

editorial

Answers to some recycling questions

Several weeks ago, two letters arrived at *Excalibur* which were extremely critical of what the authors perceived to be excessive garbage thrown out by those who deliver the paper.

One of the letters, signed "environmentally yours" by Dave McMullan, chided the paper carriers for throwing out old papers in garbage bins in Central Square. As one of the carriers referred to, I felt that some response should be given to the allegations.

First, we do throw out papers. It's unfortunate, especially with a population of around 40,000 students at York, that *Excalibur's* circulation of 16,000 papers does not have universal pick-up. The result is that old papers have to be thrown out to make way for the new editions.

Throwing out smaller numbers in each garbage is not done because of any "taboo", but rather in consideration of the backs of department of physical plant workers, who have to lift the bins.

With *Excalibur's* twice weekly format, two editions are alternated in the paperboxes, something which Thomas Bergeron was probably not aware of when he was writing. The current paper — for example a Tuesday edition — is placed alongside the previous Thursday edition, so each issue spends an entire week on the stands.

Recycling is, unfortunately, not viable. There are only two sites on campus, Assiniboine and Atkinson, where newspapers are picked up. Even then, there is no assurance that it will be recycled. A great deal of newsprint picked up in Toronto for recycling ends up in warehouses or is thrown out altogether. There are not enough recycling facilities to meet the demand, and what most people are doing by recycling in their blue boxes is collecting and not recycling.

Mr. Bergeron feels *Excalibur* is over-printing. I wonder if he feels that way about the exam schedule issue which, incidentally, had 22,000 copies printed.

Reduce the circulation? Gauging the pick-up of each edition of *Excalibur* is a tricky business. Some issues get snapped up right away, while others move a bit slower. Remember, we're a newspaper, not a palm reading operation.

I've seen boxes of *The Toronto Sun*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Toronto Star* still full at the end of the day. My guess is that their over-printing would dwarf *Excalibur's* "misdemeanour." Out of 16,000 papers we regularly throw out less than 1,000 copies.

Some paperboxes, such as those Steacie have a low pick-up rate. Others, such as those at Vanier and Founders are excellent customers. Constantly changing circulation numbers to fit what we think the paper's pick-up will be is not possible.

Please do not assume that we do not have a desire to recycle. We do. If members of the community have ideas on how we might accomplish this, please send us a letter

by Riccardo Sala

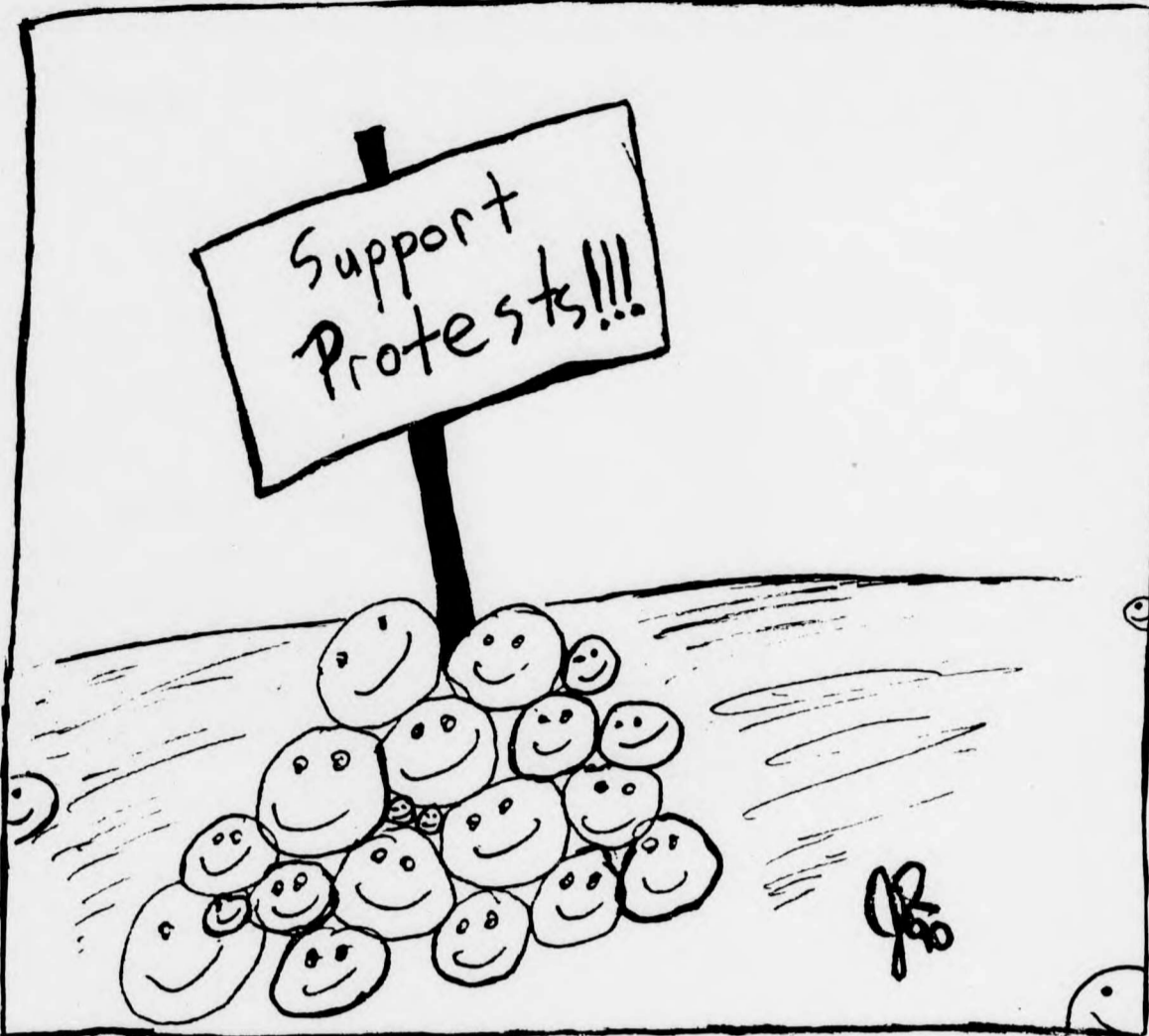
The *Excalibur* door will be locked at 5 pm SHARP on Thursday for editorial elections.

