

R4/4  
66

**PARENTAL  
ADVISORY**  
NAUGHTY BITS

# Open quick, it's hot!

Sexuality supplement inside

**PARENTAL  
ADVISORY**  
EXPLICIT TEXT

# excalibur

## Osgoode paper editors resign

by Jeannine Amber

Controversy erupted at Osgoode Hall law school this month after the *Obiter Dicta*, the school's newspaper, printed a letter which infuriated many students.

Two of the four co-editors resigned and the other two were fired by the student council following two days of deliberation. The letter, printed anonymously at the request of the author, claimed the standards at the law school had dropped since it began admitting Black students. The letter said "the other students and teachers (know that Black students) do not deserve to be there."

The letter also implied the massacre of 14 female students at a Montreal university was understandable because the murderer was "shooting feminists."

"Remember Marc Lepine? He wanted to be an engineer. He didn't make it into the Faculty of Engineering... Lepine was not out to shoot 'women' he was out to shoot 'feminists,'" the letter said.

Sophia Ruddock, a member of the ad hoc committee which protested the letter, said printing the letter was "irresponsible and insensitive."

"With a letter like that, that is clearly hate literature, they should have consulted Black students," said Ruddock.

Ruddock says that in the days following the printing of the letter she and other students were made to feel "very uncomfortable at the school." According to Ruddock, in one of her classes when a student suggested other students sign a petition to fire the editors, another student said the class should sign a petition to "get rid of the Black students."

"The profound sense of hurt that resulted was something we didn't ant-

icipate," said former co-editor Kim Nayer.

Darin Renton, another former co-editor, said the editorial collective "thought (the *Obiter Dicta*) was an appropriate context for the letter. We weren't doing it for shock value, we weren't trying to test limits of expression. It was our equality issue and we were talking about issues of racism, homophobia and sexism."

The letter was preceded by a disclaimer stating "the editors realize that the following letter is highly offensive, and potential inciteful... but we see as a classic example of the mind set we are up against."

Chet Singh, the university's race relations officer, said printing the letter, even with a preface, "contributes to a climate of hostility."

"While I endorse the notion of freedom of the press, I also think freedoms are limited," Singh said. "The (preface) given by the editors is simply not enough."

According to Rento, the editors intended to open a discussion on racism by publishing the letter. "The letter was a very tacit piece, something to look at and focus on."

According to Ruddock "intent (in this case) is irrelevant."

Aston Hall, president of the Black Law Students Association at Osgoode, said the letter "stimulates discussion but at what price? The school newspaper should not be used to spread hate or to create a feeling of alienation and pain."

"Furthermore, the letter is factually incorrect. There is no affirmative action and there has been no lowering of standards."

"We are not saying the editors are racist," Hall added. "We're just saying they're stupid. It's a stupid thing to have done."

The letter, which ran in the Feb. 10 issue, was immediately pulled by the

Legal and Literary society, the school's student council, after an emergency meeting.

The following day the editors of the newspaper handed out fliers apologizing for printing the letter.

"Our apologies were not being heard," Nayer said, "and weren't being accepted. (Printing the letter) is not something we treated flippantly and to walk around and be called a white supremacist was very hurtful."

The afternoon following publication a council meeting attended by over three hundred students saw the resignation of two of the four editors and the removal, by council, of the others.

Nayer, one of the editors who resigned, said her resignation was as an indication of apology, and "because of frustration I felt that nothing I said was being accepted."

However, Nayer said she thinks things would "have been different" if she and the other editors had been able to "meet with the concerned groups and express our apologies (before the council meeting)."

Nayer said the student government acted "rashly" in swiftly removing the editors.

"There was no process and no justice given. We were judged without being tried."

However, Andrew Evangelista, president of the Legal and Literary Society said "the circumstances warranted swift action."

Elections for new editors are to be held this week.

## Victoria paper gets dumped for sexual content

by Scott Wahl

Thousands of copies of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual issue of the University of Victoria newspaper disappeared last week amid controversy over a sexually explicit cover.

The cover of *The Martlet's* Valentine's Day issue, mostly devoted to homosexuality, showed life-sized graphics of a penis and a vagina with the caption, "You see something you want and you touch each other." It then urged participation in the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual awareness day.

Early Friday morning, all the newspapers in distribution boxes and outside the newspaper office were stolen. Ten bundles of papers were recovered later that day in a dumpster behind the administration building and redistributed. The rest are still missing.

"The issue wasn't officially pulled," said *Martlet* co-editor James MacKinnon.

Several people reported seeing grounds crew staff taking away bundles of the papers Friday morning, according to students' society chair

Oona Padgham. When three students went to retrieve the papers in the dumpster, she said one of the workers "threw a fit."

"My guess is it's one individual," said MacKinnon. "I don't think they (administrators) got together. It could have been frat boys."

There have been rumors administration is planning to punish those involved with the issue. A radio station reported suspensions are being considered, and a local television station said expulsions were likely, and quoted UVic VP-academic Sam Scully as saying administration was considering disciplinary action.

However, Scully later told Padgham he was not aware of any such measures being considered. He denied having said otherwise to television reporters.

Another concern, Padgham said, is where rumors of threats to punish students came from.

MacKinnon said he didn't expect the university to clamp down on students working for *The Martlet*.

