

Emergency Services Centre - 3333

University

Bizarre to routine situations found on campus

Fire station makes 10% per cent of calls to York

What do you do with a disoriented man who's filled his bathtub with mud, is baking clay in the oven, and lighting a fire in the middle of his living room — all because some hydro lines are interrupting his television conversation with the Beatles?

If you're one of the men at Number 10 Fire Hall you first put out the fire, see that the man gets some medical help, and then add the story to your collection of bizarre episodes common to any fire fighter.

Two years later you reminisce about it and by then you can laugh.

You can laugh too at the fellow who fell asleep with a pot of stew on the stove forcing you to come in to let him know it had finished cooking, or wonder at the mentality that prompted someone to douse a car's interior with acid.

What you can't laugh at is the student who was killed when he ran his Volkswagen into your truck as you rush to answer a false alarm at York.

Past headaches

Recently dubbed the "playpen of North York" by a downtown fire chief, York has caused headaches and given a lot of work to the men at Number 10. The incidents cited above all originated at the university.

Located on Keele Street across from the campus, the firehall receives an average of eight calls a month from York, down considerably from a year or two ago when it sometimes got several a night.

In 1969, firemen were called in four times the same night to a college residence on false alarms. On the fourth they evacuated the building, bringing students into the wet cold the men had raced through.

It wasn't typical, but as fireman Phil Williams explained: "We didn't even have time to get back to the hall on one run before we had to turn around. It was freezing rain that night; the captain had to lean over the windshield dousing it with antifreeze so I could see where I was going. And it didn't help our mood any having to wash the trucks after each run."

But things have improved. In an interview Tuesday the men on shift said they "used to run in there a lot" but that most calls now are legitimate.

Coming out of 'playpen' era

Most of the bugs are out of the alarm systems causing fewer false alarms from mechanical failures, and general nuisance calls have dropped as the campus comes out of the "playpen" era.

Relations with the university are good, they said, with both staff and students. Any false alarms are dangerous to both the firemen and the public should a real fire break out, but the drop in such incidents has improved the men's impressions of York.

And according to Captain Byard Donnelly: "You can't just blame it on the students . . . a lot of false alarms are pulled by drunken guests or others visiting the campus and they're not all young."

In 1970 students in McLaughlin College sent the men a couple of cases of beer for their Christmas party as a peace offering after a rash of false alarms at the college. That helps.

Most of the 44 men at the hall have been there since it opened in 1969, and many were coming to York from other stations from the day the university opened.

Two major fires

So far there have only been two major fires at York — at McLaughlin and the Ross Building when both were under construction. But there are also calls for resuscitators, inspections and minor fires that make up much of a fireman's work.

