

Opinion piece

Parking policies border on being illegal

There is almost universal acknowledgement that the parking situation at York is unsatisfactory. Approximately \$250,000 is generated yearly, of which \$220,000 is from the sale of parking permits. Of this, \$40,000 goes to maintenance of the lots and \$50,000 is used to amortize old loans. The bulk of the remainder, something in excess of \$100,000, is spent enforcing the parking regulations. For a variety of reasons (the chief being that the university is not a regular municipal entity), money spent on enforcing (that is, for a large portion of the salaries, office support etc. of 12 uniformed parking officers) cannot be retrieved. This is clearly illustrated by the fact that while 25,000 parking violation tags will be issued in 72-73, only \$10,000 (around \$4.0 a ticket) will be collected. The university has no legal right to impound and hold vehicles for money owing. George Dunn, director of Safety and Security is aware of this, but the policy is not always followed. People are not aware that they may have their vehicle out of the pound merely by asking for it. The parking officers try to ransom impounded vehicles. They are not really at fault in this; they are only following the spirit of the committee on Parking, headed by E.S. Annis. Page four of the report of the November seventh meeting of the Parking committee reads in part as follows: "His car was towed to the pound because he had four unpaid violation notices and because his car was found parked in an unauthorized area", and again, "the committee agreed with the procedure that the accumulation of four or more unpaid notices justified towing the car concerned." This reference to monies owing and the fact that the pound is locked substantiates the inference that the committee has a

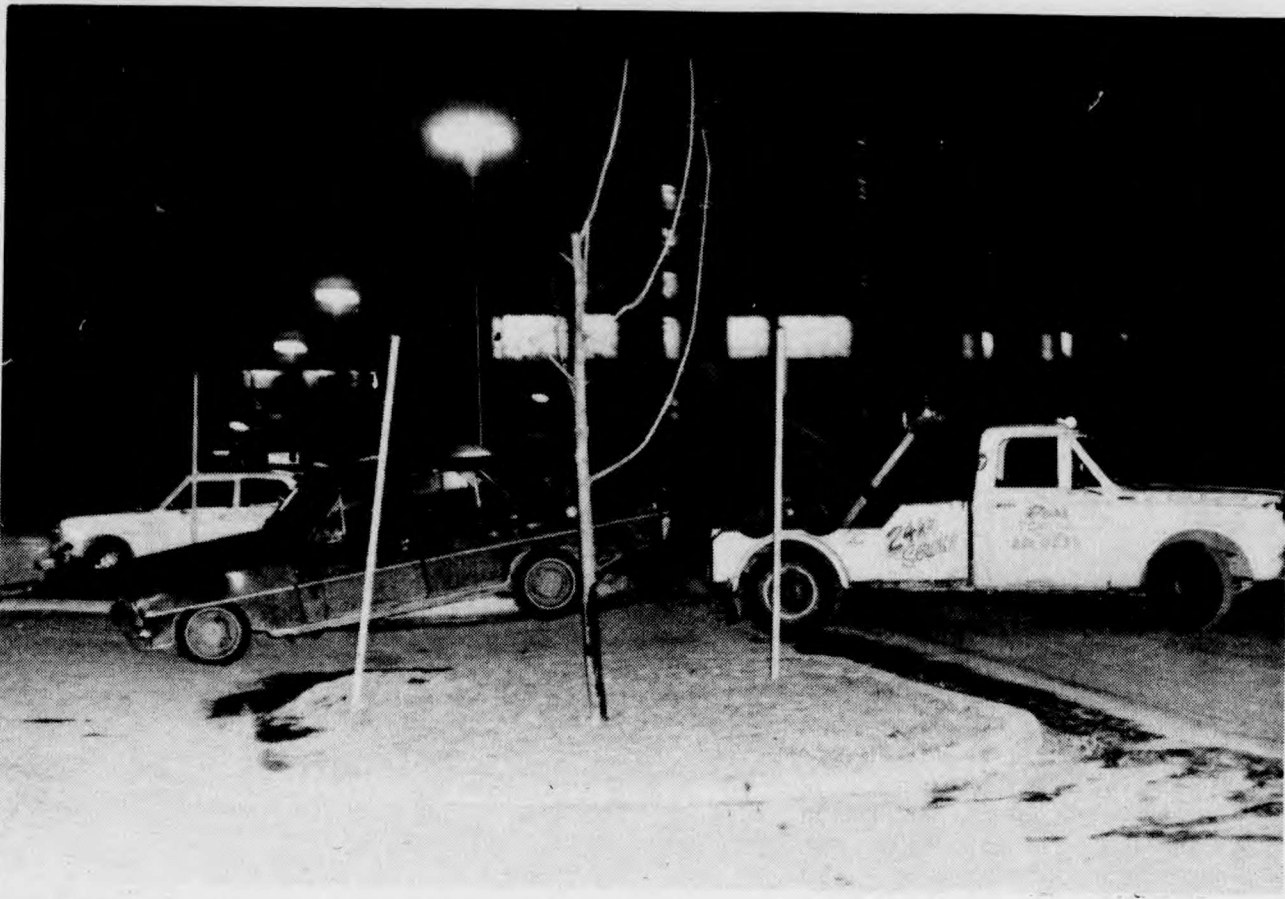
policy of ransoming vehicles.

