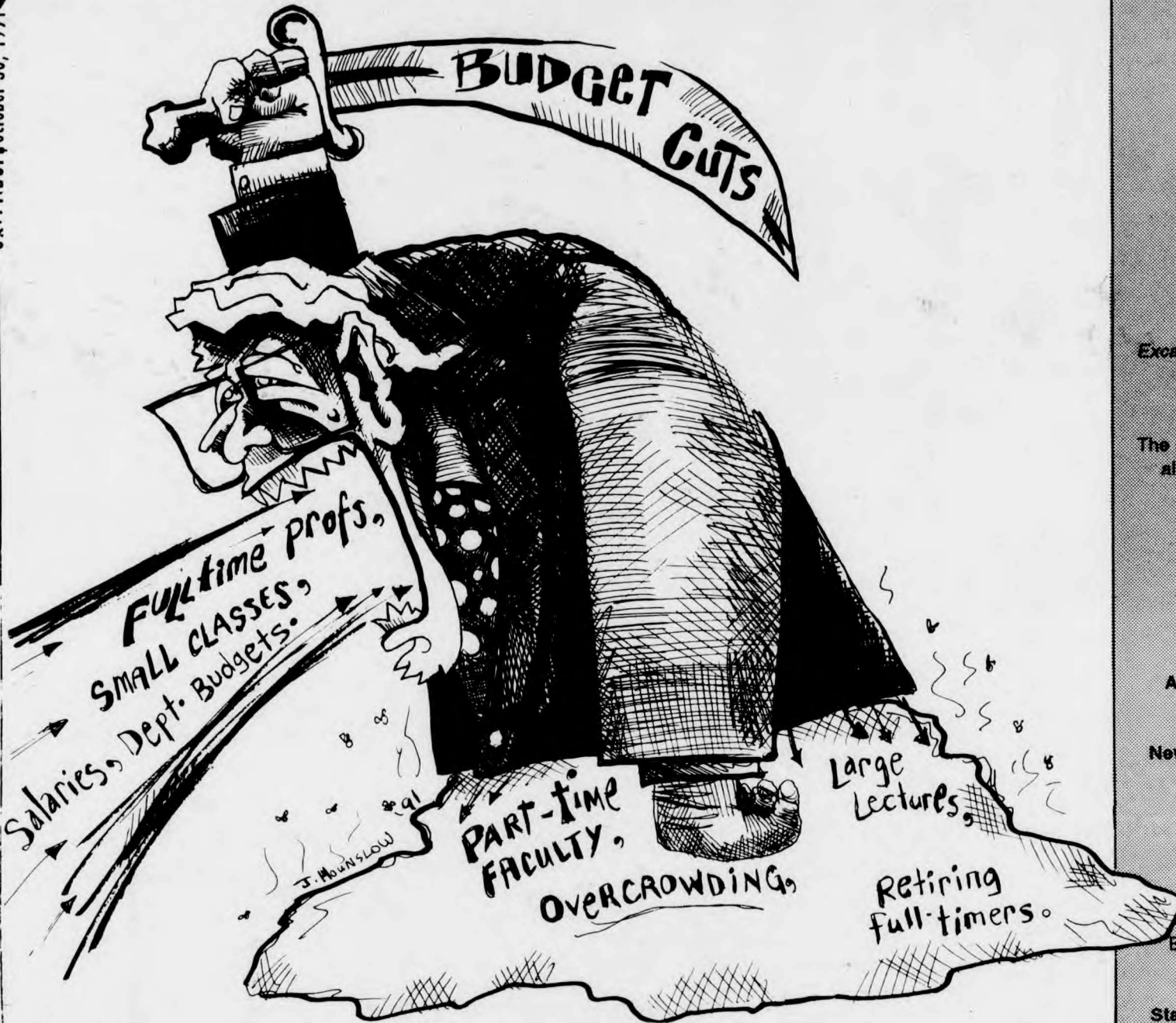


editorial



What will it take to make this place safe?

