Rejoining good ol' Class of '23

John Colter recalls making \$90 a month

By ANI PEDERIAN Herald Staff Writer Among the 25 Universlly of Toronto (U. of T.) engineers celebrating their diamond anniversary of graduation Satur-

John Colter, 85, accompanied by his son Ross. attended the 60th anniversary reunion at U. of T's Hart House.

day was a Georgetown

"I don't think we'll ever have another one," Mr. Colter said. "We're all over 80 now and we drop off fast.

The main speaker was a graduate from Costa Rica. Most of the others in attendance were from the Toronto area, he said.

Back in 1923, the school of engineering had its largest, til then, number of graduates. John Colter was among the 399 men and one woman receiving their diploma. He gradu-

aled as an electrical engineer.

Over half of them were returned soldlers, Mr. Colter said, with the average age 25 years old. The sole woman gradu-

ate went through for architecture following her engineering degree and it wasn't until 1927 that another woman engineer was graduated, he said. Mr. Colter's classmate died last year.

The son of a Lambden County farmer, he decided early on that he wasn't going to follow his father's footsteps.

"I didn't like farming and I didn't mind saying so," Mr. Colter said. DRAFTING

Knowing a draftsman, he decided to study drafting. Writing to the university, Mr. Colter asked if they offered a draftsmanship course. They wrote back that drafting was

offered as part of the engineering program. That was enough to convince him to enrol.

"The only thing I did

know was that I wasn't going back on the farm," Mr. Coller said.

Saving up his military pay during his three years during World War I in the forestry core of the Royal Canadian Armed Forces, Mr. Colter was

able to put himself through two years of university. His family put him through the last two

Out of his \$500 a year army pay, Mr. Colter paid his university fees - which were about \$15 a year -, his meals, room, clothes, washing and the occasional show.

It cost too much to board on campus, so Mr. Colter found himself a room for \$3 a week. Buying a meal booklet of 21 meals for \$5, he feasted on three-course meals at a Chinese restaurant, doing without breakfast to stretch out the meal tick-

ated, Mr. Colter found himself forced to take on a job as an apprentice.
"It was hard to get a job

-- just about as hard as it is today," he said. "The only job I could get was

He recommended gett-

so students are in good

physical shape.

When he finally gradu-

an apprenticeship and I had to take it or starve to death. There were no handouts in those days. If you didn't work, you didn't eat." For two years, Mr. the age of 65. Since then,

Colter worked at Hamilton's Westinghouse for \$90 a month.

"Nobody would work for that now," he said. "There was no union then, but workers never got fired or laid off. You weren't well paid, but you had a job for life. When your department got down, you were just shifted to somewhere else."

Mr. Colter then worked a temporary job at the University of Toronto for a year until he got his first full-time job as an engineer with Canadian National Telegraphs. Now the company is called

For 37 years, Mr. Colter worked in the engineering

department. The first engineer, to be hired, the department grew by leaps and bounds until there were 100 engineers when he retired in 1963 at the department has shrunk to about 15, Mr.

Colter said. During his years with the company, he did design work for the teletype machines. Never carning more than \$1,000 a month, Mr. Colter said he got paid in satisfaction, enjoying his work immensely.

Mr. Colter's collection of T-squares, the Indispensible tool of the engincer, was sold, but he's still got one hanging in the garage, and, on his right baby finger, he still wears his iron engineering band.

If the reunions are over, there's still the annual Christmas card from a classmate in Burlington to look forward to.

Organization, hard work key to exam success

By ANI PEDERIAN Herald Staff Writer Sorry kids, the teachers all concur there are no easy tricks to acing

exams. It's the organization, sweat and brain power

that do it. As the end of another school year approaches, to the delight of hundreds of restless young minds, so too do the miseries of

exam time. That final week of wrapping up high school courses is truly a test of

self discipline. Who wants to study when it's sunny and warm and green outside? Who wants to constrain their natural impulse to stretch and laze and hear the birds chirp?

It's not easy to be a student in spring or summer when distractions beckoning beyond the classroom window are plentiful.

What do the teachers have to say about exams to help make it easier to swallow this well-accepted conclusion to a term of

study? "I always tell my studepts to be organized," GDHS French and German teacher Ann Campbell says. "The more organized your notes are, the easier it is for you the last

few weeks." She advises students to look at their tests over the term to get a better idea of what will be on the

exam. "It helps to have a plan and divide the course, say, into eight sections, and study one or two things per evening, with a final look-over the night before," Ms. Campbell said. "However, they never do that. They study everything the night

before." Calling herself a "real browner", she sald she used to start studying at least a month before

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university exams," Ms. Campbell laughed. "I couldn't get through three hours without some kind of nourishment."

