

PERSPECTIVE

BY ROBERT CASTLE

'Twas the time for retirement

Thankfully Jack Santarelli decided to take early retirement. For the past two and a half years Santarelli has been York's Director of Safety and Security. During that time and in particular more recently, morale in the Security Department sank to an all-time low as grievances by security officers soared to an all-time high—over 50 in the last six months alone. Santarelli's action was long overdue.

In an interview published last week in *Excalibur*, Santarelli demonstrated an insensitivity to the people of this university which was inexcusable and made one question the competency and the suitability of the man responsible for our safety on campus. On subjects ranging from morale of his officers to security in the pubs, Santarelli proved he was not the person we wanted protecting our community.

Just what did he say, you ask? More accurately, you should ask what foolish things didn't he say? Let's first look at the issue of morale. "Morale," said our man Jack, "is never 100 percent." Brilliant observation. But he still maintained that his "gut feeling" was that morale was "relatively good." Come now, Mr. Santarelli, were we to believe that after 50 grievances by your staff in six months things were as they should be? When morale was so low that it drove your employees to run to *Excal* to tell their tales, then I suggest to you there was a slight management problem.

And what of the security of the humble socializer in one of many friendly pubs on campus. To these people Santarelli posed a question: "Is it really our job to dash in there (pubs for example) to arrest people?" Of course not. But one would like to think that were there a problem in a pub, security would be on the scene quickly. Apparently, we should not expect such a response. Rather, to quote Santarelli if I may, "... you know what alcohol does to some people, what do you expect to happen? ... By and large it's just overexuberance. ... Overexuberance on the part of some drinkers is no excuse for security failing to perform its function quickly and efficiently to ensure the protection of our students.

A few weeks ago a serious security problem arose. A woman approached a man for a light and instead of producing a lighter, he brandished a revolver and threatened to kill someone. Security was called. The attending officers were not informed that they were walking into a potentially dangerous, if not life-threatening situation.

What did Santarelli have to say about this? "... I could have just cried when I saw that ... but there wasn't a policy on the situation." NO POLICY?! Are we to understand that our security chief had no policy on how his department would

deal with situations involving weapons? Where, I ask you, was the credibility of this man? How could there be no policy on situations that are life-threatening to his officers? Surely, he had a duty not only to protect the students, staff, and faculty of the university, but also his staff.

There are many more points open for discussion and criticism, but what concerned me most was Santarelli's blatant racist comments regarding members of his force. When asked by *Excalibur* if he thought York security officers should carry weapons, Santarelli voiced his concern. He feared that since some of his officers "come from different social cultures" they might get so "emotionally involved that the [night]stick might come out when it shouldn't." But, of course, he was "not making any disparaging remarks about them." How comforted his staff must have felt with that reassurance!

Besides, some of his officers "don't speak English as well as you or I" and "their thinking isn't quite the same." Well, I see it all now. It's merely a language barrier that was at the root of all his problems. Mr. Santarelli, your English is obviously very good, very North American, but I fear it was *your* thinking that was different from the community around you."

Walk through the hallways of this university, Jack. Tell me what you see. Allow me to help. You see an incredibly vibrant multicultural community. A community whose very strength is its diversity. A community that brings people from around the world together in a process of intellectual and social interaction.

This university has built a reputation of being open to all people, not just proper English speaking North Americans. Our security force, in order to be sensitive to the community it serves, should reflect the community. Santarelli's comments were outdated and reflected a time and attitude long since inappropriate in this country. The furor over his comments completely destroyed his credibility. He's gone now and we as a community must direct our energies to repairing the damage Jack Santarelli caused.

Rob Castle, last year's CYSF Academic Affairs Director, is a first-year Osgoode student and coordinator of the student centre initiative.

cont'd from p. 6

benches and a cafeteria in which you may not even open a book. I know there are common rooms in each college but oftentimes these are not convenient. I know we have a massive library, but is a non-smoking one which leaves little room for comfort in carrels.

Perhaps I've been spoiled by Western but then again, we pay for our future, we work hard in order to later contribute to society; should we not be allowed a little cushioning from this institution?

—Debbie Draper

Don't spend funds on York student centre

Editor:

We must congratulate ourselves, after a long hard fight, since York has succeeded in wresting funding from the clutches of the government, the possibilities are endless. Bravo.

