

Security requires more power to keep campus safe

The authors of this article are two security officers who wish to remain anonymous in order to protect their jobs.

There is an apparent concern with respect to adequate protection on campus for students and others, as indicated by the forum: "ON CAMPUS SECURITY." There should be reason for concern as York's students are being denied their right to be protected and served by the Department of Security and Safety.

Our campus finds itself in the middle of a combat zone, the Jane-Finch corridor, in street traffic warfare, and there are no barriers or physical restrictions to keep the criminal element off campus property. York University grounds provide easy targets for a user-turned mugger to stalk their prey without fear of confrontation or detection. Security does not advocate the use of electric fences or landmines, but realistic measures for the protection of the students is a necessity that must be taken.

Present operating procedures suggest if a security guard becomes suspicious of an individual for any reason, that guard can request identification from that individual. If the individual refuses, the guard may legally hold the individual for questioning (thus effecting an arrest) under the Trespass to Property Act. York Security Officers are agents for the University as designated by the York University Act 1965, and under Section 449, subsection (2) of the Criminal Code of Canada, but we only have the powers of arrest of an ordinary citizen: the guard must see the criminal offense take place, unlike the powers of a police officer who can arrest on reasonable and probable grounds (RPG).

What this means is that theoretically if a female student is violently assaulted, and gives security a description of the attacker as a male, nine feet tall wearing a yellow blood stained shirt and has Iroquois cut blond hair, and security walks around the corner and sees a male who is nine feet tall, has an Iroquois blond cut hairstyle and is wearing a beige blood soaked shirt, security is defenseless to act. The officer could not make the arrest as s/he did not actually witness the assault occur, and in all probability the culprit

would escape. Security isn't even equipped with handcuffs to make an arrest.

Many of the security guards are afraid to pursue a refusal of identification not only because of lack of training, but also because management won't back their men in a pinch. Management only wants its security officers to be seen and to look pretty, and sure that may work, but only to a point.

In order to provide the York Community with professional protection and policing, the Depart-

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ment of Security and Safety should make their security a University Police Force and swear in their employees as Special Police Constables, as U of T and Guelph have done successfully. As special constables, university officials would be able to detain, with sufficient cause, anyone considered dangerous, suspicious, or suspected of a criminal offence.

Another benefit of this status would be in the realm of bank and money escorts carrying thousands of dollars (perhaps a figure of closer to a million in the fall months) unarmed! What kind of haphazard system and protection is this? The security guard and your money are literally sitting ducks.

Some students and management bodies may consider special constable status as being too extreme. The students may fear that their freedom to express opinions or operate as a democratic society may be curbed. On the contrary, the presence of special police constables would enhance

protection and ensure the rights of each and every student which they are entitled to under the law.

Other legitimate concerns may be the officer abusing his or her status and authority by "power tripping." If this status were obtained, guidelines and policies would be implemented by the Ontario Police Commission (OPC) and York, thus creating established rules for everyday working procedures. If a Special Constable went beyond the set guidelines, that officer would risk disciplinary action by the OPC and the University in the form of suspension, demotion or dismissal.

With this police status comes proper training for the officers creating a much higher degree of professionalism and efficiency amongst the security officers, something that we admit is lacking. Officers would undergo courses from the Ontario Police College in Aylmer which would provide both academic and physical fitness training.

Currently, the security guards

receive no official training (except first aid), or guidance with respect to the many emergency calls they must handle. Some do not know how to write a proper report. Employees aren't even checked for criminal priors when hired. It is obvious security management is not interested in training their guards but rather sending a handful of senior management investigators on courses in the United States, investigators that only work 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and have every weekend off.

Another factor one may question is why not have Metropolitan Toronto Police handle University occurrences? 31 Division, which services the University, is one of the busiest and most dangerous areas in Metro Toronto. Metro Police Force does not have the manpower to effectively serve the University community. In most cases when Metro police are called, they are always met by York Security and directed to the scene of the disturbance, yet other Security personnel

are already there. Given this, officials first on the scene should have the authority to investigate a situation thoroughly and see it to its end. This would not only be a time saver, but a saving in resources and money. Considering that money is tight for the University, does it seem reasonable that this institution spends thousands of dollars each year as a result of vandalism? One doesn't have to look far to see that Special Constable Status would provide good returns on money invested. Just look at U of T: statistics show that their police/security force is an effective means of preventing crime and apprehending offenders. Maybe it is time York has an ex-police officer in charge of security instead of a military colonel, as our campus is not a military base.

We, as members of York Security staff, only pray that we don't have to wait for someone, perhaps one of us, to be seriously injured or murdered to bring changes about, changes that are destined to maintain control in a city like York University.

Letters Cont'd

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paternalistic students and a cowardly administration? Will it be Jewish Marxists? Jews who dabble in Zen Buddhism? Jewish atheists? Jewish agnostics?

The university must remain a free marketplace of ideas or, inevitably, it will cease to be an institution of learning and will simply become a political mouthpiece for the powers that be. No one, but *no one*—Jew or Gentile—has the right to silence individuals whose views differ from their own.

We urge the administration and all students at York University, especially Jewish students, to awaken to the dangers inherent in the misguided efforts currently underway to stifle the rights of a religious

and racial minority.

We demand an immediate end to this appalling disregard for civil rights.

—Anny Selva Verhovsek
Jerry Verhovsek

'I am one student' reader says

Editor:

After flipping through *Excalibur's* 20th Anniversary issue, it made me feel good to know that the sixties and its *[sic]* hippie *[sic]* radicals have long since *[sic]* passed away.

The anti-establishment pseudo intellectual trash that penetrated every page of the issue horrified me.

Surely the editors could have found something more worthwhile to print besides a critique of Air Canada adds *[sic]* or a nude hippie *[sic]* idealist. Surely something useful must have been written in the sixties besides the shameful, idealistic garbage printed.

I am one student who is ashamed of the previous generations *[sic]* pie-in-the-sky philosophy *[sic]* with its *[sic]* socialistic undertones. Few

deviants like the International Socialists or Students Against Apartheid *[sic]*, seem to have their feet firmly on the ground and therefore have control overthemselves *[sic]* and their futures.

—B. Chatterton

**THE LAST DAY
TO PETITION TO REGISTER LATE
FOR FALL AND FALL/WINTER COURSES IS:**

**FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 1986**

This notice is a final reminder. Students (including those enrolled in Osgoode Hall Law School) who had not paid their academic fees and applicable late service charges by October 3, 1986, were notified that enrolment in Fall Term and Fall/Winter courses had been cancelled.

Any student wishing to be registered was advised of the need to petition for permission to register late. Petitions which demonstrate administrative default on the part of a University office or cover compassionate reasons are considered. The Registrar's decision is final.

Petitions must be submitted in writing. The appropriate form is available from the Registration Office, Suite C130, West Office Building, telephone 736-5155.

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
OCTOBER 30, 1986**



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Representatives from the School of Business will be on Campus and would be happy to meet with students of any Faculty interested in the Queen's MBA Program.

DATE: Thursday, November 6

TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Crost Chapter House
University College