

## editorial

Fraternities at York have been working very hard to distance themselves from the stereotypes traditionally associated with such groups. Recently, York's fraternities — Sigma Delta Chi, Alpha Epsilon Pi (AE Pi) and Sigma Alpha Mu — have been doing charity work for women's shelters, food banks and Down's Syndrome. They assure us that the dangerous and violent events that have occurred on other campuses will not happen here.

In October, the CYSF voted to support fraternities and sororities. It also promised to put forth a motion to have a referendum on the issue of officially recognizing Greek organizations at York.

President Peter Donato did express, however, that although supportive of Greek organizations, he had problems with some of the terrible incidents that have taken place on other campuses and that we should guard against similar events happening here.

The CYSF has backed up its promise of support by obtaining a liquor licence for a benefit being held on behalf of the York Council on the Prevention of AIDS by Sigma Alpha Mu.

It seems, however, that one York fraternity does not have a clean record.

Jeff Leibovici, last year's AE Pi pledge master (in charge of initiating new fraternity members) alleges that he experienced hazing when he was initiated into the chapter, and then hazed new recruits himself.

Leibovici says that one night in May 1987 he was kidnapped, blindfolded, handcuffed with his hands behind his back and taken for a ride in a car. He says he was brought to a school yard and was made to run around a track led by a fraternity member.

He also says he was made to do push-ups while blindfolded and was forced to sit in a sand box while fraternity brothers put sand down his pants and threw pebbles at him.

A statement of position by the Fraternity Executives Association, to which AE Pi belongs, hazing is defined as, "Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule."

Mike Kemper, pledge master when Leibovici was hazed, says that although hazing "is not well defined, I'm sure we overstepped the boundaries a few times." He added that he did not engineer the events Leibovici endured, but, "If I were going to do something like that, I wouldn't do it with another pledge there."

Apparently, hazing and inappropriate conduct has taken place at York. Granted, hazing may have been eliminated this year after the chapter's national fraternity got wind of what AE Pi had been doing and put the chapter under a half-year suspension. However, what is to stop future incarnations of this, or any York fraternity chapter, from hazing? Their word?

At other campuses, tragedies have occurred as a direct result of fraternities. Two years ago at the University of Western Ontario in London, two AE Pi pledges were killed in a car accident while out on a scavenger hunt. In the AE Pi handbook, scavenger hunts are defined as hazing.

Also, at a (non-AE Pi) fraternity party at McGill University in Montreal last year a woman was allegedly raped. Nothing came of the police investigation, however, as the fraternity brothers would not implicate any of their own.

What guarantee do we have that events such as these will never happen at York? Are the men at this university morally superior to men at other universities?

Let's not forget the sexist nature that seems to be an inherent part of these "brotherhoods." AE Pi sings songs which include lyrics such as, "Back that girl into the corner and turn the lights down low. Put one hand upon her bosom, put the other way down low. When she starts to whine and whimper, tell her the reason why. Tell her that's the secret handshake of Alpha Epsilon Pi."

This endorsement of sexual harassment and rape is exceedingly disturbing, and should be enough for the CYSF to decide not to offer its support to AE Pi.

The body that represents York students should not be compromising its reputation and credibility by supporting organizations with a history of sexism and hazing.

We are embarrassed that York has a student government that supports these "brotherhoods."

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## letters

### Money for bathroom locks and not uni-lock walks, complains student

Dear Editor:

I can't figure this place out. They complain that there isn't enough money to meet certain wants and needs. However, they find the money to install a lavish 20-mile long uni-lock walkway outside the Central Square doors (I believe). Don't you think more important priorities should be set aside toward things such as broken bathroom door locks? How can you take a ---- when the door is swinging back and forth. It's not just occurring in the men's

washroom, but also, according to my good friend Mar, it's just the same in the women's restrooms.

People complain of not taking the tunnel (women and maybe men too) because of fear of being sexually assaulted. I have a good idea — why not install mirrors so that when you turn a corner, you can see who is around the bend. Besides, it will decrease the chance of people bumping into each other.

Problem No. 3. Today I was in the caf. As a good student, I

decided to dispose of my garbage as I left the exit (which is near the TD Green Machine), but how can I when there is no garbage can?

Last but not least, if we can throw around money on walkways, why not put it towards replacing that green and yellow carpet in the library? I feel as though I am in the dance fever era.

Yours truly  
David Papernick

### Capitalism questioned in music review

Dear Editor:

While reviewing Sweet Honey's concert at Convocation Hall, in the November 9 issue, Andy Marshall appears to be everything that descriptive reviewing supposedly prescribes; in short, discussing what happened with as little personal bias as possible. And, thankfully, he writes clearly, eschewing the all too prevalent propensity of music critics (classical music critics being the most guilty) who adorn their epistles

with heavy doses of bombastic word choices, cluttered, usually with an excess of verbiage, which, in my opinion is a cute attempt to convince unsuspecting readers that they know what they're talking about — all too often they do not.

Then, smack in the middle of what was an unbiased review, this sentence: They (the female a capella group — Andrew take note; a capella is two words, not one) also expose the brutality

of capitalism. I am confused. Does he consider capitalism brutal? Is he speaking of the isolated effects of capitalism? Is he saying that capitalism, no matter how well intended, can be anything but moral etc.?

Is this you speaking, Andrew, or the group? But hell, you made me think, which is more than most critics, so keep up the ambiguity Andy!

Blair Thomson

### York students fall into apathy trap, says CYSF chief returning officer

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you in regards to the recent Health Care Plan referendum held here at York University during the week of October 30 to November 3. The turnout for this referendum was a huge success in numbers (3,500 voted) compared to past referenda (e.g. Student Centre Referendum, 2,900 voted) and elections. However if one compares the turnout to the number of full-time students who study at York (about 25,000), the turnout is quite dismal.

I see many of the students falling into the clockwork common to many large universities. That to which I am referring is a clockwork of a large population in a small space resulting in a society full of indifference and impersonality. It takes no effort at all to fall into this trap, yet it only

takes a modest amount of resolve to climb out. I am disappointed at the apathy among the York University student populace for falling into this trap.

As the Chief Returning Officer, I had a chance to sit at some of the polling stations during the referendum. I was rather shocked at some of the responses I received when I asked some students whether or not they had voted yet. Many of the students said, "no," and some even went further to say that they did care about the referendum and would not vote. From this response, I gather the impression that many of the students are not proud of the university that they attend and just don't give a damn about student affairs.

I shall speak for myself when I say that I do not consider myself to be special among the York student body. I recognize that the

main reason for attending university is for an education. However, I also know (from experience) that there is more to a university than classes, books and exams. Education is an ongoing process and one that will never stop even after graduation. I am in my position at the CYSF because I care about my university and I can only hope that in March, when the annual general elections roll around, the students of our university will make it a better spring elections!

The York Experience is better for those who chose to make it better. Not everyone will find satisfaction in this mode but at least they can say that they have tried the way. The aphorism of our university.

Yours truly  
Garry D. Choo  
Chief Returning Officer