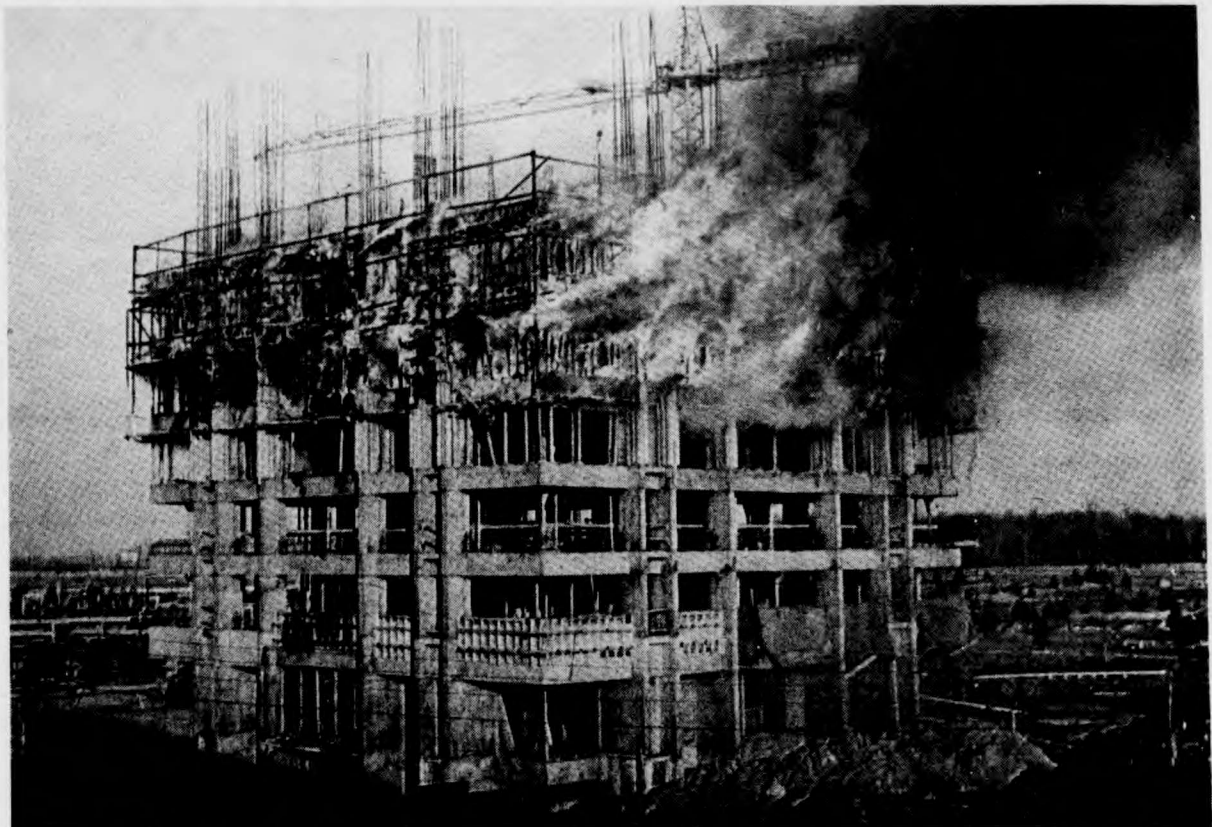
Between calls, they spend their time at the station on drills and training programs, general maintenance, recreation or, at night, sleep.

Virtually all cleaning, cooking, and maintenance of the building and equipment is done by the men themselves. At Number 10, they've bought their own televisions, set up a canteen and added a refrigerator to the basic necessities provided by the North York Fire Department.

A library of reference texts on everything from hydrolics, to building construction and chemistry is provided by the Fire Fighters Association.

Cross-section of skills

Each shift of 11 men is a cohesive unit that works together as a team, sometimes for years. And with the varied background of the men, there is usually a cross-section of ex-



Fire destroyed the top two floors of McLaughlin College residence in 1968 while the building was under construction. Since then, Number 10 Hall of the North York Fire Department has opened across Keele St. from York. Ten per cent of the calls answered by the hall originate on campus, and some firemen feel they deserve a degree for the time spent here.

perience and skills to draw on.

Firemen can join the profession up to the age of 30 or more, and the men interviewed Tuesday had been variously policemen, tradesmen, businessmen and mechanics.

North York employs 480 firefighters, with another few thousand in other parts of Metro. With the highest death and injury rate of any occupation, the men must be skilled professionals with sound knowledge and training in

several fields.

Twenty years ago, hazards such as radioactive materials, plastics and chemical compounds were unknown, and the developing technology forces the men to constantly update their ability to deal with new products in emergency situations.

So there's little time, they claim, for boredom to set in between calls.

And last year with the expansion of York and development of

residential-industrial complexes in the area they answered 1067 calls, an increase of more than 20 per cent.

But one of their main responsibilities is still the university with its day-time population equalling that of the city of Barrie. They've been to "a lot of parties at York — unfortunately not ones we were invited to".

Said one fireman: "I've been on the campus so often over the years I'm ready to apply for a degree."

