



ARTS NEWS

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A TRI-WEEKLY TABLOID COMPILED AND PAID FOR BY
THE FACULTY OF ARTS STUDENT CAUCUS

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Check your department's rules

Plagiarism unwanted by students or professors

The most serious faux-pas a student can commit is that of plagiarism. As defined by the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary, plagiarism is the process whereby an individual "appropriates and passes off as one's own (the writings, ideas, etc., of another)."

Defined by the Faculty of Arts here at York it assumes the dimensions of the major academic 'crime' it is regarded as. The official policy as found in the 1976-77 Calendar, at page 28, states that:

Plagiarism is the presentation of material which originates from other unacknowledged sources as the student's own work. Penalties for plagiarism are determined by individual teaching units. In severe or repeated cases the Senate may impose the Academic Penalty of Suspension.

Each year numerous students are disciplined to one degree or another for having plagiarized material. While specific statistics are not kept on record in the Office of Student Programmes, the Director, Vicky Draper, has assured me that the frequency with which plagiarism occurs is greater than the individual student believes to be the case.

Is this great frequency of plagiarism due to students becoming more shoddy in the production of academic work, or are they attributable to the increased scrutinization by professors?

If the latter be the case, an examination of individual departmental criteria as to what constitutes plagiarism must be conducted. However, such a consideration is beyond the purview and scope of this article, which seeks to point out to the student what to do if he/she is not sure of what constitutes plagiarism, or what to do if he/she has been accused by a professor or tutorial leader of plagiarizing material.

As a precautionary step each student should take it upon himself to be as well informed as possible as to what is considered plagiarism in their own department. Each department prepares a memorandum of some sort for distribution to its students early in the school year laying down therein what does and does not constitute plagiarism and what penalties the department is entitled to exercise. It behooves each student to read and re-read this memorandum so as to attain absolute clarity of departmental policy.

If difficulties should continue to manifest themselves, the student should not hesitate to approach a professor, the departmental head, an advisor, or the staff of the Office of Student Programmes for assistance.

If a student is accused of plagiarism, what should one do? Perhaps the first step is to consult with the professor or tutorial leader about the matter and try to ascertain if the alleged plagiarism does legitimately exist or whether it is merely an inadvertent error on behalf of the student. Such action can prove useful unless of course the plagiarism is so blatantly obvious that any further commentary from the student would merely



serve as an insult to the intelligence of the professor. Assuming that the alleged plagiarism is an error in the mechanics of typewriting on the part of the student then it is up to the discretion of the professor as to the next step.

The professor may decide to let the student re-submit the piece of work correctly punctuated, reduce the grade attained, or assign a grade of F which will appear on the student's transcript.

If the student verily believes that he/she was unfairly treated at this stage and further

believes that an error of omission should not be punished in the manner that it has been, the next attempt to resolve the situation is to take the problem to the departmental head. Here the student reiterates his/her case.

Once again, the departmental head has two modes of recourse: to uphold the professor's original decision, or to seek to mediate a solution between the student and the professor concerned. The latter recourse will eventually yield a satisfactory result for all parties concerned. The prior course however, would only cause the student to continue on

with his/her quest for justice.

At this point the next step would be to launch a formal appeal, according to the form and procedure set down in the rules and regulations of the Faculty of Arts. Assistance for this can be obtained at the Office of Student Programmes or the office of a student's advisor.

Learn what constitutes plagiarism in your own department, make sure you employ the appropriate means and methods of presentation of data not your own in your work, if you are assigned to work with another student on a particular problem make sure that the solutions you offer are similar in end result only and not in the form of presentation of the solution.

If however you know that what you presented as your own work is not your own, no amount of claiming your innocence, no amount of confrontation tactics with the administration will help you. As an individual in an academic environment you must abide by the rules and regulations of the game and if you freely choose not to play it by the rules then you only deserve what you bring upon yourself and this may be anything from a grade of F, to suspension from classes for a period of time to complete debarment from the university.

