

# Letters to the Editor

## Slater on holiday

This is a copy of a letter sent by York President David Slater to David Sadowski, acting chairman of the Jewish Students' Federation of York University. — ed.

Dear Sir,  
Thank you for your visit today to discuss the problem of conflict between the observance of Jewish high holidays by York students and faculty and the opening of classes.

On the first occasion on which this matter was raised by you with dean of arts John Saywell, he raised it with me immediately. On behalf of the university, I have no hesitation in expressing regret at the conflict that has arisen. I know, too, from several previous discussions that dean Saywell is very sympathetic indeed to the position of students and faculty who wish to observe high holidays.

As soon as this matter was raised with me I put on the agenda of the senate's executive committee the question of optional privilege of the faculty changing the date of the opening of classes particularly in relationship to the highest of high holidays. When the matter came up at the senate executive, dean Saywell indicated that the faculty of arts executive had worked out a proposal that was the best possible alternative this year. The essential points are that while the opening day of classes will not be altered, the academic position of students and faculty who wish to observe the high Jewish holiday should in no significant way be prejudiced. This means that if crucial information is made available on this day, that is, book lists, study plans, curricula, outlines, orientation or grading arrangements, that such information must be available effectively and independently on another day early in a class to students who cannot attend the opening day because of observance of the Jewish high holiday.

In the light of this and in response to strongly supported views of members of the senate executive committee that steps should be taken to minimize such conflict in future, the senate executive agreed to allow the faculty of arts to withdraw its request for the optional cancellation of the opening of

classes this year. I can assure you, however, that the appropriate senate committees and scheduling officers of the university and the faculty will have regard to the problem of conflicts in future and we will examine these matters before we strike next year's calendars.

David W. Slater,  
president.

constituent college for two more weeks (until registration is completed).

Yours truly,  
Robert Ashton  
1st vice president (Founders' speaker, CYSF)

The two reporters present at the meeting say you were not misquoted. Excalibur did not say that Fletcher was an illegitimate president according to the constitution. That was Jeff Otis' charge. — ed.

## Resignations misquote?

Please note that in the Sept. 9 issue on page three, regarding "Several resignations over summer", I have been misquoted. I did not state that which is accredited to me.

I did not state "I can show you several constitutional theories that are contradicted in practice." Basically my ruling on this issue, as requested by a member of council was that in order for Mike Fletcher to be removed as an illegitimate president, he would have to be impeached. Further, I stated that Mike was not "illegitimate" as yet, as he is still registered in a full

## Alumni Affairs

Where is the department of alumni affairs in last week's chart? Some of your readers may conceivably graduate or might earn one of the alumni bursaries!

Wilfrid Sanders, director

We regret the omission. The chart was checked by Bill Farr, secretary of the university and by Patricia Stephenson of the president's office. Deadlines did not allow us time to check with the vice presidents. — ed.

*Excalibur still  
needs  
news reporters  
&  
sports writers  
come to the  
staff meeting  
Thursday at 5 pm*

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