Odds & Sodds

York students take \$5000 scholarships

The Honourable George Kerr, Minister of Colleges and Universities, has announced the award of six Queen Elizabeth II Ontario scholarships to students completing their Ph.D. degrees. From York University, David Brownlow, English (thesis topic: "A Critical Study of the Poetry of John Clare") and Glenys Parkinson, Psychology (thesis topic: "The Limits of Learning: A Cognitive-Developmental Investigation") were the recipients of \$5,000 scholarships. The other four Queen Elizabeth Scholars were chosen from the Universities of Waterloo, Queen's, McMaster and Carleton.

Atkinson program meetings

Atkinson Students: The following program meetings will be held this weekend — 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saturday) computer science, mathematics; 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Quote of the week

Our regular way in arriving at our prices is to find out the cost of material and labour, and then double, to make sure of the overhead. We then add the telephone number and multiply by two. But in this case we discovered that no one but ourselves has any supply, so the price has rocketed.

A Toronto manufacturer to a buyer, qu., Dalhousie rev., 1929

(Saturday) social welfare. All interested students are invited to attend — the programs will take place in the Atkinson College Common Room.

Student theatre production

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", a production initiated by York students was performed at the Easter Seal Benefit, the Sterling Rotary Club in Sterling last week. The production was one of several put together by theatre students during the Student Project Week in January.

York-Cleveland student exchange

Twenty-four students and four faculty members from the Urban Studies Department of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland are on campus today and tomorrow for a special seminar led by York prof. Alex Murray.

Along with discussions with faculty and students from the university, they will take a bus tour of Toronto to study its layout and problems with congestion, pollution and other topics of interest.

This is a return visit by the students from CWRU. In February, 14 students and three faculty from York took part in a similar trip to Cleveland.

Census data available

The Data Bank of the Institute for Behavioural Research will be acquiring the data from the 1971 Canadian Census. This data is probably one of the most useful sets

sets of information available on Canadian society.

It will be available for use in teaching and research by both faculty and students of the university. The first series of summary tapes containing data on Enumeration Areas (a geographic area containing an average of 600 people) will arrive in June and be available to the York Community by August.

The Data Bank will make up special data sets on request for use as teaching and research tools. A complete description of the data to be received is available in Room S436, the Ross Building.

All faculty and students interested in making use of this data should have informed the Data Bank of their interest no later than April 1. Contact Ann Montgomery, Room S436, the Ross Building, or telephone 635-3026.

New business policy course

The Centre for Continuing Education begins a new course tomorrow on business policy designed specifically for those involved in long-range decision-making in the business world.

Specifically, the course is for those responsible for determining or implementing organizational strategy, and concerned about the developing concept of corporate citizenship.

The course runs through July 9. For further details, call 635-2524.

Centre unveils new spring course listing

Gambling, conversational French, creative writing and mathematics are among the topics of non-credit courses to be offered by the Centre for Continuing Education this spring.

Gambling: One Facet of Contemporary Society — one of the more popular courses in the past — will be an eight-week study of the social, psychological, mathematical and applied aspects of the topic.

Conversational French will be taught at several levels, depending on the student's competence, and will employ a variety of techniques including the use of audio-visual equipment and language labs. Placement tests for the French courses are next Tuesday and Thursday at the Glendon campus.

The 12-week mathematics course is a review in math designed to help those out of school for some time who want to improve their mathematics background.

And two other courses — Writing Workshop and English as a Second

Language — are also designed to help those returning to class or wishing to improve their use of the language.

The former will give practice in preparing and writing research essays; the latter puts particular emphasis on improving conversational and grammatical skills, and is designed for new Canadians and others.

A creative writing course beginning April 22, consists of seminars focusing on the novel and short story. Techniques of characterization, setting, plot and structure will be emphasized.

All courses at the Centre are given on a non-credit basis and are open to the public.

Those mentioned above begin in early to mid-April. For further information on the courses and registration procedures, call the Centre at 635-2501.