



photo by Tim Clark

Fans Flock to Founders Follies

By BARRY LERNER

Originally, this was going to be a light hearted story concerning "one of the biggest things (in entertainment) to happen on campus this year." The event, Founders Follies, however, turned out to be the ugliest thing here in years. It left nobody looking good.

An hour before the show, the crowd stretched half way down the Founders common room. Spurred on by publicity from the outside press and radio; announcements by Radio York; publicity in EXCALIBUR predicting protests and asking for boycotts; and by the chance to have a rousing time here on campus, the crowd eventually swelled to about 500.

The temperature in the jammed area rose and the crowd noisily demanded entrance. They had come to see a show and they were about to get one.

The show had originally been advertised as an amateur contest. Organizer Chris Webber explained no girls from York would enter so he hired two professionals.

York security had brought in three extra men in addition to the two who regularly patrol the college area. Webber had hired about ten students to help set up the show and help on security if needed and the entire Founders college council was present to help.

Finally, the first person — a girl — was admitted and the rush was on. The tables filled in about fifteen minutes and the bartender said he was doing "a good business."

The band started to play and the waiting crowd, still about 300 people, thought the shows was starting without them. They were hot and irritable and, demanding entrance, just pushed past the security guards. The hall was now filled with about 400 paid admissions and 250 crashers who jammed the back.

The first stripper, Miss Georgia Peach, was introduced, the lights went down and she started her act.

Meanwhile, at the back, North York Fire Platoon Chief Charles Dawson arrived and promptly lost his temper.

He looked at the crowd jamming the back. He looked at the doors which had been locked from the outside. He ordered the show stopped, the doors opened, and the people without chairs be cleared from the room.

Then the fire crews responding to the alarm arrived. They had had trouble getting their equipment through the emergency fire routes which were jammed with cars.

It took about an hour to clear the hall and have the doors opened. York security guards removed their chains and padlocks.

Chief Dawson told us he had been called in by the press. He did not mind the crowd sitting in the hall and only wanted the routes cleared, exit doors unlocked, and overflow crowd removed. He said he thought there was a danger of fainting in the common room because of the crowd, which he estimated at about 500.

When he was satisfied as to the safety of the crowd, he left and permitted the show to go on. The crowd, which had vigorously shouted the overflow out, was raring to go.

Georgia Peach reappeared, the lights went down, the band went up and the show was on.

"Take it off Georgia!"
 "Alright, I'll take it off. Are you ready?"
 "Hurry up Georgia."
 "I'll be right there."
 "Hey Georgia, c'mere."
 "Don't you dare you dirty old man."

(The press was able to catch all of this as they had astutely reserved themselves a front row table before the show.)

Finally, Georgia showed all and the crowd roared its approval. They were having the good time they came for.

The next act consisted of a male per-

formance and the acting out of a popular ballad. This did not go over too well with the crowd. They wanted to see Georgia's red haired friend.

The skit did not finish as Founders council president Bob Thompson appeared on stage and asked that the lights be turned up. Over

the roar of the crowd which didn't want another interruption, he ordered that the hall be cleared. He said a woman had called the main gate and told the guard a bomb would explode in the dining hall in fifteen minutes.

At first, many did not believe him and started hollering for their money. However, realizing there is an easy way and a hard way to prove the story, they quickly cleared the hall. There was some initial pushing and shoving at the back but this ended quickly.

As a standard precaution, Founders Senior Tutor John Priestly ordered that police be called to conduct a search. By the time the dining hall and common room were cleared, the bomb should have gone off ten minutes before. By the time the one police sergeant arrived it should have gone off three-quarters of an hour before.

Many people stood around demanding their money back. The common room looked as if a bomb had gone off. Paper, beer bottles and "balloons" littered the floor.

The rest of the show of course, was cancelled and the hangers-on, after realizing they weren't getting a refund that night, finally went home.

The show left a lot of bad feeling. The people who came reacted to the long hot wait and started pushing and shoving. They had little patience for delays and wanted to see nothing but the strippers.

The press built up the protest aspect of the contest and the whole thing suffered from over-publicity.

People against the contest, women's lib, did not make many friends. Many felt they overstepped their rights to protest in ripping down signs and trying to get a boycott going.

Before the bomb threat, a group of about 25 people, opposed to the show, did not like a comment made on Radio York and went up to the studio to demand an apology. The protest was not violent and the announcer apologized.

However, as one of the RY staff member remarked, 25 people storming into a radio station that is on the air cannot be considered an orderly or well-meaning protest.

Founders Council and Chris Webber will take the brunt of any criticism handed out. They had no idea that that many people would show up to the show and were just not prepared for it.

