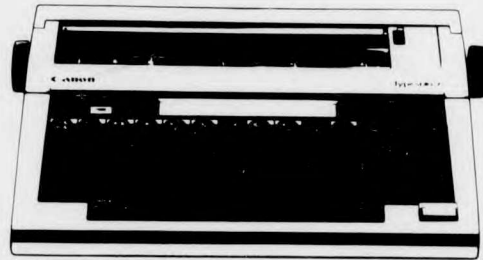
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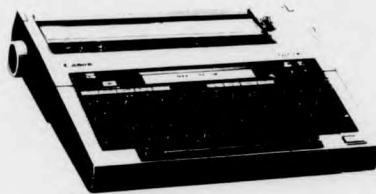
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