Now aside from being just plain inefficient this policy leads to violence. Many law students know the law and manage to get their vehicles back with out paying, in which case the university has to bear the towing costs. Frustrated members of the York community confront adamant parking personnel. Last November, Fred Holmes, a graduate student (philosophy) was refused possession of his vehicle; he drove his truck out through the locked gates of the pound. The university charged him with criminal mischief but Holmes' actions were exonerated in court. The university was "ultra vires" or acting illegally in holding the truck and Holmes was justified in using "reasonable force" in recovering it. So it seems clear that impounding vehicles is not an effective method of enforcing parking regulations.

The Parking committee also has a policy of applying gummed paper to the windshield of improperly parked vehicles. Now given that these are very difficult to remove and given that people make errors in judgement, it would seem evident that sooner or later someone is going to drive with their vision obscured by one of these posters, and have an accident. In that case the university would be legally and morally negligent. But in the words of J.S. Bennet then with the parking office, "that's none of our business." In a bureaucracy, nobody is personally responsible.

Another method of enforcement is the university sues for money owed for violations in the Small Claims Court. This is also inefficient. Even if the university can get a judgement, the person involved often has no wages to garnishee.

The conclusion cannot be avoided.



Lerrick Starr photo

Present enforcement techniques are expensive, inefficient and sometimes illegal.

The following proposals will be presented to the parking committee at their next meeting. The president of the university has the power to act upon them. 1) That the parking lots at York be rented yearly to a company formed from shareholders (a parking permit would represent a share) who would be responsible for parking on campus. This corporate entity would be much like the Green Bush Inn, a limited company responsible for a certain aspect of university life, campus wide en-

tertainment in the GBI case. Enforcement should internal. There is a Senate committee, "Rights and Responsibilities" which could make adherence to parking rules (modified) a matter of the "good standing" within the university. Rather than issue masses of tickets and worry about collecting them, cars seriously obstructing traffic or parked on fire access routes, could be simply towed to peripheral lots. Since many of the directors and most of the personnel involved would be students, a cause of the present alienation would be removed. A divided would be paid at years end to

shareholders, so it would be in their interests to park rationally and to encourage other to do so. The university would realized some money out of parking, money that can well be used in academic areas.

2) Failing such an overhaul, it is proposed that parking enforcement be handled internally in some fashion and that present techniques be stopped. A number of parking officers could be assigned to other areas. If the reader has any concrete proposal, drop it in the mail to the Graduate Student Association N905 Ross. — Fred Holmes

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be sent c/o Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building. For reasons of space, letters should be no more than 750 words and Excalibur reserves the right to abridge letters for length. Any letter, which in the opinion of Excalibur's advisors, is libelous or slanderous, will not be printed. No unsigned letters will be printed, but the writer may ask to remain anonymous. All letters will be run — but due to limited space, they may not run the same week they are received.

Insight should be Hindsight

In reply to last week's letter entitled "Insight" I wish to argue the justification of philosophy. As a result we will be able to judge which article is Hindsight.

Philosophy is the study of man. And as Marx says, philosophers interpret the world and the point is to change it. But, to be able to change the world we must first be understand it. Is this not the purpose of philosophy? And for what else do we have education if not to teach understanding of the world? Don't you think that education is being successfully instilled in our minds? Isn't education fulfilling its purpose? Just look at how all the BA graduates in philosophy are able to understand the world. Look how easy it is then for them to change the world and society they live in. Also, perceive the many possibilities in the job market.

Just think of how many graduates will go on to earn Ph D's to teach philosophy. Now, isn't that promising? Well, aren't these jobs better than giving these people LIP grants?

Now, can't you see the economic feasibility of philosophy? Aren't you getting your money's worth? You see, you can't fool us, Tom Martin.