Now, we can allot funds within the institution to build new and sorely needed residences and apartments, endow the libraries pay and adequately train YUSA etc. Right???

WRONG!!! I swear, if I hear another mention of this wretched student centre nonsense, I'll scream!!!

We don't need a student centre. What we do need is the Scott library to be extended to its originally planned capacity—ten floors instead of only five—to get the estimated three quarters of a million books out of the warehouse in which they are no doubt mildewing, for starters. Let's also not forget to do something about the lack of student housing, the overcrowded classrooms and the underpaid professorial and support staff—Wasn't that what the STOP THE GAP rally was all about?

By implementing the student centre, we will not only fulfill the Gilmour Report's Prophecy and lose our colleges to CYSF's desire for centralized power, we will also lose our individuality as members of these colleges.

How sad that it has come to this, now that we've got the money and the ability to reach our potential as a fully loaded academic institution, we choose to waste it on such a triviality.

When you cast your vote, think carefully of all the departments that could be benefitting from the funds including your own. Should we choose not to have the student centre, we could rest comfortably with the knowledge that the funds we worked so hard to obtain would go towards equipment and instruments, enlarging our overcrowded classrooms—underlining the real reasons we protested in the first place. The most important aspect of this is knowing we have both a choice and a voice in deciding the future of not only our university, but our degrees as well.

By rejecting this blatant waste of precious funds, we will also be able to maintain the individuality of its college system.

Let's not let our wishes fall upon deaf ears, we did it at the rally and we can do it again, let's speak up for York and our futures. Once we real-

Letters Cont'd

ize that we govern our own fate and we do have the power to enhance our learning opportunities, I believe we will make the right decision. All we have to do is say so.

Moira H. Scott

Student centre strictly ploy to strengthen CYSF

Editor:

Once again the ambitious student politicians of CYSF are struggling with a massive problem: How to get their own building? CYSF has always been convinced that it should be the voice of the York student body, and every once in a while, Administration officers can be found who agree with this theory. The problem with theories, of course, is how to put them into practice. Well, after much hard thought, the amalgamated genius of the University has come up with a wonderful new idea—build a Student Centre, and get the students to pay for it!

Wonderful. The argument seems foolproof—an opportunity for the administration to do away with the college system and its embarrassingly individualistic masters, and an opportunity for CYSF to eliminate the bothersome College Councils who are constantly undermining student solidarity.

The problems which remain are only minor by comparison. As a student, it seems that I'm to ignore the fact that four out of my five courses are booked into classrooms that are too small for the number of students registered in the courses. I'm also supposed to forget that the York library system is hopelessly underfunded and undersized, or that there is insufficient study space for those of us who are trying to work. Of course, faculty members are no better off, as underfunding has virtually eliminated their opportunities for fellowships which would allow them to research and publish.

I really wish that *Excalibur* would spend some serious time and effort trying to get the facts and figures behind these serious shortcomings, rather than just report the self-serving mouth-mush of a pack of opportunistic student hacks. I know that such responsible journalism would be mightily appreciated.

Thanking you for your help in advance.

David E. Armstrong

JSF trivializes Christian symbol in anti-JFJ drive

Editor:

On November 18 the Jewish Student Federation sponsored Larry Levy of Jews for Judaism to speak about his reasons for leaving the Jews for Jesus organization. In their publicity they trivialized a Christian symbol, the cross, and this action has offended many Christians. Let us start with the premise that it is the wish of all religious groups to co-exist and relate to one another in harmony. We believe that the JSF is made up of peace loving and tolerant people on the whole. Thus it has been with sadness that we have

watched some people within the JSF community take a sacred Christian symbol and publicly demean it. We feel offended, and this does not help good relations. We simply ask the JSF to respect our faith and its expression in our symbols. A gesture of good will would be welcome, but we will forgive and forget and get on with the business of being good friends.

Ian James, Chairman of the Inter-faith Council; York InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, York Catholic Community, York Chinese Christian Fellowship, York Lutheran Student Movement, York Navigators, Glendon Christian Fellowship

In response to JFJ, Levy shows great hypocrisy

Editor:

Concerning your November 20 cover article on the ex-Jews for Jesus members Larry Levy: He seems to be against the missionary organizations because they target a specific group for conversion. So what? There are all sorts of missionary groups around the world who concentrate on specific cultures and peoples. So what's the big deal if there's one more targeting Jews. If Jews truly believe in their religion, what have they to fear? The irony of the whole situation is that Levy, who claims to be against the targeting for conversion of one group, is now the director of an organization trying to convert Christians back to Judaism. I know hypocrisy is a big word, ... but there certainly seems to be a contradiction somewhere. Of course, totalitarian wimps were never known for their brilliant use of reasoning.

