

Correspondence

Walk-a-Block called 'success'

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all walkers, officials, and sponsors for making York's first "Walk-a-Block for Kids" this past weekend, a success.

Despite sub-zero temperatures which would discourage the hardiest of outdoorsmen, the turnout made it a very worthwhile endeavour. As a result, the Faculty of Education Students' Association will have raised close to \$1,000.00 for UNICEF. We hope that these efforts will inspire an even greater response next year from the York community.

Nicola Barough
Ian Faulds
Avril Kearney

'What's purpose of Emergency Services?'

On Saturday, March 1, I went to Central Square from Complex One via the pedestrian tunnel. On returning to the Behavioural Science Building after 20 minutes, I found the doors to this building locked. Since the temperature that day was in the region of -18 degrees Celsius and I was wearing a thin sweater and sandals, I called Emergency Services to see if one of the security guards could open a door for me. The man to whom I spoke refused, insisting that the tunnel was closed, and that I was not entitled to have the door opened for me since I was not a "wheelchair man," although I explained my situation to him.

What is the purpose of Emergency Services? Are only handicapped persons entitled to use the tunnel on weekends? If the doors to the BSB had to be locked, then why is the door leading to the tunnel at the Vanier end not locked too?

S.K. Lee

Red tape 'frustrating'

This is a copy of a letter of protest written to the heads of York security, George Dunn and Clare Beckstead.

Dear Sirs,

I am the handicapped student

who contacts your office virtually every Saturday and/or Monday morning to request access to Steadman lecture hall "F" via the pedestrian tunnel. Over the past four months I have made no fewer than eight phone calls to the security office with the same seemingly simple request only to be reassured on each occasion that access would be provided the following week without fail. An incredible succession of failures to provide access has occurred over the following months. For example, one week the tunnel itself was left locked, the following week the elevator was shut off, the next week the door above the elevator was left locked, the next week the tunnel was again left locked, etc. Today, March 8, 1980, the door above the elevator was once again locked.

York University has perhaps the most wheelchair accessible campus in Canada, a fact that figured prominently in my decision to come here. It is my contention that payment of tuition and residence fees entitles me to full access to all the facilities offered by the university including the library on weekends. However, both the pedestrian tunnel and the elevators in the Administrative Studies building are usually locked on weekends and I am required to phone York security for special assistance. Although the security staff are courteous and, except for hours near shift changes, prompt, this arrangement is nevertheless most inconvenient. I feel like I'm on curfew when I have to leave the library at a prearranged time to avoid being trapped in the Ross building.

I fully realize that locking the tunnel is the most economical way to combat vandalism and offensive graffiti artists. However, I wish to point out that these same concerns plague other areas of the campus such as the public washrooms. Why then, are the toilets not locked? I ask only for a reasonable explanation why York Security tolerates vandalism and obscene graffiti for the sake of defecation yet sees fit to sacrifice my mobility under the pretense of

protecting vested interests in the tunnel.

The frustration I feel simply cannot be described in words. This type of bureaucratic red tape is a bigger obstacle to the handicapped than any flight of stairs. Although I am not normally paranoid it would seem that there has been an inane conspiracy to keep me locked out of Steadman lecture hall "F". What I perceive to be the most logical solution, giving me a key to the tunnel, was suggested by the co-ordinator of York's Centre for Handicapped Students, Judy Snow, but this proposal was rejected.

Well, the course that requires my attendance at Saturday morning tutorials ends March 26. Score another round for bureaucracy.

Sincerely,
Pat O'Hagan



'No involvement in Doucet case'

I wish to make very clear that as a presidential candidate, I have no involvement whatsoever in the case against Ms. Doucet's candidacy. Early in the campaign period, Mr. Chodikoff assisted me in campaigning, but as he later took up this other pursuit, he was replaced by George Karayannides. It is my concern that I will be unjustly prejudiced as a result of this case and the recent tribunal decision. My interest has been good student government from the beginning of the campaign and will remain so in any following election.

Donald M. Sugg

'Education, politicians going to hell'

Re. "School to cost more next year" (*Excalibur*, Feb. 28), I understand York faces a debt situation, but it's a pity tuition fees have to go up to help cover it.

In the past, increasing the fees has been an unwelcome, but relatively bearable, price to pay for fiscal solvency, academic quality and a university education. But now these increases have reached the saturation point. Psychologically, facing tuition payments of close to \$1000 may turn students away from attending university; and financially, you know it's going to hit hardest among those students with little money—despite OSAP increases.

Since the province is ultimately responsible for education, it had better start finding creative answers to the universities' fiscal problems. Otherwise, the whole education system is going to go to hell—which is where some of our politicians are heading.

Bruce Gates

'Rash of silliness plagues elections'

For the third consecutive year York student elections are plagued by a rash of silliness. Issues have been thrust aside in favor of arcane and, to the majority, incomprehensible legal bickering.

This year the case rests on some inconsistencies between the constitution and election regulations. Anyone who cares to read those documents will discover, as I have, that they are vague, ambiguous and internally inconsistent throughout. One could easily tie up a platoon of lawyers for months proving all kinds of irregularities and getting everybody and everything disallowed, discounted or otherwise out of the running.

With this kind of incomprehensible nonsense going on it is small wonder that elections get such a low turnout. There are surely enough issues available with tuition increases and changing liquor policies.

You may wonder why I have not accused anyone by name. It's entirely possible that by some

fluke the election will still go on and then this letter could be used as evidence of improper electioneering and get the whole thing discounted. Ridiculous you say, but I know from experience that it is all too possible.

So my recommendations are:

1. Improve the quality of York student government - vote on the issues.
2. Go for a last Spring fling - on the 27th of March at Queen's Park.

Peter Brickwood

'Give Clarion credit:' Wood

I think there should have been an acknowledgement that my piece on radical film criticism (February 28) was reprinted from the *Toronto Clarion* (though I would happily have written it for *Excalibur* if invited). The *Clarion* needs all the publicity and support it can get, as it has a continual struggle to keep going. I am now its regular film critic. It is published on alternate Thursdays and there is a *Clarion* box in Central Square.

Sincerely,
Robin Wood

Harangue

I am dismayed at the reaction of the Woman's Centre to the films shown in CLH "L" last week. And for the record, I voice my wish, albeit in poor taste, to sample the phenomenon of 3-D exploitive films, which are interesting in what they represent, but surely too ridiculous to be taken so seriously.

Who are these women the Centre purports to represent? And why do they feel so personally threatened by this material?

The Centre would be well advised to concern themselves with objectives which more directly affect their lives.

Barbara Mainguy

All letters should be addressed to the editor, *Excalibur*, Room 111 Central Square. Letters must be typed, triple-spaced, on a 66 stroke line. Letters are limited to 300 words (seven column inches). Name, address, or phone number must be included or the letter will not be published. *Excalibur* reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 5 pm.

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