

Students given another kick in the ass

by Reaud Safraj

With rising tuition fees, larger class sizes and a jump in rent for on-campus housing, York's de-enrolment procedure comes as another kick in the ass.

Many students who, for one reason or another, failed to pay their \$75



enrolment fee returned this fall all geared up for studies only to find a nasty surprise. They were innocent victims of York's brutal de-enrolment practices, geared to ensure student quotas are met for the Fall term (see "Tuition deposit shutting out

needy students," *Excalibur*, September 9).

York defends its \$75 "ensurement" policy by calling it a means to regulate over-enrolment. The administration reasons that if people have to pay a fee to enrol they won't enrol unless they really intend to take courses.

Curiously, the university advertised this critical information 15 pages into the glossy course calendar. Most of us simply flipped through it and picked courses, the window date, time and telephone number.

York's money song is tiring. Their "You Should Pay Your fees" tune



Graphic by Aaron Ber

actually means: no pay, no stay or get ready for a very long and torturous delay...thank you. Future tunes could include: make sure you have your \$100 [artificial inflation] enrolment fee or don't even bother registering.

Gene Denzel, York's Registrar, said a few students were de-enrolled

university?

York is just another establishment aimed at making money, and lots of it. This is perfectly exemplified by the presence of a shopping mall accentuated by an alluring million dollar landscape. If you want to own a fashionably overpriced degree, York

is the place to buy it all. Unfortunately, York is sending out a clear message: if you have money, stick around, but if you are one of those students struggling to make your way through university, don't look to us for sympathy. Universities should be helping students through these lean times; it seems York's administration continues to support policies alienating itself from its students.

Those victimized by the system should visit the various academic department offices and register for courses. Attend classes as you normally would have and hound the professor. Chances are you will get in. You can also try the voice response system, but don't be disappointed to find courses are full. Students continue to scramble for the last few remaining courses.

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If all fails, you didn't try hard enough. After all, this is York University. Students with cash get the royal treatment, and more and more students without are getting the feeling they're being told to get lost.

Clotheslining bad for women

I am writing in response to your editorial entitled "Students need to be educated and organized, not ruled."

First, I would like to note that the interview I had with your reporter was taken completely out of context. When I said YFS "can only raise people's consciousness so much," I was certainly not implying that we are reluctant to try and reform Orientation.

Any institution, including "The University Orientation," has just as much to do with the structure that supports it as it does with the individuals involved. In this case the structure condones misogynist and heterosexist events like "the clothesline." *Excalibur* is naive to think that even if it were somehow possible for YFS to fundamentally change people's attitudes, there still wouldn't be a structure in place that supports an "orientation ethos."

Your editorial writer infers that Winters College Council is a paragon of responsible orientation leadership because they "screen their frosh leaders thoroughly" and because their "clothesline" event this year was "dry," "supervised" and "goofy." Obviously *Excalibur* was not aware that at least one Winters "frosh boss" was pressuring first year students to remove their clothes during the event.

Ultimately, no matter how "well-screened" orientation leaders are, *Excalibur* may want to reconsider condoning an institution whose very nature creates an environment that is humiliating, potentially volatile and violent and inherently sexist, racist and heterosexist.

You are right that students should not give up a leading role in planning their own events. History has proven, however, that no matter how much "consciousness raising" one tries to do, many university orientation events (one might even say Orientation in general) are inherently and structurally destructive — no matter who organizes them. Nothing will change that reality, except abolishing Orientation entirely. Assuming that won't happen in the near future, university administrators must act to protect the safety — emotional and physical, of all students during Orientation — even if this necessitates banning events like "the clothesline."

I have one final, and perhaps most important point. The fact is that many women have a history of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. This includes the women who participated in "clothesline" events this Orientation and were "encouraged" to undress. Whether *Excalibur* believes it or not, there is in-

credible pressure on first year students — away from home for the first time and trying desperately to "fit in" — to participate in these sorts of events, even if they feel uncomfortable doing so.

