LETTERS

Grey hairs from funding scares It was good to see that you have decided to investigate what the implications are at York of provincial cutbacks infunding the university system. Your article on Fine Arts by Paul O'Donell though brief did touch on some of the miseries being encountered in the excellent Faculty of Fine Arts which I administer as Dean. Your Heading for the article though was somewhat alarmist: "Fine Arts May Fold Without Funds" (Excalibur November 12, 1981). What really may happen is that the calibre of the instruction we offer may be weakened noticeably if we are not supported properly by the university, the province, and believe it or not the federal government. You may have heard Vice President Found (Academic Affairs) point out in the Bear Pit recently, when under attack about expanding class sizes, say that Fine Arts was the single faculty at York that was deliberately restricting class sizes and limiting enrolment - specifically for the purpose of protecting the quality of teaching for each student. I have ordered that throughout our faculty. However I did it in full knowledge that Fine Arts is in many ways distinct, and that the student body in the Fine Arts faculty would be seriously shortchanged if any other tack was taken. You may be interested to investigate what happens within the university system if a Dean decides to take that position. I can assure you it is a perilous and long battle to get support for it. The grey hairs on my head attest to that. The issue is complex but understandable, and I hope you investigate it thoroughly for your benefit, that of your readers, and my justification. Lionel H. Lawrence

Dean of Fine Arts

Freedom too high a price

A recent advertisement placed by Mr. John A. Becker is among the worst examples of authoritarianism which I have encountered at this institution. That this so-called liberal school should accept such condescending paternalism (particularly from the University's Student Relations Officer) is a horrifying comment on the conservative '80's. Enough generalizations though, and on to the specifics. Mr. Becker's advertisement refers to "liquor related vandalism and false fire alarms" on campus and, in particular, to the closing of one college pub as both a deterrent and a punitive measure to this behaviour. There is much to be questioned about the University's response to this behaviour.

If there truly is substantial evidence that these incidents were "liquor related", certainly there is no justification for the closing of a licensed campus establishment. This is because liquor-related offences are punishable both through the Criminal Code and most probably University Regulations. Once apprehended, an individual offender should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, unless compassionate grounds exist. Students as a whole should not be penalized for the actions of a scattered few.

Instead of taking any reasonable approach to this problem, Mr. Becker chooses to use this situation to unfairly play "Daddy" to the adults that comprise the York Community. Perhaps he should be advised to enroll in a course in ethics or political science so that he could better understand how our democratic society doles out punishment.

To put it simply, our legal system involves the punishment of offenders for their own specific actions. Group condemnations, be it McÇarthyism, Gulags, or pogroms have no place in our society.

If the University's security is not adequate to apprehend the offenders for their specific acts, those improvements should be made - regardless of the cost. For the cost to individual freedom is one price which is too high to pay.

Howard Goldstein Reel and Screen

Reasonable or radical?

It is with consternation that I read your article on Rabbi Meir Kahane (Excalibur, November 15). The article in question presented Mr. Kahane as a reasonable Jewish leader who spoke of respect for the Arab nation and sympathy for their loyalty to the Pan-Arabic cause. The article also told of Mr. Kahane's belief that ethnic Arabs should move out of Israel and that Israeli-occupied lands should not be returned to their previous owners. Earlier in the week, I had read in a Toronto

daily newspaper of Mr. Kahane's arrest record for arms dealing, causing disturbances on the West Bank and proposing the bombing of mosques on Israeli territory. This track record seemed to indicate quite clearly that Mr. Kahane was a very militant radical. After reading the article in Excalibur, I wondered to myself as to which picture of Mr. Kahane was closer to the uruth. I also wondered if the writer was being very objective in presenting her view of Rabbi Kahane.

John Dowhy 2nd, History

The fight goes on

The Canadian Union of Educational Workers, Local 3, would again like to thank all groups which expressed solidarity with us in our efforts to limit class-size at York University.

Now, one month after the CUEW strike began, the continued efforts of CUEW, YUFA, and students around the class-size issue show that the fight is just beginning. At the local level, a York University Committee Against Cutbacks (YUCAC) has been called to coordinate the York campaign against the massive cuts now threatening the university system. At the Toronto level, an academic coalition against cutbacks has been formed with representatives from YUFA, CUEW, Toronto Teachers Federation and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (teachers at community colleges). This coalition will work closely with the Ontario Federation of Students to find ways to respond effectively and immediately to these cutbacks. and to one of their most obvious effects: increasing class-sizes.

Solidarity between YUFA. students, and CUEW is the source of our strength in the class-size fight and against cutbacks in general. The recent cutbacks clearly threaten in an unprecedented way accessibility to education and the quality of that education. Please join us through your Union, your student government, or as an independent member through YUCAC.

Janet Patterson Chairperson, CUEW Local 3

Letters to the editor should be sent to 111 Central Square.

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Some of the course titles include: Practical and Philosophical preparations for the High Holidays, Basic Prayerbook Hebrew, Chumash and Mishnah. For further information call us at 787-1681 or 781-1081

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November 26, 1981, Excalibur 5