

# EDITORIAL

## Security woes

York has seen three Security Chiefs over the past five years, yet the problems in the Security Department have escalated. Simply appointing yet another Chief to replace recently-resigned Michael O'Neil may only be a band-aid solution.

Serious problems in the Security Department surfaced when Jack Santarelli replaced George Dunn as Security Chief in 1985. The Department's effectiveness was being challenged, dozens of grievances had been filed, and there were massive protests against the way Santarelli handled security officers' work schedules, all of which contributed to an extremely low morale on the force.

Santarelli opted for an "early retirement" in November 1986, and in May 1987 O'Neil took rein of the problem-plagued department. O'Neil had extensive plans for revamping the Security Department. His changes included solving the work schedule problem and compiling the Department's "Standard Operating Procedures" — a comprehensive job description and instruction manual referred to as "The Bible" by many security officers. And as an attempt to increase efficiency, he installed a computer system, and streamlined the procedure for obtaining parking permits.

As exemplified by letters to the editor in last week's *Excalibur*, many people in the community felt that O'Neil was doing a fine job.

Many of the problems that arose during Santarelli's term persisted during O'Neil's tenure. Unfortunately, he failed to effectively resolve these matters. For example, labour relations problems continued and several grievances were being presented to the Labour Relations Board at the time of O'Neil's resignation, according to Claude Williams, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Plant Guard Workers of America, and Union Steward of Glendon.

However, O'Neil was well-respected for his policing capabilities and he did raise the profile of Security.

But he had problems being an effective administrator. For example, although he often talked about it, O'Neil did not initiate a plan to get Special Constable Status for his Officers, which would have given them power to arrest a suspect with sufficient grounds. As Chief of Security, it was O'Neil's responsibility to compile and present to the Administration a comprehensive study detailing the costs, benefits, and implementation strategy of such a programme. This paper never materialized.

To complicate matters, conflicts in management style between O'Neil and the Administration — likely the primary cause for O'Neil's resignation — resulted in a severe lack of communication between the Security Department and the ninth floor. The prevailing climate was not conducive to the smallest of administrative tasks, let alone the implementation of something considerably more weighty, such as Special Constable status.

The University is still faced with problems in the Security Department. Morale, for example, is still quite low. Security officers, still suffering from a lack of credibility from the University community, are frustrated that their concerns about security vehicles, equipment (such as night sticks and handcuffs) and Special Constable Status, are not being addressed.

And the effectiveness of the Security Department is still being questioned. Petty crime and vandalism have increased, yet the only vandals arrested this fall were apprehended by two students. This increased crime on campus has strained relations with Metro Police's heavily taxed 31 Division.

If the University wants to prevent itself from experiencing these problems in the future it will have to do much more than just find a replacement for O'Neil. Questions about the department that should have been answered immediately after Santarelli's term have to be addressed. For example, what specific powers and training do Security officers require in order to adequately serve and protect the York community? Or, more generally, what are the specific priorities and goals of the department?

Similar to the manner in which it addressed the college system failure, the University would be well-advised to form a special task force to provide solutions to these problems. Such a committee would formulate a general mandate for the department and study specific security issues, such as the Special Constable status. This committee would also certainly help ease Security's new Director into his or her new role.

