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EDITORIAL

Preservation of security is everyone's responsibility

In recent weeks, stories concerning crime and violence have crept onto *Excalibur's* news pages. This latest installment in this unsettling trend is the reported assault at gun-point of a female Osgoode law student.

Assault, quite literally, is the infringement of one's personal liberty. An invasion of the sanctity of the self. As members of an academic community, where personal liberties are highly valued, such an infringement is intolerable.

In the Osgoode case, as in those which preceded it, that infringement could have resulted in dire consequences. Yet we walk through the corridors, parking lots and tunnels in blissful disregard for the real world.

That disregard is no longer possible for the few victims who have had their faith in the safety and sanctity of the community shattered. And yet, these individuals were "lucky". Their assailants left before serious physical injury could be wreaked. There is no reason for our "luck" to hold out. Nor is there an easy answer or solution in sight.

What we need at York is a substantial increase in both security and student awareness to the dangers that exist during operating but "underpopulated" hours.

An increase in security is the first and most logical step. Better lighting in the periphery lots, increased van patrols, the removal of students service offices from residences, eliminating easy access, and an increase in funding for the York Student Security Service are all good ideas. But these cost money. Living at a time when governments are instituting across the board funding cuts to universities, we will be lucky to keep our security force at its present strength, let alone increase the allotment for security services.

For the time being we must be satisfied with the task of making what security we do have more efficient, while increasing student awareness. The ability to make people aware is one *Excalibur*, as the community newspaper, has the resources to undertake. College papers, bulletins and the York Women's Centre can also further these goals by simply informing and suggesting.

We are a community, and it is imperative that we all work

together. York's design is based on the English concept of the Quad, which placed optimum value on the community and on good fellowship.

Now the community's security is being threatened and personal liberties are less assured. If an increase in funding to York Security, or an increased student awareness enables these liberties to be preserved, then we, as a community have done our job.

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Editorial Elections

will not be accepted after March 15, 1982. For more information call 667-3201.

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