

cont'd from p. 6

drivel is that no one asked him to write such a crass, inflammatory letter based on a second-hand source. He did so voluntarily! Thus if he is prepared to express those opinions as his own he ought to be prepared to stand by them. If I were to read a book entitled *Ernst Zundel: Portrait of a Fun Loving Guy* and then spew forth anti-semitic diatribes, my defense for voicing such ignorance is not "if anyone is to blame it must be the author of the book I'm reading!" Any mature university student would know that.

Third, Silver's claim that Jews for Judaism represents hypocrisy in that it too missionizes is absurd. Get out the ol' Funk and Wagnals Dictionary, Daniel, and you'll see that missionizing refers to converting or attempting to convert a party to another religion. Jews for Judaism's mandate is not to "win back" anybody for the simple reason that Jews who have gone astray are nevertheless Jews! Judaism believes that once born a Jew, you are a Jew for life. Hence, by definition, who is Jews for Judaism converting?! All this group seeks to achieve is to educate people who are already Jewish so that they will be less prone to fall prey to the one-sided, flawed theological arguments and deceitful practices which Jews for Jesus employ as a matter of policy.

Fourth, Silver further clouds the issue by getting up on the soapbox to preach platitudes on the freedom of speech. Nice sermon Daniel, too bad this was not at issue here. No one has suggested that missionaries, among them Jehovah Witnesses, be denied freedom of speech!! While I do believe that by engaging in the hard-sell approach of religion peddling, people relegate divine ideals to a used car man's pitch, I nevertheless would defend with my life their right to do so. To those who enjoy engaging in religious debate, Jews for Judaism should be looked upon as a means by which to make one side a worthier opponent for the other.

Fifth, Silver's statement that "those who were afraid of words are 'wimps'" is just what I would expect of a recent kindergarten graduate. Was the guy who coined the old expression "the pen is mightier than the sword" a wimp? Maybe the legislators who passed anti-hate literature legislation are also wimps?! No Daniel, the only person who is a wimp is you. Certainly there must be a difference between censorship paranoia and a healthy respect (and maybe in some cases a little fear) for the written and spoken word. But I wouldn't expect you to understand this Daniel, because I read your last letter.

Sixth, Silver pays lip service to investigative reporting but that's where things seem to remain. He

states, "If the ideology of Jews for Jesus is irrational, even insulting, I would like to decide that for myself by examining myself what they say."

Well Daniel, where are you? You showed up at the Jewish Student Federation to show us you could dress up like Rambo but failed to ask to see the information (which abounds!) that we have on this group. If you just spent half the time or energy that you wasted editorializing and investigated what you seem hell-bent on defending, you'd be much clearer on the subject. Heaven knows we'd all be grateful for that! If your desire to find out first hand is indeed genuine then ask for my number at the JSF and I'll be glad to show you just what Jews for Jesus is. You're quite right Daniel, everyone has a right to an opinion. But since you only get one per issue, why not make it an enlightened one?

—Phil Drash

Reader 'adhores' passage of Bill 7

Editor:

Recently the Provincial government passed a bill which will eliminate discrimination based on sexual preference, or in other words provide homosexuals with the same rights and freedoms that we all enjoy. The problem with this bill, and the reasoning behind it, is that, firstly, homosexuals already have the same rights shared by all in society and secondly, homosexuality is a chosen lifestyle.

Homosexuals are not a visible minority, there is no possible way a homosexual can be identified, unless he chooses to be. Given this, homosexuality is a lifestyle, and lifestyles should not get special privileges under the law. For example, if 10 percent of society decided not to wash, should a law be instituted banning discrimination based on odour, or if 10 percent of the population decided to dress like vagrants, should a law be passed ending discrimination on dress or attire? The answer to both these questions is most certainly no.

A lifestyle is a conscious choice and therefore lifestyles which are adored [sic] by society in general, should not get special protection under the law.

A person who makes a conscious choice to live a lifestyle which goes against the most basic grain of human existence, should either accept resistance from society or live in a more natural way. What should not happen, is weak-kneed politicians bowing down to the demands of a small but vocal group of deviants.

—B.J. Chatterton

Computer fines fiasco points to need for realignment of library system

By STEVE ISENBERG

Computer automation has once again demonstrated its counter-productive capacities at York. The latest problem has surfaced in the library system regarding overdue fines on reserve materials.

The computer system at York's Scott Library reserve room has the capacity to overcharge on late penalties. Fines on a two hour loan are charged at a rate of \$1 per hour to a maximum of \$15. Aside from the high rate of fines (University of Toronto's Sigmund Samuel library charges 50 cents), material not returned by 11:00 p.m. will have fines tallied overnight.

