

editorial udderings

good: Six braille maps were put across campus last week. This is a positive addition to the electric door openers, elevators and wheelchair ramps already at York.

This not only improves accessibility for visually impaired students on campus but shows an increase in the administration's awareness of the needs of all students.

good: Recent Mellon scholarship recipient Paul Downes is a student that York can be proud of. His enthusiasm and hard work reflect well on himself, the English department and the university. We hope that a precedent has been set and that York will continue to produce high quality scholarship winners.

good: Yeomen Bill Knight and Dexter Abrams were named to the National A and Canadian B volleyball teams respectively. York is producing top athletes as well as scholars.

good: York has received a \$6.1 million grant from the provincial government (see **bad**).

bad: However, provincial and federal budgets have created a \$3 million shortfall for York this year. In order to compensate for this budget roller coaster, York's already underfunded programs will have to give up more money.

As the budget cutting will no doubt continue, York should actively look elsewhere — to alumni and private business — for financial resources. Remaining dependent on the government will continue to weaken the quality of post-secondary education.

ugly: The Bramalea Development. It may strain the already overloaded sewer system, according to Metro Councillor Augimeri. Also, the traffic and exhaust on campus will increase; hello smog, goodbye ozone.

ugly, but good: York's new fire access route. It's more asphalt but it's necessary asphalt.

and finally: The United Cigar Store has changed its locks, after a wait of some years, to prevent further expensive security risks.



letters

nuclear energy: our only hope

Dear Editors,

The heat of Summer 1989 should give us a taste of what the Greenhouse Effect means. There seems to be a general agreement among scientists that the continued burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) and forests will lead to a warming of the earth by as much as eight degrees fahrenheit.

Apart from the unbearable heat, it will also lead to severe droughts and a considerable reduction in food. So, possibly billions of people will die of starvation, including many right here in North America.

This fate can be prevented, or at least the effect may be considerably reduced, if we stop burning fossil fuels as soon as possible. At present, the only reasonably economical alternative is nuclear energy, although fusion and solar energy may eventually prove useful.

The world needs a massive program to build nuclear power stations while phasing out coal stations, etc. Also our transportation system should be powered by electricity or hydrogen produced by nuclear energy, while our buildings should be heated by the waste heat from the reactors.

To accomplish this would take approximately one thousand billion dollars a year for the next 40 years. This may seem an impos-

sible amount, but by an uncanny coincidence it is just about the amount spent on military preparations world-wide each year. We can solve our energy problem by converting this military expenditure to peaceful purposes. This does not mean that we should disarm unilaterally, for the Russians are perfectly willing to disarm if we will agree to do the same, as already happened in the case of intermediate-range

weapons.

Fortunately nuclear power, as used in North America and Western Europe, is about a hundred times safer than coal (the pollution from a coal station the size of Pickering kills about 120 people a year, while no lives whatsoever have been lost from reactor accidents on this continent).

Yours sincerely,

J.M. McNamee

(Assoc. Prof. Computer Science)

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