

# Correspondence

## Sexual harassment

The York Women's Centre is dismayed at the procedure adopted by the university administration for handling the alleged rape at York (as reported in *Excalibur*, January 7, 1980). Such a response will not encourage women to report incidents of sexual harassment (including rape). The university does not seem to be equipped to deal with such abuses of authority.

We therefore strongly recommend the formation of a permanent committee made up of the Advisor to the President on the Status of Women and representatives from YUFA, YUSA, the GAA, and the student body. This committee would serve as a board of enquiry to receive and investigate any reports of sexual harassment.

A committee consisting of informed individuals of both sexes could protect the interests of both the complainant and the accused. Thus, the matter would receive prompt and unbiased attention.

York Women's Centre

## 'Preserve York's collegial atmosphere'

The current impasse between YUFA and the administration seems to pivot on one particular problem, tenure and promotion. The current deadlock represents an issue which could very well affect the academic quality of this university.

Traditionally, tenure and promotion, as an academic procedure, resided under the jurisdiction of the senate. The senate would then make recommendations based on a self-imposed set of criteria to the President, who would then honour these recommendations. An individual's career is decided by the affirmative or negative recommendation of tenure and promotion to the President, hence YUFA's present concern.

YUFA has decided to make tenure and promotion the current issue in this round of negotiations because of tenure and promotions job implications as one of the conditions of

employment. YUFA's grievances stem from what they say are a lack of clarification of procedures, which involved compilation of the candidate's file, deadlines, appeal procedures, etc. They desire to "correct mistakes" and have the criteria for tenure and promotion written into the contract. The administration has refused this demand on the grounds that tenure and promotion is an academic responsibility and, as such, should not be subject to the arbitration procedures of contract negotiations. Senate, in fear of losing its traditional responsibility, will not compromise its academic responsibilities.

YUFA, in representation 80 per cent of faculty, has a legitimate stand in desiring to have a part in the tenure and promotion procedure. At the same time, senate's traditional stance is paramount and should not be eroded because this is an academic issue. The bargaining table is not the place for YUFA and senate to thrash out their differences. The implications to this university are too detrimental. Go back to the tripartite committee and be a bit more compromising and settle this issue within the university's collegial atmosphere which we all want to preserve.

Malcolm Montgomery  
chairman, Student Senator  
Caucus

## 'Very odd'

It is very odd that York's administration threatens to take away *Excalibur's* main staff room to rent to a commercial enterprise for the purpose of offsetting back debt, when one of its own operations, the York University Bookstore was in the black for the first time in [how long?] 1978-79. Why has such a measure never been suggested for the Bookstore premises, gentlemen?

Such inconsistencies seem to be the trademark of York University. It is the students that the University is here to serve; without them, there would be no jobs for you. And, a student newspaper is one of the most important vehicles of communi-

cation (and free expression) for the entire community of any university, as well as providing valuable training in writing, reporting, interviewing, and researching, etc., techniques for the students who choose to work on the newspaper. In other words, it is an important part of the education process that is the sole reason for the University's existence.

Diane Wallace



## 'Nyet' to Moscow Games

I am a member of the national gymnastics team which, at the World championships in December, earned itself a trip to Moscow this summer. Only the twelve best teams are allowed to compete at the Olympics and our coming eleventh was the highest placement the men's team has ever made and the first time it has ever managed to qualify for the Olympics. I am very proud to have been a part of this unprecedented achievement, however, I strongly believe that Canada should refuse to send us, or any teams, as a protest against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Many people and governments will naively insist that it would be useless and even counter-productive to bring politics to bear on this, the greatest sporting event in the world. Unfortunately, the Olympics are already highly politicized. The very fact that they are being held in Moscow will undoubtedly be exploited for maximum propaganda value. I have competed against, and been judged by, Russians on many occasions and know well

how important it is to them to seek national honour through conspicuous achievement. This is not some vague generalization about Russian character, but a clearly formulated government policy. No expense, financial or moral, is too great to prove to the world Soviet supremacy, and sport is one of the most favoured means of doing so. This has amazed and disgusted me in the past, and I fully expect it to be even worse when the show is on home territory.

Speaking as an athlete, I would gladly waive the privilege of being sent to such a prestigious and exciting event as the Olympics if I knew that by my country's absence a long overdue political statement were being made. The Soviets have abused our good sportsmanship in the past. In the name of friendly international relations that can be tolerated, however, when they abuse even the most basic principles of international law, friendly relations are out of the question. For us to attend the games implicitly condones their brutality and I, for one, would resent being used in such a way.

A boycott of the Olympics would undoubtedly signal the end of the games. The spirit in which they were founded, however, died long ago, so that what is left for 1980 is but a gigantic, hollow showpiece for an inhumane and obviously dangerous regime. While we can accept, although quietly abhor, Russian imperialism as long as it is confined within the borders of its present empire, we must make a forceful stand when it is unleashed against its neighbours. Personally, I would rather sacrifice a chance at the games in order to make that stand quite clear than sacrifice my life somewhere in the wilds of Asia when, inevitably, there are no peaceful alternatives left.

Marc Epprecht

## 'Co-opted by lies'

Your recent article regarding the Year of the Child programme, presented by the Muslim Student Federation leaves much to be desired. It disturbs us greatly that you were co-opted by the lies

and slanders put forth by the so-called muslim academics into reporting a totally biased view. We don't question your journalistic abilities; however, in dealing with such a controversial issue we feel you failed to recognize the need to analyze the validity of some of the statements made specifically, by Sami Hadawi. Most of Mr. Hadawi's comments are contrary to historical facts at best, and some are outright lies and slander. An individual who still believes and propagates the belief that Jews are held responsible for the death of Christ must be questioned academically, philosophically and even religiously. We view Mr. Hadawi's views and presentation as a major deterrent to peace in the Middle East and also to our common interests with the M.S.F.

David Blander  
Moshe Ronen  
Charles Lebow  
Howard Weiss

## Objection sustained

I object to *Excalibur's* headline in their covering of Meir Pail. This headline created the impression that Pail was commending the PLO for their aims and methods, when in fact he was condemning both, and claiming that the only way for Israel to change these is through recognition and negotiation.

Pail contends that once Israel recognizes the PLO in order to negotiate a peace settlement, it will be forced to disavow its aim to create a "secular, democratic Palestine"; that is, to destroy the state of Israel and send most of her citizens "home" to Poland, Russia, Argentina, etc.

I, however, fear that the only result of Israel's recognition of the PLO will be the legitimization of its aim to destroy her.

Sharon Goldstein

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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