—Daniel Silver

Council member clarifies CUEW delayed cheques

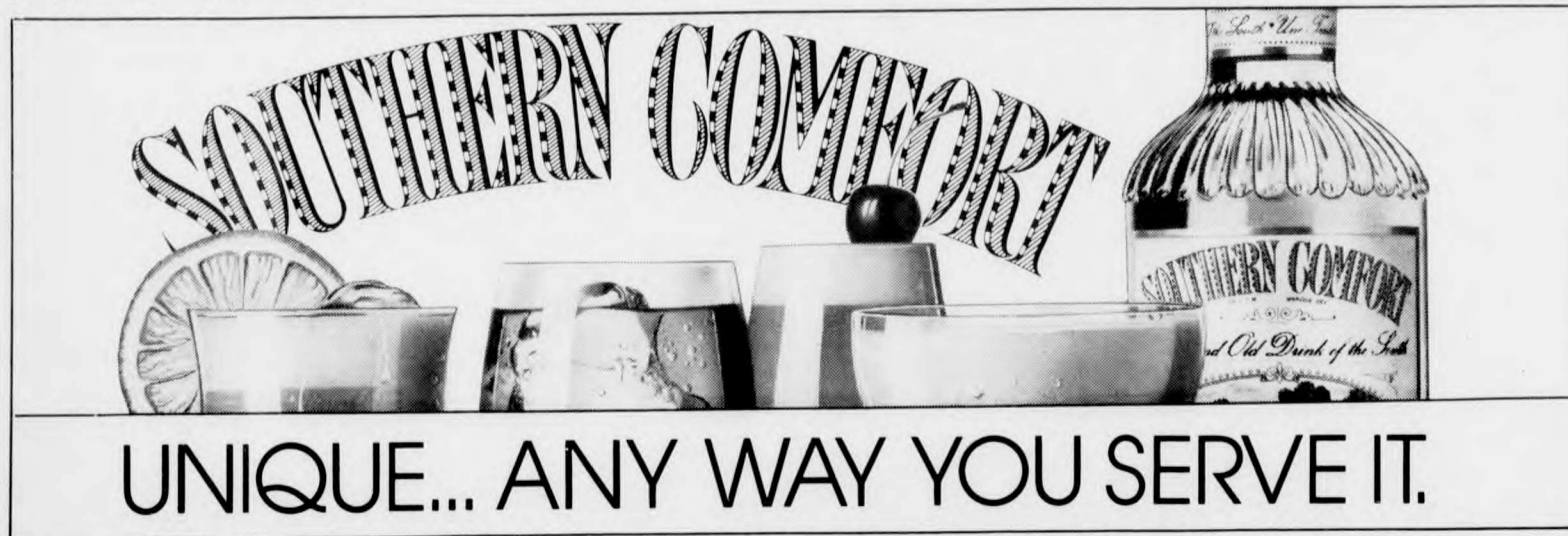
Editor:

I was pleased to see Steve Isenberg's front page article in the *Excalibur* on November 13, "CUEW compensated for delayed pay cheques." However, there were a few errors of fact that I would like to correct.

First, it is not clear to CUEW that 800 members were paid late in September. We have no way of knowing the exact proportions of the problem, but our efforts to locate those affected put the number somewhere between 100 and 200, still a sizeable group.

Second, the \$25 nuisance fee and reimbursement for bank and other charges were not conceded by the university administration after CUEW "circulated posters." If only life were so simple! Rather, we won this settlement at Step 4 of the grievance procedure on October 23. The union's position was that it is completely unacceptable for our members to wait six or more weeks, without any warning, to receive their first pay cheque. In making this argument, I was backed up by seven CUEW members attending the meeting who had their own stories to tell. The posters which advised "Paid

cont'd on p. 8



SOUTHERN COMFORT

UNIQUE... ANY WAY YOU SERVE IT.



USER FRIENDLY

967-0305

Rent to own
BY HOUR, DAY, WEEK, MONTH

COMPUTER RENTALS