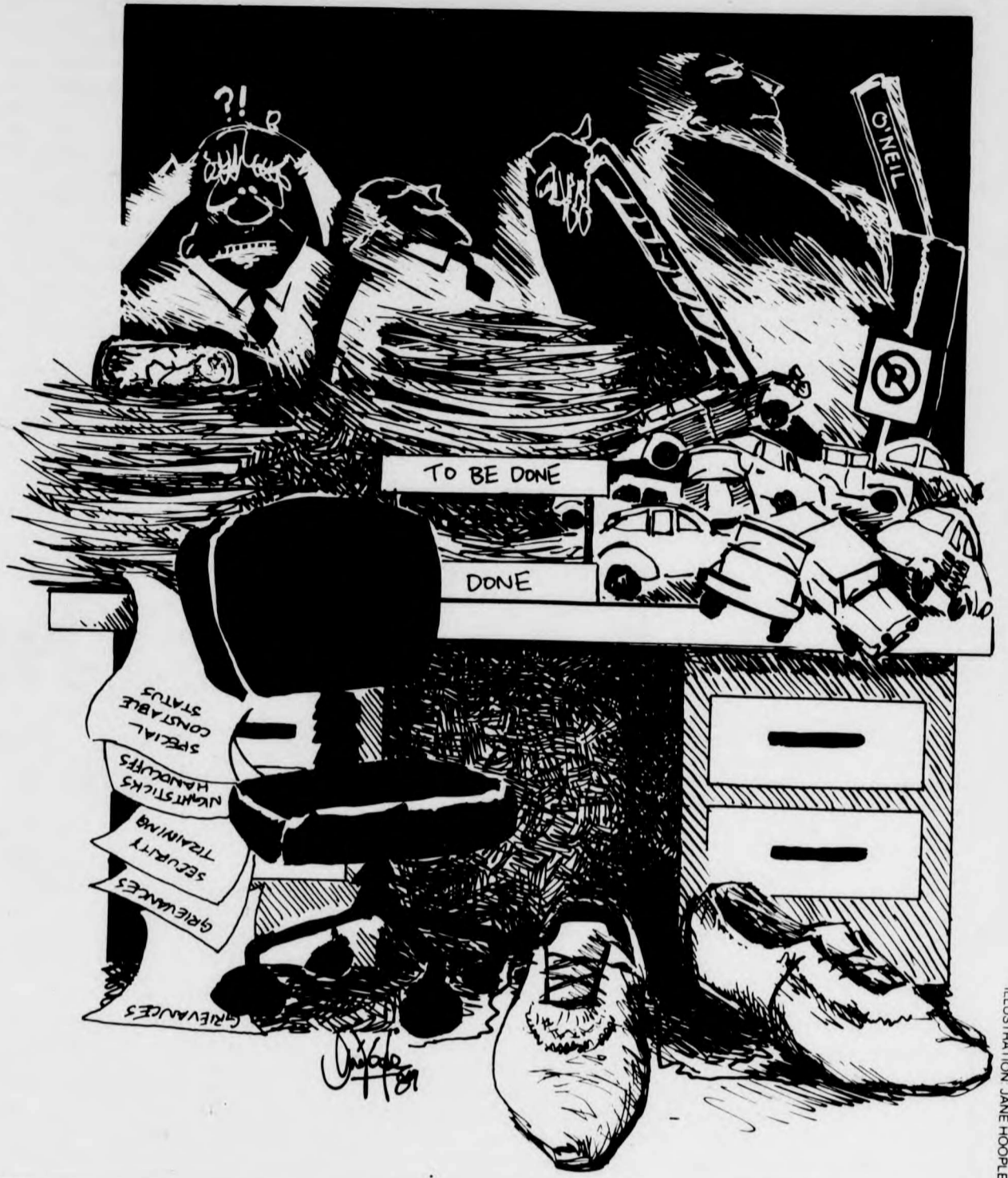


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## LETTERS

### Vandalism problem

Dear Editor,

It has become painfully noticeable that there is a growing number of vandals taking up space in York's community. It seems that every time I enter a place where privacy can be achieved, I am confronted with incredible racism most of which is directed at Jews. These vandals write "Kill all Jews and Niggers," "Maybe Hitler had the right idea," "Kill the Jews before they take over the world" and other racist remarks that are fit for the toilets that they are written on.

What these vandals do not realize is that their racial hatred is really a contradiction. Jesus Christ was born to Joseph and Mary, two Orthodox Jews. Christ, himself was a reader at a Synagogue in Nazarene and has been acknowledged by many as the last, great Jewish prophet. More importantly, the New Testament, from Matthew to Revelations was wholly written by Jews. It seems that Christianity owes a great deal to Judaism and by calling for the "deaths of all Jews," these bigots are hating the very people who gave them their religion. Moslems too, can accredit their faith to Judaism since they claim that their original forefather was Abraham, the first Jew. Other Moslem acts such as not eating pork and circumcision of the

male children are by origin, Jewish rites dating back thousands of years.

Michael E. Kay

### Protest professor

Dear *Excalibur*,

I am writing in regards to the case of Dr. Christopher Holmes who is being removed from his teaching position in the Department of Psychology. After working both as a graduate student and a T.A. with Professor Holmes for two years, I feel it is very important that I should voice myself (along with many others) on the issue of Dr. Holmes' unfortunate (and I would argue unacceptable) dismissal.

As far as Dr. Holmes — the man and professor — is concerned I can say that he is one of the most competent professors and enjoyable lecturers I have encountered throughout eight years of university. Do those responsible for his dismissal in the Department of Psychology not consider such skills as being important attributes for the modern university professor? Given the reputation of York's Department of Psychology, surely they must; yet, only one person on his review committee attended half a lecture out of five half courses in order to decide that Professor Holmes and what he offers is "inappropriate" for their department.

Similarly, those in charge of Dr.

Holmes' dismissal obviously don't consider the views of his students and those of the general student body of York as important, either. Not only have they ignored a consistent record of increasingly glowing class evaluation, but they have dismissed the relevance of over 1,500 names on *Excalibur's* own and other petitions. This raises some very important questions regarding the rights of students to have an input into what is available to them and the whole issue of academic freedom (others have already discussed these). Professor Holmes is the only faculty member at York that offers courses from a mystical/spiritual perspective.

However, there is a rising perspective in Western culture in which people such as Dr. Holmes are playing an important part. We are living in a time that is demonstrating the folly and indeed self-destructive nature of modern industrial civilization. Western civilization is not only creating a global ecological disaster while continuing to perpetuate vast socioeconomic inequality, but it has also technologized its way into a psychic and spiritual wasteland. An increasing number of people from a diversity of disciplines and backgrounds (such as physics, biology, political science and psychology) are calling seriously into question the old rationalist, mechanistic and patriarchal world view of our industrial forefathers in favour of a more who-

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