

# Editorial

## Safety, security jeopardized by administrative stall tactics

Safety and security are inseparable in our culture. Evidently, this does not apply to York.

Recently, the Department of Security and Safety Services split into two camps: Occupational Health and Safety; and Security and Parking. What security has in common with parked cars is still somewhat elusive. The only correlation, it seems, is that parking control makes up 95 percent of York's security officers' duty, according to the official job description, and over half of the department's budget.

The obsolete Department of Security and Safety claims that its division arose from the expansion of the safety section. In theory, the move makes sense.

In practice, however, it has served to only magnify the inherent weaknesses of each group. Somehow, departmental mandates have become lost—literally and figuratively—in the administrative shuffle.

Two recent events illustrate this succinctly.

Concern about campus security has risen to such a peak that students, with the aid of employees of the security department, drafted an open letter to University President Harry Arthurs two weeks ago. They presented their views directly to Arthurs and Bill Farr, administrative overseer of security, safety, and parking.

The response? Polite acknowledgement void of answers.

Why? According to Farr, the job of unravelling the security "mystery" is a three week endeavour. Concern over asbestos, on the other hand, has risen to an equal level and has resulted in similar actions—Osgoode students' one day walk-out March 12, and the York University Staff Association's (YUSA) subsequent grievance against York regarding five rooms containing exposed asbestos.

President Arthurs has at least taken diplomatic measures toward acting upon Osgoode's appeals. (The fact that Arthurs was former dean of the Law school presumably has nothing to do with his expedient response.)

YUSA, meanwhile, is more confused than ever. The Department of Occupational Health and Safety claims that the exposed asbestos is safe, yet is removing it nonetheless. The department pleads innocent of former knowledge of the asbestos, yet documents in its files prove otherwise.

The lack of accountability in both the Department of Occupational Health and Safety and that of Security and Parking is appalling and inexcusable.

Who exactly are York community members to turn to? David Kurosky, Director of Safety, claims virtual ignorance of anything that every happened at York before he took his post 14 months ago. The same is true for Peter Struk, who along with his regular duties as Director of Physical Resources, has been made interim Director of Security ever since Jack Santarelli resigned last November.

Safety and security at York are becoming farcical bureaucratic notions designed to pacify the University's constituents. The York community is quickly learning this, and the media-attentive public is rapidly catching on.

The Administration has excelled in its use of stall tactics to quench genuine concern about safety and security. When these tactics fail, York resorts to defensive excuses to appease the public.

A more committed, sincere response is in order. Granted, the issues at hand are complex and require thorough consideration. But the least York could do is admit to its structural weaknesses and address pressing concerns by initiating interim measures, rather than further memos.

How long will it take the University to answer through action?



## Letters

### Escort policy lacks consistency

Editor:

I would like to thank Mr. Pond (Assistant Director in the Special Services Section of Security and Parking) for responding to my letter. He did reply to my question regarding the objectives of the Escort Service, but he disregarded the context in which I asked the question. Regarding his concern that "... anytime that may be spent by the Escort Service away from the campus property would increase the potential for a problem due to a delay in serving an on campus student," I would like to point out that I was on campus at the remote intersection at which I had been instructed to wait. I was not picked up, yet the vans passed me on their way to the very buildings that I was informed the service would not pick me up at.

He states that "the Student Escort Service was inaugurated and operates solely to provide a method of transporting students safely on and about the 600-acre campus area..." and then says that the Escort Service does drop off students who live off the campus boundary "... we have both a moral and legal obligation to transport them all the way to their drop-off point." I realise that boundaries must be set and adhered to, so maybe a more consistent policy should be implemented. Either students should not be dropped off outside the boundaries of the university since they are not picked up there, or the service could co-ordinate pick-ups on Fountainhead with drop-offs in the same area. I believe the latter to be a more sound policy, due to the large number of students who live there and need the service, and would otherwise be placed in a compromising or vulnerable position.

As a student who lives on campus, I appreciate the existence of an Escort Service, but I believe that policies to make it operate more efficiently need to be considered.

—Cathy Horsing

### Why no buses for hockey finals?

Editor:

I will start with the good. Thanks, appreciation and congratulations must be given to Dave Chambers and the Yeomen hockey team for providing entertaining, exciting and

high quality hockey throughout this season. I can only agree with Mel Broitman's conviction that seeing Yeomen hockey once will make one want to return time and again.

It seems, however, that similar sentiments are not shared by everyone. I am referring to the fact that while the Yeomen played in the final of the OUA championship against Western two weeks ago, supporters were left to their own devices to make their way to Western on two occasions. This was a sad situation about which the appropriate people should be duly ashamed. I say the appropriate people because of my uncertainty about whose responsibility it might be to organize these affairs. This in itself is indicative of a wider problem.

While many wonder why York fails to attract respectable audiences at regular season games, it is obvious that the playoffs bring out the fans in numbers, and if they are to be encouraged to return next season, then surely a minimal effort should be expected to ensure this. On Sunday for the final game there were enough supporters from York to fill a bus, while most spend \$20 or more on gas for the journey by car.

I would be interested to know what motivates the organizers of Varsity hockey in this respect. Obviously this cannot be the responsibility of team officials themselves; their priority is and of course should be the success of the team.

We are indeed fortunate that York has such a talented and entertaining hockey team whose commitment is unquestionable, and at such a time surely a similar commitment should be shown by everyone to encourage their success.

—Philip Downes

### Fishing symposium is long overdue

Editor:

Re: Ad Entitled "Catch More Walleye."

Finally York University will present a most necessary and long awaited Walleye Fishing Symposium. I have been attending York for three years and I have yet to catch a single Walleye. One can imagine the enormous strains I have endured because of my poor fishing skills. I keep having this recurring dream that while fishing in Stong Pond I snag the big one, the fish of a lifetime and then, in a titanic struggle between man and fish, the fish wins. But the fish then decides that I am too small and throws me back in,

and what's more, leaves with my best girl Mary Lou.

Fishing is everything here at York U and because of my woeful fishing I have been treated as a reel outcast. In the cafeteria at lunchtime when the conversation turns to fish stories, as it invariably does, I want to disappear under the table. However there is hope, and now I think I will have the chance to be a better fisherman, thanks to the Walleye Fishing Symposium York University is sponsoring.

We now have an Administration that will support York's largest student organization, CYSF, or the Council for York Student Fisherman. Little is known about the CYSF and what they do but I for one stand firmly behind them. This past year CYSF negotiated a settlement to secure York's right to fish off the fertile banks of Black Creek, a tremendous achievement when one considers the powerful lobby of those Black Creek Pioneers.

At last, all the hard work of those leaders from York University's huge fishing community has paid off, prompting the Administration to, as one activist said, "put up or shut up."

Long term support will however depend upon the future success of the Yeomen fishing teams and our ability to stifle those fish-mongering administrators who will continue to support frivolities like the library rather than fishing Walleye here in York's concrete habitat.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

—David Ackerman

### No hockey team in Three Rivers

Editor:

I was very sorry to learn that the York Yeomen lost the CIAU championship again (Roberta Di Maio's article, CYSF, Mar 26), and confused as to their opponent on that Saturday. I know one hockey team from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, but none from University of Quebec at Three Rivers. Was the author to look at any map of Quebec, she would see that there is no such place in Quebec called Three Rivers, although there is a town called Trois-Rivières which played an important role in history and economic development of the area.

I would suggest, dear editor, that you promote among your staff good cultural and journalistic practices, in which I include avoiding this sort of free and unjustifiable translation.

—Dominique Blain

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 (We hope you've enjoyed Super Hero After Egos, next week: Gospel Singers Part II)

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