Food is very important,



TED ENGELS

and students should eat breakfast before a morning exam to get their blood-sugar level up, she

Exams at Georgetown District High School and Acton High School begin the week of June 17 and end June 24. All grades, as of last year, have to write them. Their success or failure affects their final course mark, by, at most, 30 per cent.

Town of Halton Hills.

computer sciences teacher Ted Engels said he used to take exams very seriously when he was a



ANN CAMPBELL

The worst thing studdents can do is to try to cram for an exam the night before. "You just can't do it," Mr. Engels



them six weeks in ad-

formulas over and over and I carried cards with the formulas on them," he said. "That way I could run them over in my mind."

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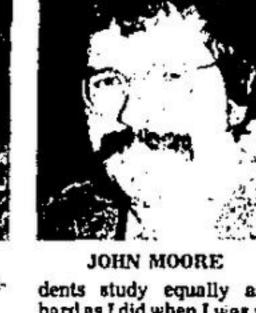
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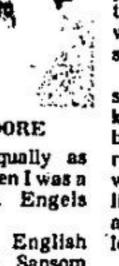
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"I used to write math



said.

dents study equally as hard as I did when I was a student," Mr. Engels

Acton High English letter of each name on the teacher Geoff Sansom

said he stresses basic ing lots of sleep a couple terms with his Grade 10 of nights before an exam, and 12 students. ORGANIZED

"Although I'm not telling them exactly what's on the exam, they have a good iden," Mr. Sansom said. "I want to see if they can get their thoughts together and organized to write something reasonably cohesive."

The Grade 12 students need to be aware of the patterns in literature so they can compare one work with another, he said.

"I have no tricks for studying English, but I knew tricks for studying blology," Mr. Sansom recalled. He said he would remember long lists of names by making a word from the first

list. "English exams don't really lend themselves for that," he said. Mr. Sansom also

suggested studying with a group of fellow students. "I found the best thing I

could do if it was a subject I wasn't confident about, was to study with a group of people," he said. "We'd spend the evening thinking up possible questions that could be on the exam and coming up with answers together.

Sometimes if you're working by yourself you have a single point of view and there might be something you missed in class and somebody else will remind you that that was an important fact or idea, Mr. Sansom said.

Computer sciences teacher John Moore ad-Continued on page At



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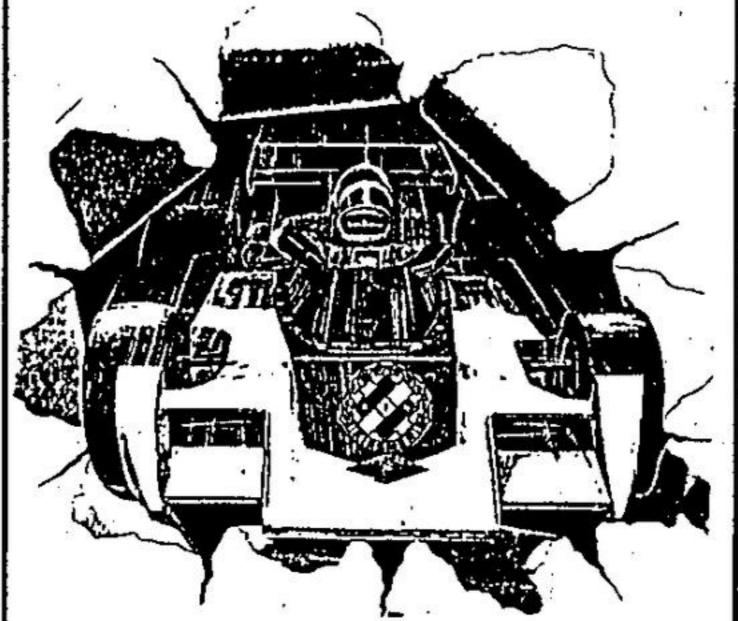
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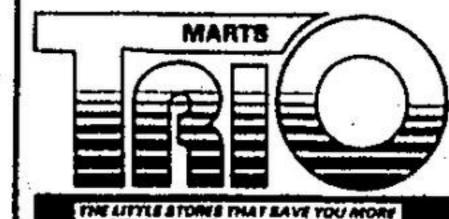
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