

"Badminton beat" lacking

Dear Editors:

In the recent months of publishing, *Excalibur* has shown a well deserved respect to the sport of badminton and more specifically, the York badminton team. I would like to acknowledge the editor for assigning the "roaming reporter" Franko Fernandez to the "badminton beat." The results of each tournament have been accurately documented along with a few select players receiving well deserved mention.

Nevertheless, some aspects of the "badminton beat" have a great deal to be desired. In my two years at York, I have yet to see an accompanying photograph with the team results. In a recent issue of *Excalibur* (Nov. 16), the front page of the sports section consisted of a write-up on the Yeomen hockey team and the York badminton team. However, half the page consisted of a photograph of, yes-"you guessed it!", the Yeomen hockey team in action.

To be honest, I support the hockey team; however, the Brock Badgers stand eight points behind the Yeomen with three losses (*The Toronto Star*, Nov. 20). The Yeomen have yet to lose a game in regular season play. The POINT is, that the half-page

photo insert of the York and Brock player wrapped up in a "clutch and grab" situation on ice is a waste of space!!! The Brock Badgers did not stand a "CHANCE!" Please note, there are other varsity sports which deserve increased recognition.

Furthermore, in a recent edition of *Excalibur*, a well deserved write-up was presented on athletic underfunding. I believe a couple of varsity teams were mentioned, who were subject to the underfunding problem. However, once again, Yeomen badminton was neglected.

The Yeomen badminton team at the present moment is being financially supported by the Yeowomen badminton team. It seems that the badminton Yeomen will have to have a fundraiser at the end of the year to pay for the season's expenses. The Yeomen will probably finish third or fourth out of a possible eight teams in OUAA action, thus clinching a playoff spot.

It's disgraceful that a OUAA contender is playing the entire season without the financial backing of the university.

Kartik Vyas
-badminton enthusiast-
Yes we do exist!!!!



We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours. Cows must provide 2 pieces of i.d. and are eligible for a special opinion section, if we find their letters moo-ving.

letters

Ski Club recruitment ads sexist, shouldn't have space in Central Square

Dear Editors:

Student interest groups are given space to set up tables in Central Square. Ignoring the question of legality or even the more important question of safety, one must ask whose interest is being served. Presumably it is the students'.

Ideally, a group that is given space would be serving the interest of all students, but the best we can expect is for them not to directly oppose the interests of any students especially not those of a group that makes up half the York population.

When walking through the Square on Wednesday, I noticed that the Ski Club had a table set up and was recruiting members. It was at this point that I saw the poster they were using as a selling tool. It was a photograph, taken from the rear, of two rather curvaceous young women wearing extremely small bikinis and standing (I think on a ski hill) in the snow.

The poster so irritated me that I went back to them and asked, "Is this really necessary?" The three men (?) responded in sequence, "Yes," "Why" and "If you don't like it don't look at it."

Not feeling it necessary to answer any of their brilliant

responses, I reposed the question, "Is this the point of skiing?" The apparent leader of the tribe said simply, "Yes."

I was devastated. Could this sort of attitude really exist in as liberal a country as Canada? Worse still, could it actually exist in an intellectual setting?

As I left I was bombarded by parting remarks about homosexuality. These assumptions about my sexual orientation are another example of the overwhelming intellectual power of these people but have little to do with the real issue.

The real issue deals with a question that I thought had been answered a long time ago; that is, "Are women people or things?"

The reason that I did not pursue my line of questioning was, and perhaps I owe an apology to all women for this, that I had not been prepared to hear that any males still thought of females as objects designed for masculine sexual gratification.

That women are conscious, insightful and intelligent beings, I take as a given. That women have been dominated and abused, in short, treated as objects ourstory (commonly and mistakenly called H1Story) there is also no doubt.

Now, although it shouldn't be necessary, we have legislation

which requires us to treat all members of the human race with equal consideration. One would think that this, coupled with the high visibility of other egalitarian movements in recent years, would have placed a vague notion in the heads of these less fortunate members of society that it is time to rethink their views.

Apparently this isn't the case. It would seem that lower level legislation is necessary to prevent sexism. Specifically, York University should not give space to a student group that insists upon promoting the objectification of women.

To the members of the ski club who sit at the table and others like them I say this: If the purpose of skiing is to track down an object through which you might receive sexual gratification, it would be cheaper, less of a health risk and, most importantly, less socially destructive if you were to stay home and use your hands.

P.S. For those who have prejudices against homosexuality and would therefore find this to be lacking in credibility, I will let it be known that I am, in fact, a heterosexual. (I would not, however, be insulted if I were called or assumed to be a homosexual).

Shocked, Frightened and Angry
Paul Klaassen



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