If *Excalibur* had thought about some of these realities before you decided to champion the "clothesline" at Winters, maybe you would have realized that no matter how benign your perception of that particular event was, it may have been quite traumatizing for some of its participants.

Nikki Gershbain
President
York Federation of Students

YFS betrays students on ISU

I cannot begin to express my sense of betrayal. YFS has betrayed us, the students it claims to represent and defend. The people who say they act in our best interest have acted like the administration in two ways, stabbing us in the back.

First, YFS has made an arbitrary decision to actively work against York's bid for the ISU. I believe YFS has no right to make such a decision as it is not supported by most York students. I do not recall anyone campaigning on anti-ISU (or pro-ISU) platforms during the last YFS election. If YFS wants to be anti-ISU, they should have asked the students first through a referendum.

Second, the impeachment of Ron Stubbings. Just like the administration, YFS acted in the summer, when students were away, to do the dirty deed. How often have I heard YFS complain about administration making major decisions in the summertime to avoid having to listen to the wishes and desires of the student body? Hypocrites are what YFS executives have to be called.

This message is to Ron Stubbings. Ron, you were badly treated, impeached by self-serving power hungry hypocrites who just seek to act out their own personal agendas. You received no justice, there will be no peace.

It troubles me greatly how the anti-ISU students also seem to be anti-sci-

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ence. The few students I have talked to about ISU, who are against it, feel that York is an arts university and that York has no place for science. As an arts student I find this attitude to be rather foolish; science has its place at York just like the arts in making York a well rounded institution. Some students even believe that science will cause the death of fine arts here at York. That is hogwash; fine arts is not dying, and science will help to create new forms of art. Computers and artists have combined to create computer art, for example.

Space is the final frontier. It holds so much promise for the future of humanity. As time goes on, the importance of space will increase. It would be a shame if York missed out on this golden opportunity to be part of that. There are plans for a large space station, then a permanent moon base and later humans will be on their way to Mars. I hope that

York will not be on the sidelines watching this development but playing a major role.

Yours Sincerely,

Sean A. Veira

Mr. Linden, that's garbage

This is in response to Justin Linden's letter that claimed the impeachment of Ron Stubbings was manufactured by "a lynch mob of ultra-left wing YFS executives and councillors."

Mr. Linden, as you well know, this is pure garbage.

Ron Stubbings was impeached not because of politics but because his be-

haviour and actions (or lack thereof) during his first two months in office were destructive to YFS.

As president of the Progressive Conservative Youth group on campus and as someone who has also served as a witness for "Gershbain and Co." (Mr. Linden's expression), I take offence at being labelled ultra-left wing.

I am just about as right-wing as you can get, and I think the YFS council did the smartest thing they will do all year by impeaching Ron Stubbings.

If anyone is interested in the truth regarding the Stubbings impeachment, they can come and see me.

Sincerely,

Mitch Blass
YFS VP External, 1990-91
President, York PCs

A Word from the Registrar's Office

Need to know the status of your OSAP application or whether your loan/grant funds have arrived in the Financial Aid Office?

Don't stand in line to ask!

Call 872-YORK. Our computerized voice will inform you of the status of your financial assistance.

Photo-I.D. has arrived at York!

The Registrar's Office will begin producing photo-I.D. cards in early October. The card, which is optional, features a photo and a digitized signature, and carries a birthdate if you wish.

York requires all students writing exams to present, in addition to their Sessional Identification Card, an acceptable form of photo identification, such as a driver's license, a passport, a citizenship card, or an Age of Majority Card (see the Lecture Schedule for details). If you do not have one of these acceptable forms of photo-I.D., you must purchase the YorkCard, which is available from the Registrar's Office at a cost of \$10.

The YorkCard replaces the previous York Examination Photo-Identification Card. Holders of the previous card should bring it to the Registrar's Office where a new YorkCard will be produced at no charge.

Office of the Registrar
September 30, 1992