Council president Bob Thompson said he thought they were "not under any obligation to put on (another) show or return money." He pointed out it was not their fault that those who crashed the show caused a delay or that some threatened to blow the place up. He explained a show was put on even though it was abbreviated.

Although money for the unused bar tickets might be refunded, it is doubtful that any money for admission tickets will be given back. There is little possibility that the show will be completed or another show held.

Webber said he will probably lose \$50 for the night. He had to pay the strippers, band and student help. He didn't expect the huge crowd and suspected it was due to all the publicity.

Complimenting those present he said, "It was a pretty good crowd for all the shit they had to take." He didn't think a noisy, boisterous crowd is a bad crowd.

He wouldn't mind doing another show but concludes, "It's impossible."

"A telephone in the hands of an idiot," sets up the possibility that it could happen at any function held here, he said. He would not want to try again under those conditions.

Thus the Founders Follies ends in bitterness, suspicion and confusion.

Follies Forum

Open letter to Chris Webber

Well, Chris, I saw in the Toronto Star last week-end that you lost fifty bucks on your gala strip show, but gained a "lot of experience". I couldn't help wondering when I read that, just what experience you indeed gained from that horrendous evening. Did you find out that strip shows on campuses, especially the York campus, are potentially magnate-making ventures, with a little careful planning and a few more security measures?

Did you discover that the combination of beer and zipper-bursting guys is a virgin market, ready to be screwed by horny entrepreneurs like yourself?

Or did you stand in the deserted Founders' dining hall late Thursday night, amidst the litter of soggy safes and the stale odour of spent semen, a lonely Hamlet, suffering the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune"?

Well Chris, I too, gained a lot of experience that evening but I think it was a lesson of a different nature. I learned something too, standing in Founders' JCR, watching a million members of this community of scholars rub back and forth against one another in a kind of mass masturbation, passing blown-up condoms overhead, mouths dripping, pants dripping, with greasy hands and glassy eyes, waiting for the hairy goodies.

I learned that something in our world has gone very horribly awry, when a woman has to be reduced to a worm wriggling on the hook of all those wretched phalluses in at-

tendance. I felt a kind of desperation there, that evening, when one boy told me that there was nothing wrong with strip shows but God help his wife if she ever got up on stage to perform for those people. Or when another boy asked me "What have you done for apathy here at York? When have you ever seen people so "together" here before?"

I regret, in a way, that the show could not go on Chris, although I am not sorry you lost money. I do not know who called in the bomb scare, but whoever it was should have realized that the goal was not to get the show stopped, but to get the mentality stopped, that produces shows like that. That is why the people who protested the whole sordid mess didn't appeal to the strippers not to perform. It's not their fault. It's your fault, Chris, and people like you who think it's a lark to watch a woman turned into a titillating robot, bumping and grinding for sweaty grins and cheap jokes.

It was a pyrrhic victory, then, for people like myself, because we hoped, foolishly, I suppose, that dignity and a sense of humanity could have defeated bare breasts going at the rate of a buck a piece. But, we were only naive Davids, to think that we could kill a Goliath like you. My only source of consolation is that for the thousand or so creeps that showed up in Founders last week, maybe there were another thousand that stayed away in protest. Anyway, Chris, you lost fifty bucks on the deal. It couldn't happen to a nicer fellow.

Wendy Dennis

Down with Womens Lib.

How absurd the Women Lib. is! How ridiculous can EXCALIBUR be! Hail Chris Webber for having enough guts to go ahead, despite weeks of threats by the Women Lib., and put on a night full of festivities. Was it fair for the "Group of Concerned Individuals," who so cowardly fail to identify themselves, to spoil an evening full of enjoyment for about 500-600 students (male and females)?

They sure did a good job of giving the type of publicity we the York Community do not need. First they aid in crashing in. Then they call the fire department to clear the hall. The fire marshal seeing how much everybody was enjoying themselves let the show go on after the crashers were removed.

They wrote "Some of us are not enjoying ourselves tonight. Some of us are enraged."

Yes they were enjoying themselves very much. They could not stop the show by calling the fire department so they phoned in a Bomb Threat and finally succeed in having the hall cleared.

We want to live in a society that is able to make its own choice of what to do and what to see any time it pleases and not to have a group threaten it if it does not do what the group advocates. Threats should not be encouraged by anyone in "building a humanized society."

To the "group of concerned individuals" — we protest.

Greg Costa
 Founders College III

Ed. Note: it has been established that "The Group of Concerned Individuals" neither phoned in the bomb threat nor the fire department.