

# Excalibur

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## Crash! Crash! Crash!

### Two ton plaster ceiling collapses in Curtis

By AGNES KRUCHIO

A two ton plaster ceiling in one of the smaller lecture halls in Curtis collapsed early last week. The wreckage of beams and debris was discovered by a member of the cleaning staff at about 6 a.m. Monday morning.

University officials admitted that had students been in the room, they could have been seriously injured or even killed.

Discussion room 110 is frequently used by students because of its small size and convenient layout. The room was last used on Saturday by a group of film students, who vacated the room at about 5 p.m.

Representatives of the architect John B. Parkin & Associates, who had originally designed the building, the contracting firm, Varamae, and an independent inspection firm as well as the insurance company, were on hand Monday, to estimate damage and investigate the causes of the collapse.

The Curtis building utilized a fairly common construction technique: where a ceiling is suspended on hooks, in prefabricated concrete slabs. Some of the hooks are poured into the concrete, and some are drilled into it later.

Rods sustaining a grid of metal covered with paint and plaster are hung on hooks creating a floating ceiling. Some 200 such hooks came loose in the weekend collapse in what has been described as a chain reaction.

Physical plant director John K. Armour said that the Curtis Lecture Hall building which contains

14 lecture halls and discussion rooms of various sizes, has not been inspected since its construction in 1970.

"Formally a number of our staff check buildings if they can" said Armour last week, "cleaners report on anything they see, such as cracks in the wall, but we are very short staffed."

There are some 36 employees plus supervisors in the Physical Plant department.

Armour said that the exterior of buildings is inspected "less than once a year".

North York building policy is that, while every step of construction is supervised and has to be inspected by municipality inspectors, once a building has received its final OK, it is not inspected unless a formal complaint is received for buildings more than a year old. On the Thursday prior to the collapse, someone using the discussion room allegedly saw one of the light fixtures hanging, but did not report it.

According to an interim report filed Tuesday by J.P. Donald & Co. Ltd., the independent inspecting firm, the ceilings of lecture halls B & F were found to be in a weakened state, with some of the suspending rods coming loose from the concrete.

Lecture Halls A,B,C,D,E,F,G,J, and M were suspect and were not to be used unless scaffolding to sustain the ceiling was set up. This has since been done. The report also said that lecture halls H,I,K, and L were safe.

Armour said the collapse may



Two fire safety inspectors examine damage to Curtis discussion room 110 after last week's cave in.

have resulted from a number of factors: the wrong type of insert, improperly inserted hooks, shrunk concrete due to age enlarging some of the holes into which the hooks were set. It may also have been caused by vibrations resulting from doors opening and closing.

Although the vibrations from Scott Centre (Chapel) construction have not been ruled out, Armour insisted that the two were not related, since Central Square and Curtis are independent of each other and are separated by a two inch gap.

Armour said that the university

did not have enough money to repair the damaged upwards of \$10,000. In case the insurance company would not pay, someone else would have to, he said. Letters informing the contractors and architects of the collapse and possible legal action will be sent by the university, Armour said.

Reactions from the students varied. Students in Humanities 174, sitting among thick scaffolding in CLH-C Tuesday night, either thought the "whole thing was funny," or "rather disgusting".

One student speculated that there was "probably money exchanged under the table when the building was built." Another expressed his trust in providence. "I'm not worried, when I go, I go".

Still another thought that the whole thing was "unsightly."

J.P. Donald Inspection is conducting a test of other buildings and expects a final report soon.

### YUFA declared innocent

By ANNA VAITIEKUNAS

The York University Faculty Association is one step closer to certification as a union as a result of the Ontario Labour Relations Board's dismissal of coercion charges directed against YUFA chairman Jack Granatstein and professor Roger Heeler.

Claims that Granatstein had tried to coerce faculty members of administrative studies into supporting YUFA's union drive at a meeting with the members last September were taken to the Board for ruling February 12 by administrative studies professor William Jordan.

According to Jordan, Granatstein had told the faculty members that unless they joined YUFA's unionization drive, a contract affecting them would be drawn up by faculty members who "are opposed to the working conditions now existing, at FAS."

Jordan also charged that Heeler had misrepresented the Carleton faculty union salary settlement in order to validate the need for a faculty union at York.

According to Granatstein, the Labour board "categorically denied" all of Jordan's allegations.

While Excalibur was able to give coverage to the coercion charges brought before the Board that morning, press deadlines restricted total coverage of the hearings. (Excalibur apologizes to professors Granatstein and Heeler for any misunderstandings this may have caused.)

Granatstein told Excalibur, Monday, that he could see no reason for Jordan to interpret his statements at the September meeting, as an attempt to pressure faculty members into joining the union.

Granatstein said he told the Board the "true facts of what I had said" at the September

meeting. The Board "categorically denied" the allegations against him.

Heeler explained Tuesday that the differences between himself and Jordan were essentially a "difference of interpretation." Jordan has subsequently apologized to Heeler for "any inconvenience he had caused him over the union issue."

Granatstein said he expected the Board to grant YUFA union status within the next few weeks.

### Election '76

## NDP club chairman gains wide support

By JULIAN BELTRAME

In 119 Founders, Barry Edson paces nervously by the open door as two friends sit blank-eyed on classroom tables.

"Where is everybody?" asks Edson. "We've got a campaign to organize."

The Barry Edson campaign express, which just a week ago was ostensibly non-existent, came together with amazing ease this week; campaign literature ready for the presses, a platform waiting in the wings, a slate of candidates primed for action, and a troupe of workers and canvassers eager for the starting gun to sound.

In fact, the pieces had been there all along, below the surface, ready to fit into place. Most did this week with the announcement that Barry Edson, president of the NDP club at York, would seek the presidency of the CYSF. Jay Bell, rumoured to be aspiring for the office, chose instead to play second fiddle to Edson and manage his campaign.

Edson's candidacy represents a convenient marriage of principles and politics.

There is little to choose between Edson and Bell. Edson is an NDPer pedalling to the right and Bell is a Liberal pedalling to the left. Whether Edson or Bell had chosen to run, the tone, substance, and



Barry Edson.

approach of the campaign would have remained the same—only the names would have been different.

Being president of the NDP, Edson was a politically more promising candidate because he is relatively immune from the red-neck-baiting they expect from the ULC. But the Edson choice has its problems as well.

Founders president Izidore Musallam who was originally expected to support whomever would surface from the coalition of moderates decided to run for president himself.

"People talk about the apathy of the students, to me it's the apathy of the student leaders," said Musallam, referring to the Edson-Bell candidacy juggling.

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### THIS WEEK



York's hard-working Yeomen defeated Ryerson 14-2 last week to advance to the intercollegiate semi-finals. p.20

# BONUS SURVEY INSIDE

**TM in T.O.** Excalibur chats with Stephen Kirkegaard, the man behind the transcendental meditation movement in Toronto p.7

The Tories may have selected a bright, new leader but they've still got the same old Trudeau to contend with. David Saltmarsh describes last weekend's convention p.11

Dan Hill and Bruce Miller are coming to York. Evan Leibovitch savours the flavour of two blooming Canadian folk artists p.13

Exclusive interview! Excalibur sports editor Myles Davis talks with the reigning king of squash, Sharif Kahn p.20