To make matters worse for students, material returned after 11:00 p.m. but before the library closes at 12 midnight cannot be officially returned until the computers are turned on the next morning at 9:00 a.m.

Essentially this system implies that overdue material can be returned in the middle of the night. Yet such is not the case. If material on a two hour loan is not returned by 11:00 p.m., a minimum fine of \$10.00 is applied.

As a result, patrons of the reserve room at Scott are being unduly subjected to fines which contradict and violate the basic premise of a library system—that material cannot be made due when the library is not open. In principle, fines are levied to punish the offender from preventing the overdue material from being lent to someone else.

Margaret Banks, supervisor of the fines department at Scott, suggests that such a policy is contrary to accepted library practices. Banks maintains that the library does not make material due when the library is closed. However, what does one call charging per hour overnight?

The York system is unique in this regard. The University of Toronto, for example, stops accumulating fines when the library closes and starts the penalties again when the library opens the following day.

It is obviously not the policy of the library to charge fines overnight as the librarians usually adjust the fines to a lower amount. "We will back date," admits Roberta Addley, a librarian in the reserve room. For as Addley explains, "I don't feel (that) a person should be charged overnight when the library is closed."

Addley is not alone in her views. Linda Hansen, supervisor of reserves, notes that prior to the institution of Geac, York's computer system, fines were not charged between midnight and 9:00 a.m. "I don't agree with it (the fines)," Hansen claims, and "I usually adjust it (an overnight fine) down to a reasonable price."

Students who have brought such fines to the attention of Hansen have usually had their fines reduced substantially. But there are still those students who have not bothered to raise the issue and have paid the maximum amount of \$15.

Rick Brooks, a disgruntled patron of the reserves, fiercely objects to such fines. "If I can't bring it (an overdue two hour loan) in at three in the morning and they can't give it back out till nine, they shouldn't be able to charge me. It's like trying to repay a loan to a bank that is closed for a month and having interest accumulated for that month," Brooks added. If a patron is not actually charged, why does the computer proceed in levying such a sizeable fine?

Addley suggests that the reason why this problem has persisted over the past five years is because "people don't fight computers."

Ellen Midgley, York's library project manager at Geac, the designer of the system, was at first stunned when informed of the situation. "I find it extremely hard to believe," she said of the overnight accumulation of fines. "This is just crazy."

However, after pondering the dilemma further, Midgley reversed her previous stance by calling the process "sensible" and defended her interests by noting that "that's the way (York) set it up."

So why hasn't York changed the computer system in order for it to be consistent with York's policy of not charging overnight?

Apparently, there seems to be no financial or technical obstacles in implementing such a change. First, the intended alteration will require a slight modification in the coding of the software, and according to Midgley, this should be "no problem."

Second, according to another Geac employee who wished to remain nameless, the cost of such a change would most likely be cost-free for York. The employee explained that such an alteration is part of the services offered in Geac's support agreement with York.

The only reasonable explanation which can be attributed to the delay in instituting this modification is the absence of initiative on York's part to force such a change and the lack of communication between York and Geac to erase this inconsistency.

York has no intention of charging library reserve patrons overnight late fees, yet the computer still does. In order to alleviate countless difficulties and undue expenses, it's time for York to realign its computer system to reflect its intended policy. In short, it's time for York to act and resolve this problem which is costing students a lot of money.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION APPLICATIONS

The Faculty of Education will be receiving applications early in February for the 1987-88 academic session. Students currently registered in undergraduate faculties can obtain applications or information from

Office of Student Programmes
Faculty of Education
Ross Building, N801
736-5001

Education Office
Glendon College
C112 York Hall
736-5004



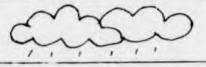








INFORMATION MEETINGS

Students wishing to learn more about the Bachelor of Education programme at York University are invited to attend special information meetings to be held:

Tuesday, January 27, 4:00 p.m.
Curtis Lecture Hall F

Wednesday, January 28, 4:00 p.m.
Senior Common Room, York Hall, Glendon College

Thursday, January 29, 4:00 p.m.
Stedman Lecture Hall F

			
	The Faculty of Environmental Studies invites you to THE FOURTH ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION DAY		
	Come and Meet Environmental Organizations Thursday, January 29, 1987 Central Square 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.		
	HYGEIA REVISITED: CREATING HEALTHY CITIES A Panel Discussion		
	Lumbers Building, Room 306 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.		