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formed by a man (I believe to be the manager/owner of the coffee shop) that "this is not a study hall".

"No shit, Sherlock!"

Being one of these women who is still finding it difficult to be assertive in social situations, I responded to his requests and put my books away. I then quickly finished my muffin and my coffee and was on my way. He sounded so convincing: "If you do it, everyone will," and "This is a place to get away from studying".

As I walked away I wondered what actually just took place in my last two hours at York "dale" Lanes.

I had just made my fourth (4th) trip to the bookstore to find a 1st year Sociology book to hear "It's sold out"... "3-4 weeks"... "check Humanities"... "I just started yesterday"... "Blah, blah, blah"! Perhaps this is a "multiple-guess-type bookstore"! How silly to think that they would stock enough books for the class AND someone employed at the bookstore would have a clue what's going on!

To make a long story short (oops - too late!) the question I exited the mall with was "Who is this mall catering to and why?" If it's catering to faculty and staff why is the bookstore in it? If it is catering to students why aren't we allowed to read while sitting at a table with a coffee we've just paid for?

Geez, I almost forgot - as I was leaving the coffee shop I noticed there were a number of smokers in this small space and ashtrays on each table. Since when has smoking become so acceptable and reading so offensive? I've learned my lesson (I knew all the tuition was going somewhere!). I will use any bookstore in the Northern Hemisphere before I give one cent to the York Bookstore which doesn't want me as a customer anyway. (This will be my little contribution to your much deserved deficit!) And it will be a cold day in hell before I step foot in York Lanes again! I feel much better already!

Sincerely,
Jackie Macdonald

Parking reservations

Dear Editor,

I am a postgraduate student at Atkinson College. This year, your office sold me a reserved parking sticker for which I paid an additional premium. Last night, I arrived at the reserved parking area at approximately 6:30 p.m. My class was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. I found that most of the reserved parking places were occupied by vehicles without reserved parking stickers.

After I extricated myself from the traffic jam of vehicles with reserved parking stickers and no place to park, I park in the unreserved parking area. I then walked to the reserved parking kiosk to ask how all these vehicles without reserved parking stickers gained admission to the reserved parking area.

At the reserved parking kiosk, I was dismayed to find the attendant selling parking tickets to one and all on a first-come-first-serve basis and admitting these vehicles into the reserved parking area.

You have sold me a service which you are not providing for me.

Would you please rectify this situation immediately and fulfil your obligation to me and to the other students to whom you have sold reserved parking privileges.

Yours truly,
Peter Lopponen

letters continued

Pasta protesters had point

Dear Editor,

To the guys who objected to the protesters' presence during Michael Wilson's speech at the FAS building (re: letter in Oct. 9 issue of Excalibur):

Get over it, guys.

Your recent letter in Excalibur indicates that, like many students in business education, you have failed to see the forest for the trees.

Yes, true, perhaps it was rather rude to throw cooked pasta at an "honourable" minister. Also, a mess

was made, but that's nothing a few minutes of sweeping won't correct. Further, perhaps a test was interrupted, but given that such an important political event was about to transpire that afternoon, would it not have made good common sense to reschedule the tests or hold them in another room? The protesters were exercising their democratic right of free expression; sometimes the accomplishment of that goal can become a little unruly.

Now, let's get into the important issues — the ones you gentlemen seemed to have overlooked in your haste to condemn the protesters. I would like to mention at this point that I was not among the protesters that day; I was viewing Michael Wilson's pathetic excuse for a speech on the elusive (if non-existent) phenomenon of Canadian competitiveness.

Canadian competitiveness? What does this PC government know about Canadian competitiveness? It has done precious little over the last seven years to boost research and development expenditure in Canada or nurture leading edge, high-tech industries which are the future of our economy.

The effects of free trade are now being felt, and without a strong base of "future oriented", cost efficient

businesses, Canada is severely threatened. The Tories, while planning free trade from the first day they were in office, did nothing to ready this nation for the time when it really must be competitive on a global scale.

Needless to say, given this economic predicament, you gentlemen will have a much harder time finding those \$50,000 a year jobs which you counted on when you entered business school.

Canadian competitiveness? The Tories seem to have forgotten that we students represent Canadian competitiveness. Instead, they have cut back on billions of dollars in transfer payments to the provinces for education. Moreover, they have levied a three percent tax on all student loans which must usually be paid in advance by impoverished students. Is this encouraging competitiveness? Not by a long shot! This is mortgaging the future of the Canadian people.

Let's not forget the regressive value added tax (the GST) the Tories legislated during a recession, of all times. To students with low incomes, this is a serious increase in expenditure.

Meanwhile, Michael Wilson waves around studies by the government and talks about a "wide consul-

tation process" with industry. Too little, too late, Michael! Where have you been for the last seven years? While yuppies were driving their BMW's and consuming in a style unseen by previous generations, the country never developed the skills, technologies, and intellectual resources which will see it through the tough transition free trade will necessitate.

So you see, gentlemen, your concerns are actually very trivial. The Tory government, in its failure to nurture our economy, have done you and your country no favours over the last number of years. And given the quality of Wilson's speech and his answers to the questions, you may have learned considerably more from the protesters outside the lecture hall who were trying to make a positive difference by voicing their very real, very critical concerns.

Just one major criticism of these protesters I would like to add, nevertheless: pasta is customarily served with sauce.

Yours truly,
Steven Kates,
MBA, CA

Doctoral Candidate
Faculty of Administrative Studies

Study Abroad—Check it Out!



Myth: Study abroad is too expensive.

Fact: Study abroad usually costs no more than study at York.

Myth: I can't get credit at York.

Fact: Courses you pass abroad can earn credit towards your York degree.

Myth: Study abroad will delay graduation and my career.

Fact: Study abroad contributes to the value of your degree—at university and in the job market.



Information Sessions



Scandinavian Exchange Programmes

October 24, 1991; 4:00 p.m.
162 Behavioural Studies Building

University of York
England

October 30, 1991; 4:00 p.m.
N142 Ross Building

Konstanz University
Germany

November 13, 1991; 4:00 p.m.
N142 Ross Building

Information is also available after October 21st at the International Students, Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office, 105 Central Square, 736-5028