

LETTERS

continued from page 4

(Tuesday October 2, 1990 7:45 pm).

After further investigation I have found out that it is far more than a "communication problem." Rather, it is a problem of justice and fairness. I am writing this letter to express my disappointment in the apparently inequitable principles upon which your department directs itself.

Last year, a similar event occurred without warning. After arriving at the arena on time, we were simply told that our game and others would not be held because we were "low priority." Perhaps you do not realize the extreme inconvenience which this causes people.

The fact that we are O.R.L. and not Varsity does not make our recreation, our time, our lives or our worth as human beings any less important. Yet, this is the impression you give by "prioritizing" people in this way and by refusing to give a phone call ahead of time.

This particular time I was notified five days ahead of time. I was told, however, that if I did not accept the alternate time, we would default the game to the other team. Because we are only available for night games, this was a limitation which would cost us twice as much as teams with no such time restrictions (they pay \$225; we paid \$450 for the season). When this bumping process came up, we were expected to drop everything and attend a 5:30 pm game which was not possible physically and not acceptable contractually.

We have now been given a time which is acceptable thanks to the work of Dave DeMonte. You treat

your employees with very little respect when you ask someone like Dave to breach his arrangements with his people to accommodate these so called "higher priorities."

I am concerned that this kind of thing will continue to happen in recreational sports of all types. I would like your commitment that it will not.

You may think that this is a minor complaint which has now been dealt with. However, I can assure you that your image lives on in the minds and hearts of the community who you are supposed to service.

It is a very ugly thing in this day and age of increased awareness and equitable principles that you persist in this unjust manner.

Sincerely disappointed,
John R. Ferguson

Education, not asphalt

To the editor,

It seems an indignant slap in the face to those parties contemptibly abused by the drool of Administrators crying: "We have no funds for Higher Education."

The recent paving of parking lots 3A, 3B, 5A and the realignment of York Road, seems to me a gross misappropriation of funds. Perhaps the correct translation of Tentanda Via should read, "the way must be paved."

Michael Steadman
3rd year Philosophy

OPINIONS

Tobacco companies fuel addiction

by Daniel Wolgelecenter

So smoking is an issue that cuts to the very heart of liberal democracy and forces us to question the very values that our society is based on, is it?

Give me a break. Talk about swallowing rhetoric whole.

Smoking has more to do with addiction and manipulation than it does free choice.

In the wake of York's proposed new smoking policy, the smoking debate has flared on campus. The policy would ban tobacco sales on campus and force people to smoke outdoors if sufficient changes cannot be made to ventilation systems on campus.

The debate at York is part of a larger societal debate which is gradually building to a thrilling climax.

Many libertarian-minded free-thinkers seem to take the position that banning smoking is yet another example of the paternalistic state infringing on the rights of the individual.

How naive. To me, the argument boils down to consumer manipulation, of which smoking is the ultimate legal example.

Get the customer physically addicted to the product so they must come back for more. Where is the freedom of choice in that? Where is freedom of choice when the smoker's only choice is to smoke or suffer withdrawal symptoms?

Tobacco companies know that they have a great scam going, and they try to protect their right to legally hook their customers.

Tobacco giants like RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris spend millions every year to defend the idea of "smoking as freedom of choice", and to prove in court that there is no direct connection between smoking and heart and lung disease.

The whole point is to connect smoking with cher-

ished ideals of free choice while ignoring the harmful effects on society's resources, especially the health system.

The companies also like to use legal double talk to argue that second-hand smoke cannot be linked directly to lung cancer and other health problems in non-smokers who live or work with smokers.

Don't non-smokers have rights? It's funny that no self-respecting member of the medical or health research communities would dare argue that second-hand smoke is not dangerous.

And interestingly, the Environmental Protection Agency in the U.S. recently declared second-hand smoke to be a Class-A carcinogen, its highest (or maybe lowest, depending on your perspective) ranking.

The smoking giants know their argument is flimsy and that it is just a matter of time before people become fed up with their constitutional ramblings.

They have been gradually diversifying their holdings over the past twenty years in recognition that one day smoking will likely be outlawed, along with other addictive drugs like heroin.

But that glorious day will be long time coming, because smoking is glamorized in the media, which exist to promote consumer culture.

Smoking's presence in the media—which portray free choice as being equal to consumer choice—links smoking to the idea that choosing to smoke is equal to exercising one's democratic right.

The tobacco debate has become a smokescreen (pardon the pun) that takes attention away from more important issues of freedom.

The the issue of smoking should be redefined as an exercise in reclaiming freedom of choice from those exercising manipulative influence over the individual.

So the next time someone tries to tell you that they have every right to smoke, tell them they have even more right not to.



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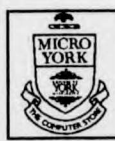
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