

## Letter gives lead in tear gas incident

By GARY SYMONS

An organization calling itself Anarchists for a Constructive Society delivered a letter to *Excalibur* this week justifying the tear gas detonation in the Ross Building last Thursday.

"This was not a vindictive vandalous act," the letter states. "Rather it was an effort to make those laggards among York's student body more aware of the true situation of repression and oppression as it exists in our world today."

The letter, which is now in the hands of the police, goes on to say that the tear gas was meant as a protest against nuclear weapons, pollution, and "other indigestible forms of waste allowed to enter our system by those proponents of the capitalist machine."

The writers ask us to contemplate nuclear war if "simple harmless tear gas could bring so much misery to our little campus."

But although the letter is a strongly worded message of protest, at no point do its writers specifically claim responsibility for setting off the tear gas.

Aside from the letter, police still have no suspects or leads in the case.

Two people, a male and female, were apprehended at the scene Thursday, but were released after questioning. No charges were laid.

Staff Sergeant Edward Hegney, of 31 Division, said "We have no evidence at all. We arrested them only because they were near the area with gas masks." He added however, that the two regularly carry gas masks and canisters of water with them.

Hegney said he suggested sending the pair's clothing to the police lab for laser tests to search for chemical deposits, but there was insufficient grounds for the tests.

Hegney said the two were sent to York-Finch hospital for psychiatric evaluation, but a staff doctor there said "it wasn't needed."

Police won't know the source of the canister until forensic testing is completed, Hegney said. Even then, Hegney said, it is unlikely police will ever find out where it came from. "There are numerous manufacturers of the gas and the canisters have no traceable manufacturer's serial numbers," he said.

Metro police said although normal finger printing techniques failed to show results, they are hoping laser detection facilities at the Ontario Provincial Police identification bureau will be able to lift fingerprints off the canister.

Metro police are also investigating a possible link between the York incident and a similar tear gas bombing at the Amherst campus of the State University of New York in Buffalo last Friday.

According to police, the canister used in the Buffalo bombing will be closely analyzed and compared to that used at York, but Sgt. Warren Lindsay, of 31 Division Investigation bureau, believes the canister used in Buffalo was of a different type.

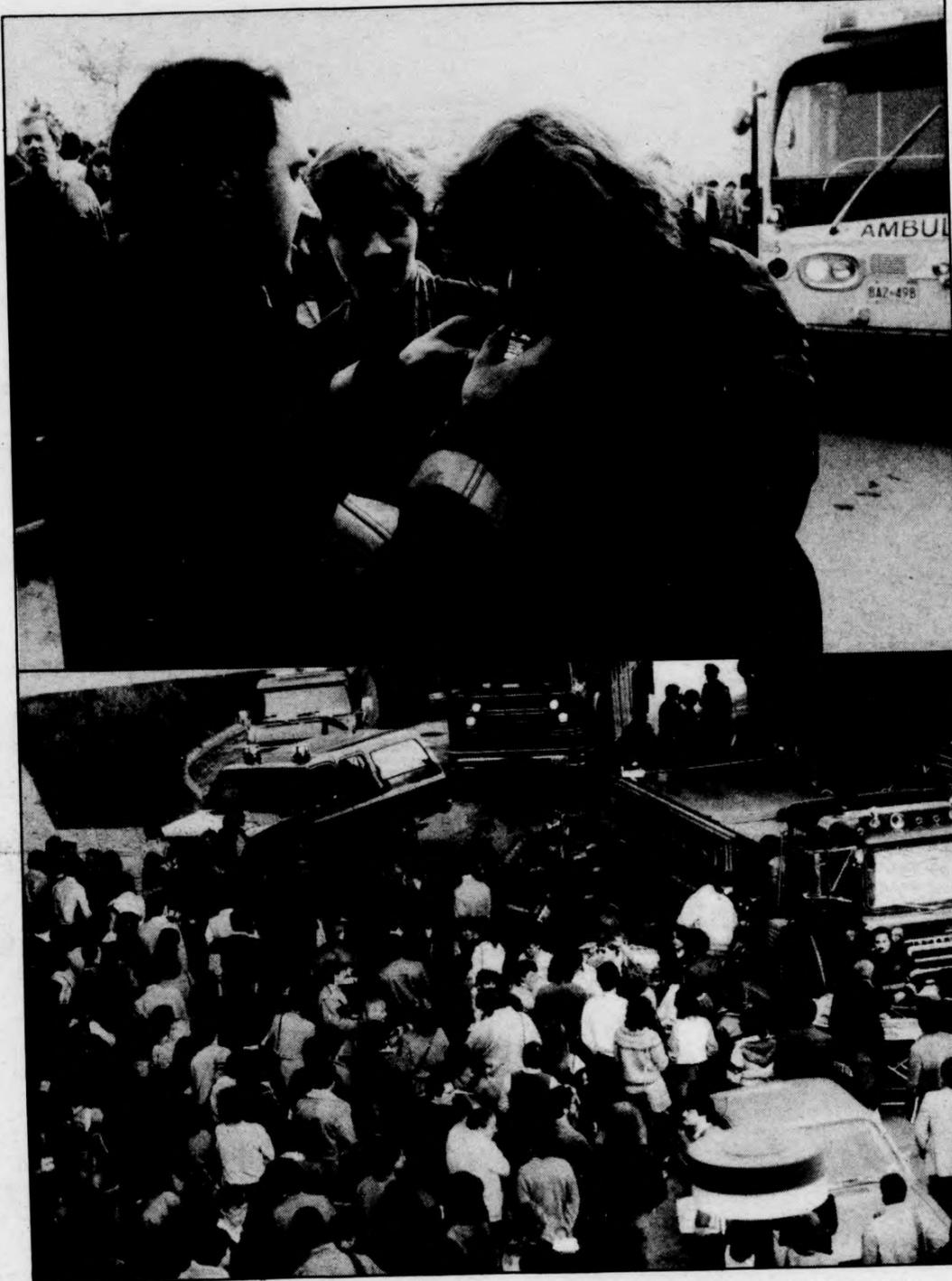
The grounds outside Ross building resembled a battle zone after the single tear gas canister was set off at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Panic-stricken students and faculty members poured onto the grounds as the acrid gas spread throughout the building. Emergency vehicles arrived minutes later.