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letters

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, doubled spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Rappos' comments divisive, foster distrust

Dear Editor,

re: George Rappos' letter March 15, 1990
"Student inspired by man in a Wheelchair" and response Frank Cameron and Donna Parsons
"Disabled people don't need your pity"

I would like to add a few comments to the Cameron/Parsons response to George Rappos' letter of March 15. I speak from the vantage point of an individual who developed Multiple Sclerosis in his late 20s and now has both visual and mobility difficulties.

Mr. Rappos chose to be inspired by the spectacle of a disabled individual operating a wheelchair. As Cameron/Parsons pointed out, he did so from a position of ignorance, and it is his ignorance that is to be condemned.

Mr. Rappos, I have disabled friends whom I consider inspirational. Recently, one such friend lamented the portrayal of disabled persons in films. As she described it, "We're always made out to be either inspirational, or bad guys." I thought of films such as *My Left Foot* and *The Other Side of the Mountain* and figures such as Long John Silver and Captain Ahab (*Moby Dick*) and I realized that she was right.

I have other disabled friends who are not inspirational. They lead lives with the same desires, frustrations, success and failures of any person. Disabled persons as a group have as many remarkable and 'inspirational' members as other groups in society at large.

Unfortunately, stereotypical presentations of disabled individuals, whether in films or letters to editors, are simplistic, promote misinformation and foster distrust. They are as divisive as racist or sexist comments. I would suggest Mr. Rappos try a stint as a volunteer at the Office for Students with Disabilities. The experience would quickly rid him of many of his misconceptions.

Patrick Kellerman
Graduate Student
Political Science

Collins' election posters offensive to stutterers

Dear Editor:

re: Kate Collins' Offensive Posters

I am complaining about Kate Collins' campaign posters. My 'favourite' one, a small but effective sign, was, "Vote K-K-K-Kate Collins." Being a stutterer, I took offense to this disregard for those with speech impediments. I have spent 12 years in speech therapy, trying to cope with my problem and have a hard time maintaining a conversation with others.

I don't like it when people like you take pot shots without thinking about it. Stuttering is a mental imbalance, which causes the brain to process information too fast. Your brain becomes cluttered and you subconsciously

panic, thus stuttering.

The purpose of this letter is not to ask for an apology, which people would expect, but to teach a lesson. Hopefully, this will teach you to stop making fun of us. For someone who purports to value equality and fairness, you need to be more thoughtful of those less skilled than yourself.

Gary B. Cilevitz
2nd Year Economics

\$800 increase for potato chips?

Dear Editor:

This week Marriott offered potato chips as an entré in Founders cafeteria. Potato chips?

Now they expect students to submit to a so-called 'meal-plan' at a cost of \$2,100!

Last year, the minimum that a student had to pay for food was about \$1,300 — we're seeing an increase of \$800 over two years! This is crazy! Housing and Food Services expects students to pay this amount to be herded into Founders cafeteria at set hours to eat whatever Marriott has thrown together? Where's the choice?

I can see the administration treating students this way, but student leaders? Both CYSF representatives that you interviewed did not condemn the plan — they supported it.

From this plan we can see that housing and food services people are insensitive, but if they think that students are going to just accept this pathetic offer from Marriott — they're insane.

Brett Lamb
Editor, *Vando*