Take the time and trouble to inform yourself and reduce the risk of being labelled a plagiarist and protect the value and credibility of your university career and degree.

Tony Varriano

Psychology RAT solves queries

As you know advising and registration for 1977-78 will begin shortly.

Last year we ran a "Priority Psychology Registration" which worked quite well. We will follow similar procedures this year. The Priority Registration will be held from March 23 to 29. It is very important that you take part, as it is expected that many courses will be closed at the end of the Priority Registration and be unavailable at Regular Registration (April 12 to 14).

Please pick up the Psychology Supplementary Calendar which should be available, on a table near 249 B.S.B. Read Part I first, particularly the detailed description of advising and registration procedures given on p. 13 to 16.

You should see your advisor before March

**NEXT F.A.S.C.
MEETING:
TUESDAY, 5 P.M.
S203 ROSS**

29. This year the "back-up" for the regular advisors will be the "Registration Advising Team" or R.A.T., which will be based in 194 B.S.B. from 10 to 3 daily, starting March 14. Both faculty and student advisors will be there to help you if you can't find an advisor or need other help. The students will be members of SYNAPSE, the Psychology student course union. They also have a phone, 667-

3593, which you can call for information and advice.

Let us know of any problems you may have. You can leave messages for us in 294 B.S.B. Both Synapse and Paul Herzberg, the undergraduate co-ordinator would like to hear what you think of the registration procedures and the supplementary calendar - particularly any suggestions you may have for revisions for next year.

Advising seminars can help

Your career as a student in the Faculty of Arts is as important to us as it is to you. To make your experience here as enjoyable as possible, we have tried to make sure that you can have access to as much academic advising as you need. But you can't benefit from it unless you ask for help!

A faculty adviser will discuss with you your programme as a whole, the selection of courses in your major area, and may recommend elective courses that would complement your primary area of interest. Of course, your adviser will expect that you have checked basic requirements and regulations in the York Undergraduate Calendar - make sure that you go to your advising appointment well prepared in this respect.

You may be along with other problems. If this is the case, we welcome you to come to one of several advising sessions that we have set up through the Advising Centre. Listed below are the dates, and locations:

Monday, March 14	S123 Ross
Wednesday, March 16	S130 Ross
Thursday, March 17	S128 Ross
Monday, March 21	S123 Ross
Wednesday, March 23	S130 Ross
Thursday, March 24	S128 Ross

All sessions take place from 2-3 p.m.

We have scheduled these so that you may, armed with the general information you have received, contact the Advising Centre



Terry Boyd, Director of the Advising Centre, located in S313 Ross.

directly for further clarification of points of personal interest to you (667-3512).

We cannot overstate this point: use our services. You may find that advising simply involves checking out and confirming a programme which you have already organized in an accurate way; you may find, however, that there were some surprises that you would not have wanted to encounter any later than you did. In any case, the person that benefits most from advising, of course, is you. We'll be here - make sure you are.

ASK GEORGE

Send your questions to ASK GEORGE, c/o the F.A.S.C. office.

Dear George:

I am bewildered. I'm a Computer Science Student and I'm not too sure about which courses I should take next year. I've read the calendar, but it's boring. It doesn't give me any real information on the course, simply rules and regulations. I want to know what the courses are really like.

That's not all. I feel lost; I'm simply another student in the sea of acedemia. I need something to identify with. Where can I find my core?

Bewildered

Dear Bewildered:

You're in luck. The Computer Science Student Association has everything that you need plus more. The CSSA Anti - Calendar will fill that gap. It will be out in time to choose your courses. Read it. It's based on student opinion, so it's something that you can relate to. Not merely another collection of academic paraphernalia, it's the real thing.

The Great Cssa tee shirt sale is on to cure your identity blues. Simply put one on and be proud. And if you feel lonely, try coming out to a CSSA meeting on Thursdays at 12:00 in 327 Bethune College. The coffee and donuts are free.

George