About 100 people were sent to several hospitals throughout Metro suffering from eye and throat irritations, while another 50 were treated at the scene.

Two victims were held overnight for treatment at Branson hospital for intense nausea and intake of gas and released on Friday. There were no serious injuries.

Law and Society student Suzette Gotha, 23, was one of the first victims taken to hospital. She said she was speaking to a professor on the seventh floor when the fire alarm went off. She said after some



A North York fireman gives a stricken student oxygen, while a curious crowd gathers around emergency vehicles parked under the ramp during last Thursday's tear gas incident.

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Chaos reigned on campus at the height of last Tuesday's blizzard. While motorists were urged not to drive, TTC service lapsed and students were left out in the cold. Two passersby help rescue a snowbound motorist.

## Bomb threat at York

By BERNARDO CIOPPA

A bomb threat at Stedman Lecture Halls Friday may be connected to the tear gas detonation at York a day earlier, police say.

At about 1 p.m. Friday, York's Campus Connection, a counseling and referral service, received a call from a woman warning of a bomb in Stedman set to go off at 2:30 that afternoon.

Police said they searched the area and found no bomb. An evacuation was not ordered. "It could be a copycat prank of the tear gas incident," said investigating officer Sgt. Warren Lindsay, of 31 division.

"We took appropriate action, searching the building thoroughly and were satisfied that there was nothing in there," said York's Safety and Security Director George Dunn.

Cindy Dobbs, a Campus Connection counselor and first-year Faculty of Arts student, said she was on duty that day and took the call.

Dobbs said the female caller asked if there was "a building on York

campus called Stedman Lecture Halls." Dobbs said she believed the caller was lost and asked if she wanted to be directed to Stedman.

"No, I just wanted to tell you that someone may put a bomb there (in Stedman) at 2:30," said the caller.

Dobbs said she believes the caller is associated with York because "very rarely do people from outside York community know about Campus Connection unless they're involved with the university."

Dunn, who called the bomb threat a "nuisance" and "disruptive," said the caller wanted publicity. "We want to keep it (the bomb threat) as quiet as possible because some people get it in them that it's a great idea. Some people get gratification out of it," he said.

As well as being a "nuisance," Dunn said bomb threats are time consuming. "We lost a half day because of it," he said.

Sgt. Lindsay said York "can probably expect more of these copycat pranks."