

theless, that you acknowledge responsibility for the offensive course description, by issuing a public apology and retraction (perhaps in *Excalibur* and/or the *University Bulletin*), and by immediately withdrawing the calendar from circulation until the course description is rewritten.

—Ian Lumsden, Assoc. Prof., Political Science; Sharon Stone, Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology; Shelagh Wilkinson, Co-Ordinator, Women's Studies, Atkinson; Robin Hofland, Co-President, Gay Alliance at York; Meg Luxton, Social and Political Thought; J. Paul Grayson, Assoc. Prof., Sociology; others

Robert's king of own Castle

Editor:

On the front page of your election special you indicated that I was a member of the "Walman Coalition." Such was not the case. I ran as an independent candidate for the position of Academic Affairs Director. My campaign was run and financed totally by myself. I solicited no external help. I should appreciate a correction.

—Robert Castle

Winter/Summer culture shock

Editor:

If nervous is the best word used to describe the feeling one gets when entering York in September, then petrified would be the appropriate word used to describe the feeling one gets when entering York in February.

"Winter-Summer Student": that's what they call it, or more like that's what you're labelled as. From the moment one walks through the doors at York there's no turning back, and only because if they did they wouldn't be able to find the same doors at York there's no turning back, and only be able to find the same doors they came in through.

There is no comparison between a high school and a university. At York it seems like there are about 20 different high schools all put into one giant building. The hallways are always filled with people going in all different directions. It wouldn't be so bad if everyone was on the same level or in the same grade but because of the different age groups it's quite obvious and noticeable when you see someone walking around with their mouth wide open to label them as a newcomer.

The cafeteria itself is a shock and a nightmare for the new students. The ine-ups are never ending and the food, well, has to be adjusted to and that could take some time. It's funny as you watch the students who have already experienced finding a table and an empty chair to go with it. By February they have their routine all down pat. They walk in, put their books and bags down first, then go and order. Meanwhile, you find a new "Winter-Summer Student" with a tray in one hand and books in the other frantically looking around for somewhere to eat.

In a survey that was taken three out of five Winter-Summer Students reported that the most embarrassing place to be seen is in the York University Bookstore in the month of February. A student stated, "Everyone stares at you, they laugh and say a smart comment about the fact that you're new. It really makes me feel like misfit."

The pubs were another place where Winter-Summer Students stated that they feel out of place. It is very noticeable that these students just don't fit in. While all the others are sitting around drinking and shooting some darts, in come students with books in one hand and bags in the other and automatically are classified as students who just started York in February.

Scott Library is a horrifying experience for a newcomer at York. From an outsider's eyes it looks like a huge concrete building with books stacked from wall to wall. They say that help is always available which isn't necessarily true. If one could get an appointment for a tour arranged for the month of February, a medal should be awarded.

As seen, university life isn't all glamor. It's tough making a new start, especially when everyone else is already half-way there.

—Diane Caltana

Ayn it a shame about debates?

Editor:

For almost four years, there has been a formal debate going on in the campus, "Capitalism vs. Socialism." Every year, the debaters are more or less the same. Both the debaters seem to have premeditated strong convictions about their views. Neither of them seems to be willing to converge one bit.

I think that to organize the debate on the same topic every year makes it kind of redundant and counter-productive.

This debate is organized by a group called "The Students of

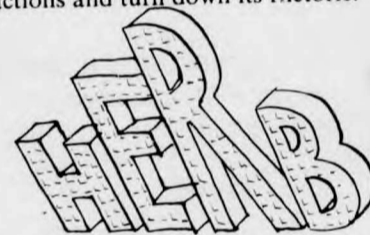
Objectivism." But it seems that their spectrum of objectives is only confined to one topic (i.e. "Socialism and Capitalism"), while there are many other important issues to debate in the world today.

—Charan Jeet Singh

cont'd from p. 8

While on the question of student money it should be noted that the entire "no" campaign cost roughly the same as one third of one SCSC two-page ad in *Excalibur*. In addition, the GSA spent its own money, with the blessing of Council, and did not receive any money from the University (we tried, but they would only fund the "yes" campaign—tell me they are not interested in building a student centre!). The SCSC, on the other hand, spent a substantial amount of money, with University assistance, to produce meaningless drawings and space allocations, glossy "vote yes" posters, and at least two two-page ads in *Excalibur*, all of which provided students with virtually no information. Student money (or the alleged wasting of it) seems to be at the heart of Symons' concerns. So it is with the GSA. We will trust York students to decide which concern has the most legitimacy. They haven't failed us in the past (pun intended!).

In closing let me repeat that the GSA does indeed support a student centre in principle and that the GSA, or some revised version of it, can count on our active support in preparing a proposal to meet the needs, and finances, of York students. It will, however, have to take into account genuine students concerns about cost, planning and University assurances. This is not a major problem, and who knows, next year we may be running a "yes" campaign. In the meantime it is not the GSA, but *Excalibur*, that should step up its actions and turn down its rhetoric.



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