Last week a woman was raped on a GO Train. Reacting to the rape, officials said they will review the security on the trains, and in perhaps six months an emergency alarm system will be installed.

It took a brutal rape for GO officials to begin seriously address the issue of safety for women.

What will it take for York's administration to do the same? Events at universities across the country graphically show campuses to be hostile environments for women.

-Two years ago at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, a now infamous misogynist killed 14 women.

-Last year at Queen's University men attacked an anti-date rape campaign with women-hating messages such as "No means kick her in the teeth."

-A similar incident occurred more recently at a University of Waterloo hockey game where male students held up a banner reading "No Means Harder."

-At the University of British Columbia last year men slipped degrading and threatening notes into women's dorm rooms.

-During orientation this year at the University of Toronto women were made to wear T-shirts which sported slogans like "I give stray dogs head."

-On October 9 at Carlton University the message "Rape girls then fuck their tiny assholes" was spray painted all over the campus.

And on our own campus:

-Last December, in commemoration of the massacre at Montreal, some students spraypainted the names of the 14 women who were killed on the construction hoardings in front of the Ross building. They were promptly whitewashed over by the physical plant department. The students replaced the names only to find them blotted out again.

-On September 21 the message "kill women" appeared on the screen of a Yorkline terminal in the Scott Library.

-Two weeks ago, students tore down posters advertising the group "Two Nice Girls" and pissed on them. This was accompanied by dozens of phone calls to the Student Centre programmers complaining about "dyke bands" at the Underground.

A recent Canadian Union of Education Workers survey reveals that almost 70 per cent of female faculty avoid the campus late in the evening out of fear, and that almost 75 per

cent have experienced gender harassment.

It is in this climate that the recent Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education concluded "Canada's universities today are fundamentally healthy and are serving the country well."

It is also in this climate that York Security has abandoned the Escort Service and replaced it with an insultingly inadequate shuttle bus system.

Apparently, last week's rape was the first of its kind on the GO Trains.

York administration has no such pitiful excuse. There is no question that our campus has a history of being not only unsafe, but outright hostile for women.

What will it take for the York administration to rethink their priorities — a "Toronto Massacre?" Real dead bodies can't be blotted out with whitewash.

Women represent over 50 per cent of York's population and collectively we have a strong voice. But we must use it.

Women at York cannot be content with staying off campus at night out of fear, with being silent in the face of misogynistic attitudes and incidents, nor with leaving important decisions about our safety to others.

We cannot be sedentary and assume that someone else is making our campus safe for us. They aren't.

If the Shuttle Bus service isn't serving you, write or phone Tom Arnold, manager of student security and parking at D32 East office building, 736-5789 and complain.

If you have general security concerns contact Jim Drennan, director of security services at D 26 East Office building, or call him at 736-2100 ext. 55361.

If you're on the Glendon Campus contact Don MaGee manager of security services at D28 East Office building, or call 736-2100 ext. 55821.

• Excal Women's Caucus

Clarification

In the October 2 issue of *Excalibur* an advertisement appeared suggesting students throw Macorioni at Minister of Industry Science, Technology and International Trade Michael Wilson. Although we advocate protesting against the minister, we do not endorse throwing noodles at the man.

excalibur

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EXCALENDAR

Wednesday October 30
Production Meeting at 12:00 pm
and every Wednesday

Thursday October 31
Editorial Board Meeting at 2:00 pm
Black Writer's Caucus Meeting at 3:00 pm
Copy-editing Workshop at 6:00 pm

Wednesday November 6
Workshop on Women in the Media at
5:00 pm
given by Dale Hall
of the Sexual Harassment Education and Complaint Centre
(SHEACC)

Paste Up Seminar at 6:30 pm
Given by Kevin Connolly of *What* and *This Magazine*

General Meetings
Every Wednesday
4:30 pm
All Welcome