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full and definitely could have picked me up . . . I arrive cold, soaked and very annoyed, not to mention a little shaken.

Thank you, York Security, for restoring my faith in your system and assuring me that my fees are being well spent. By the way your sense of humour on April Fools Day was a real killer.

—M.H. Scott

Radio York blasts Excal's coverage

Editor:

We would like to voice our collective disappointment with *Excalibur's* rather poor coverage of Radio York's successful bid for an FM licence during the past year. The few articles *Excalibur* has run over the course of the year and the most recent rather shallow and non-descript "Radio York's application for FM licence approved by the CRTC" failed to recognize the importance of an FM station based at York University.

Here are few reasons why we believe a licenced radio station is so crucial to the quality of student life at York:

Radio York is York University's campus/community station providing a very important and much needed link between the University and the surrounding community. Radio York's coverage area on the frequency of 105.5 MHz extends beyond the boundaries of City of North York with a potential reach of over one million people.

Radio York will be of vital importance in bringing together the rather diverse student population—it will bring commuter students back into the fold of University life and help fill and important gap i.e. lack of information.

Radio York will promote the free and continued creation (or reception) of independent Canadian music and many other forms of Canadian cultural expression. It will also support, as it has for many years, amateur sports at the University and the community level.

Finally, we would like to quote from our licence decision issued by the CRTC on March 30, 1987.

"The approval of this application will provide Toronto with a third

student FM station in addition to CKLN-FM and CIUT-FM, stations operated by the students of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute and the University of Toronto, respectively . . . The Commission was impressed with the innovative community and educational programming proposals contained in this application and the numerous interventions in support, including those from the other local student FM licencees."

It seems that Radio York will remain the best kept secret on this campus until it finally hits the airwaves in late October.

—David Ackerman, Kaan Yigit on behalf of Radio York Volunteer Staff

Crandles corrects error in feature

Editor:

Laura Lush is to be commended for her feature article "Residents Stake Claim on Revenues" (*Excalibur* 2 April, 1987) in which she captured the gist of a complex topic very well.

However, one important correction is necessary. The statement attributed to me ". . . that the Housing budget has never suffered a deficit in the 15 years . . ." was a misinterpretation. In fact, only in 1983-84 did the Housing Department eliminate a 17 year-long cumulative deficit, and begin producing a surplus.

—Norman D. Crandles Director, Housing and Food Services

McNamee view is 'biased and cheap'

Editor:

Re: J.M. McNamee and his letter, "Both sides doomed if race continues" (*Excalibur*, March 19, 1987). His description of US arms negotiation policies is biased, cheap and extremely superficial with no attempt made by him to cite the facts behind the facts.

He states that the Soviets made many eminently reasonable disarmament offers prior to the US weapon deployment. Mr. McNamee, just like the Soviets, holds the firm belief that the West should have

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CLASP gives accused cheaters recourse

By KAREN CROZIER

□ Karen Crozier is the Community Advocacy Division Leader at CLASP.

Cheating could follow you forever.

A blot on your academic record could limit your career. But despite these perilous possibilities, each year at York, many accused students don't seek legal help.

"Even if you did it, you need an opinion, you need help, because you are not without options," says Marshall Swadron of CLASP, Osgoode's free legal aid service. Every student has mitigating circumstances that can be drawn to the attention of University officials.

Some cheaters for example, are suffering from drug or alcohol abuse, or are in the midst of a family dilemma or emotional or financial crisis. Other cheaters have simply panicked at exam time. Some believe lax practises allowed in high school will be tolerated at university. A few students have no intention of cheating but actually don't know how to footnote.

In addition to explaining your behaviour you also need to understand the legal process to stand up for your rights.

The University has been guilty of heavy-handed academic discipline practises. Just recently Swadron represented a student who had been deemed guilty of cheating simply because he showed up at the appeal with a representative. Swadron took the unusual step of testifying at the student's appeal of the hearing decision where he had been the legal representative. Swadron testified that he, the student's representative, was told at the appeal hearing that the student "might be guilty" or he wouldn't have had to bring in a law student with him. The student won on appeal in the Faculty of Arts.

The legal explanation is that the student didn't receive a fair hearing because there was an "apprehension of bias" on the part of the disciplinary body. In other words they decided beforehand that the student was guilty.

Swadron believes many students simply accept committee findings without realizing that they can appeal and that they have a legal right to a fair hearing. If they are denied what lawyer's call "due process" and "natural justice", or a fair hearing, the decision can be overturned.

In the past, professors simply notified students that they had been found guilty of cheating, plagiarism or whatever. Without a hearing, the student had already been deemed guilty. The notification of the offence was also the judgement and usually the sentence (a failed course, documentation of the offence on their record or worse).

Many became so overwhelmed at the possibility of trying to challenge the professor's judgement that even though they were totally innocent of the offence they didn't appeal.

Sometimes professors accuse students unfairly, based more on a suspicion, and often departments handling the appeals are biased.

"On appeal of academic honesty cases, it is frequently found that the procedures followed at the original hearing were deficient," Swadron said. He urges students to come to CLASP for free legal advice with any academic charge.

For example, the disciplinary committee may block the student from cross-examining or questioning the other side at the hearing, and sometimes, students have even been denied a hearing.

The rules given in the York calendar say which body to deal with, but procedures are absent. However, this lack of available information will hopefully soon be history.

Swadron is in the midst of publishing a new student guide to academic petitions and offences which will be available in most university departments for student use, and the University it making a significant effort to clarify the process.

David Thompson, assistant secretary to the University, is now revising York's policy on academic offences in two ways. First, the University plans to fully inform students about the procedures to be followed regarding offences and to give students explicit examples of what an academic offence is.

Thompson noted that students know it's dishonest to hand in someone else's paper or have someone write your exam, but many students are confused about the gray areas such as lab reports, experiment results and getting help from their friends.

The second strategy is to ensure that professors clearly explain to students what plagiarism is, what proper footnoting techniques are, and the penalties meted out to cheaters. Penalties range from failure of the assignment, course, or year, or suspension from the University, to an entry on the cheater's academic record.

Thompson also wants to ensure that professors themselves will be fully informed of new procedures.

In the past, students were simply notified that they were being failed and an appeal, if there was one, proceeded much later. Now, there will be both a hearing and a time lag between any finding of guilt and the entry of this finding on a student's record. This will hopefully give the student sufficient time to challenge the finding.

Swadron also hopes the University will consider alternative punishments such as community service for students found guilty of cheating. He doesn't agree that failing a student deters cheaters.

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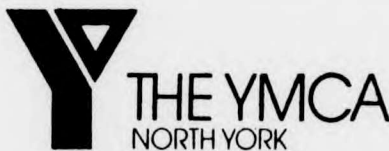
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. . . the rest of our staff and all individuals and groups who supported our FM application

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