"My guess is, nothing of that sort will happen. (Administration) will probably let it go."

But according to Metro Councillor Howard Moscoe, the compromise has gained York nothing.

"There really was no compromise," Moscoe said. "It was no concession at all. The station was going to face that way anyway."

Moscoe said York was originally only interested in a subway route which would pass under the Downsview forces base and onto the York property — an option which could take years to develop.

"I think York University was trying to backtrack considerably when they realized the waste of time they had caused," Moscoe said.

Moscoe has been an outspoken advocate of a shorter loop, which would create construction jobs immediately and ease the pressure on the overcrowded Yonge line. His vision appears to have the support of a majority of Metro councillors.

But other councillors want to see a longer, more expensive loop, which would pass near the Downsview campus.

"My feeling is we should be moving toward expanding transportation facilities in the northwest corridor, so York University can be reached in better time," said Councillor Norm Gardner.

"I don't think the Steeles loop is unpopular," Gardner added. "I think it's all about money. You've got a lot of simple politicians around who want to spend as little as possible."

Moscoe argued that the shorter loop would serve York adequately.

"The best transit option for York students is a rapid transit [streetcar or dedicated bus] corridor through the Finch hydro right-of-way, connected to a subway station at Dufferin and Finch," Moscoe said.

Construction on the 2 km extension is expected to begin in the fall, and will cost \$150 to \$185 million.

## Subway comes closer to campus after agreement

by Doug Saunders

Work will begin this fall on a new subway station at Dufferin and Sheppard. A year-long battle over the subway's path ended last week in a compromise between York and the Toronto Transit Commission.

Until last Thursday, the project had been stalled because York requested a hearing before the Ontario environmental assessment board.

University officials were worried the 2 km extension was intended to steer the subway away from the campus.

Last week Environment Minister Ruth Grier withdrew the assessment and authorized the extension after the TTC reached a six-point agreement with the university. The agreement assures that "the York option remains viable" and that it is "to be given serious consideration" by the TTC.

York has been lobbying for a "Steeles loop" which would connect the Yonge and Spadina lines across Steeles, passing through the campus on the way. The TTC and many Metro councillors prefer a much shorter loop across Finch.

According to Grier, the new subway station will face in a direction which will leave both options open.

"We're happy that we've been able to bring everyone to the table, resolve their concerns and eliminate the need for an environmental assessment hearing," Grier said in an announcement last week.

York officials say the agreement will help them lobby for the Steeles loop in the future.

"I wouldn't call [the agreement] a victory as much as getting some assurances and some information," said Ian Lithgow, York's vice president of external affairs. "Now that this one is behind us, the starting point is to lobby for the Steeles loop option."

The students' society is currently looking into the whole incident and it has reported the theft to the police. As well, because the newspaper included an election supplement, the UVic chief electoral officer is bound by the university constitution to investigate the theft.

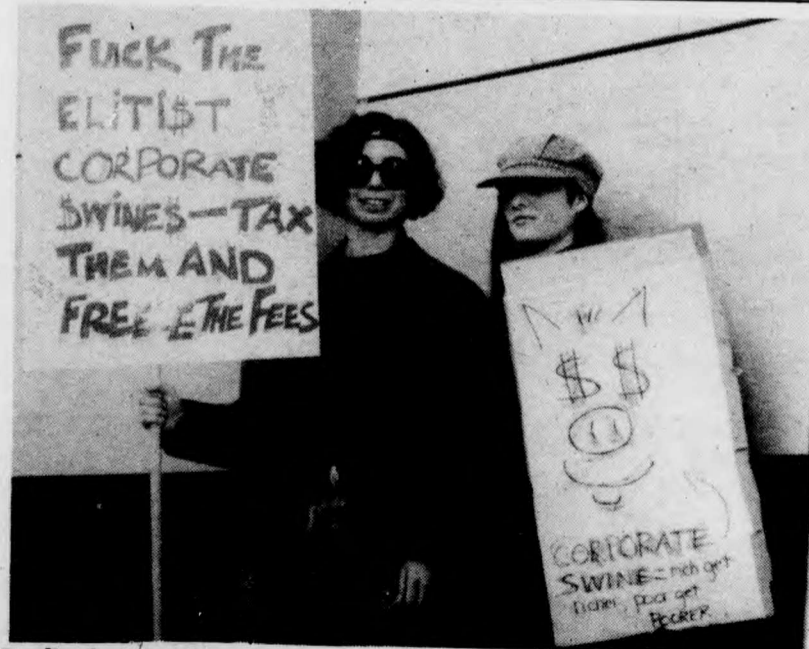
In the *Victoria Times-Colonist*, UVic director of student services Jim Griffith was quoted as saying that if he was a student he would consider withholding student society fees or protesting over the cover.

The newspaper reported Griffith as saying, "The last thing we want people to judge the university by is something you want to put right into the garbage."

But most reaction from students has been fairly mild, MacKinnon said.

"Mostly we've had mild, comment-type criticism, and some quite positive comments... as well as the stock negative attacks and good taste-type stuff."

No legal charges are expected, MacKinnon said. "It's not obscene or pornographic. You can see the same pictures in kids' books. It's not even in erect penis."



**Radical chic:** A rather small but well-informed crowd of protesters suggests a solution to the university budget problem. The elitist corporate swines were busy at a Board of Governors meeting and couldn't comment.