NAME WITHHELD

Paper's stand ambiguous

The editorial page of Excalibur (March 8) reads, "Today is international Women's Day, a tradition of more than 60 years standing making worldwide solidarity with the struggle of women to achieve their liberation as a part of the international struggle against all oppression and exploitation."

Suitably, on page 5 of the same issue appears a sympathetic account of the struggle of the striking Wardair stewardesses for

better pay and working conditions including some limitation on the number of hours a stewardess has to work in one day. It is therefore quite incredible that page 17 of the same issue should be devoted to a full page advertisement for Wardair (for "friendly flight attendants" read "untrained scabs"). Considering the bitterly anti-union position Max Ward has taken, publishing such an advertisement amounts to complicity in strike-breaking. A curious way to express solidarity with the struggle of women to achieve liberation from exploitation.

JOHN A. HUTCHESON

Treat women as people

Monday afternoon as I was listening to Irving Layton reading his poems on women I felt a whirlpool brewing inside me. Every emotion in my body had reached it's trembling peak as I heard him praise and humble woman, but never for a moment treat her as a human being. I am a woman, yes, and I accept my role; but I consider myself a human being first and foremost; to my lover I will do my best to be his woman, but to the rest of society I am a human being.

Layton said he doesn't consider himself a male chauvanist. He said he has been trying to understand women all his life. What a coincidence, psychologists have been trying to understand man for a number of years as well. Is a woman any more complicated than a man? Does she not have the same psychological, physical and emotional needs? Do not both men and women search for love and understanding in their human counterparts? Do they not both strive for a better world to live in for each other and their children?

Granted women have not had an Einstein or an Aristotle or a Shakespeare in the past but where in history has man allowed his woman to reach out, to explore her dreams and ambitions? Where in the past has woman not been suppressed and not treated as "the holder of the kite"? Does anyone not think

that woman might have made some advancements in world struggles if she'd only been given a chance?

In this country woman is given a chance to prove herself as a human being except some women are abusing their chances. Some women still look down on other women, some still suck up to the male society, and the most disappointing things is the fact that too many women lose their inner drive and inner interests as they get caught up in the man-chase. Woman's Lib has done a great job of making woman aware of herself but this group should now leave the scene and allow woman to make-up her own mind, her own decision as to where she stands in society. Now that women are more aware of themselves they should learn to respect themselves and each other. They should realize that after all they are only human beings. This realization, and mutual respect must be carried on and practised individually by every woman. But if a Woman's Lib group still exists and if they still carry out their childish emotional rampages then this sexist battle will never end. Woman must realize that it has taken man thousands of years in history, art and literature to envision woman as a separate identity; woman must also realize that it might take just as long to change this attitude. Also, before this attitude will change, woman will have to prove herself as a human being, and not as a man or woman.

I thank Layton for his wonderful poems written about my sex. I also want to tell him that I'm not prejudiced either, some of my best friends are males.

ANGELINA CACCIATO

Not worth more than 20 seconds

Brock Queenston and a Martha Smith have made what I consider blatantly prejudiced

remarks concerning "Israeli Week." I reply to these crusaders and their fantasy "pervasive element" with anger and disgust.

The atmosphere of York university has been typified as being antiseptic and sterile. One would think that any open-minded citizen of the York community would welcome an ethnic diversion whether the sponsorship came from Jewish students. Greek students, Black students, Indian students and on 'ad infinitum'. Queenston and Smith have found "Israeli Week" more than offensive. The issue here is not concerning the quality of the program, for it takes only 20 seconds to bypass Queenston's and Smith's perception of a "abnoxious and bothersome" display.

Why two student would spend more than those 20 seconds to write a letter to Excalibur indicates to me a more serious intent on their part.

I have difficulty understanding certain aspects of their pathetic critique of "Israeli Week." Queenston and Smith have referred to a "noisome" display. According to my dictionary noisome can mean: injurious to health; noxious; offensive; disgusting; evil smelling. They have also referred to being accosted "hucksterlike" in reference to some ethnic folk singing. Huckster refers to being: a retailer of small articles; an mean, mercenary fellow. Smith and Queenston also want Central Square to be at least "demilitarized", which defies the use of my dictionaries.

I believe that the minorities on campus will recognize the right of any group to program activities of an ethnic nature. To say who should or should not have that right reeks of a form of bigotry that is inherent in a certain minority's group intellect, of which the narrow-minded Queenston and Smith receive master membership.

In the future if Smith and Queenston wish to make their jaded remarks, I ask the following consideration. If they desire to continue to imply censorship concerning the right for cultural expression of any ethnic minority, do me one favour. As we say in the vernacular, "Tell it to my face."

JEFF OTIS