

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be sent c/o Excalibur, Central Square, Ross Building. For reasons of space, letters should be no more than 250 words and Excalibur reserves the right to abridge letters for length. Any letter, which in the opinion of Excalibur's advisors, is libelous or slanderous, will not be printed. No unsigned letters will be printed, but the writer may ask to remain anonymous. All letters will be run — but due to limited space, they may not run the same week they are received.

Radio campaign hurting image

Atkinson college's recent radio advertising campaign truly scrapes the bottom of the barrel. A 'pick up your degree at your local fly-by-night college, bed and breakfast included' approach might be expected from other institutions, I use the word loosely, such as Rochdale college, but not from Atkinson.

These advertisements are not only singularly incompatible with Atkinson's image and ethics of academic conduct, but also misdirected. If nothing else, I suppose Atkinson will gain some additional application fee revenue.

I strongly object to adopting used car dealer methods in attempting to minimize anticipated drops in enrollment. If this type of advertising is all the intellectually inspired output Atkinson can put forth in response to the problem at hand — good luck Mr. Gibson, you too Dean Crowe.

Advertising is necessary, but with a little more taste and thought; and remember, obtaining an Atkinson degree is by no means a joy ride.

ROLF SERINGHAUS

Residence fees shouldn't go up

There has recently been rumours that undergraduate residence fees will be increased next academic year. If our administration officials have any fundamental knowledge of elementary economics, they will immediately know that an increase in fees will certainly drive down the demand for residence accommodation, as it is a very elastic business.

The reason why there has been a deficit in running residences this year is simply that the residence fee is much too high and the quality of food provided is just too bad. Many residence students dropped out in January, they felt that they did not get their money's worth. A further increase will simply mean more vacant rooms next year, which will only aggravate our financial problem.

Another source of dissatisfaction is the food provided. The food prepared by Versafood is just dog food. It has even deteriorated recently. The main dish is getting smaller and

unreasonable restrictions are continually being imposed. In other universities, students are entitled to a second or third helping of the main dish. In York, you should consider yourself fortunate if the supper is sufficient to survive you to eleven o'clock in the evening. Versafood's contract should be terminated and another catering service should be called in.

The university's administration should consider seriously before contemplating any increase in residence fees. It is no use to cry next year that there is an enrolment shortfall in residence and that we are thus faced with a large deficit.

JOHN STEPHENS
Stong College

Don't axe this staff position

There exists in the university a position which bears the title of Student Adviser. Mary Junjek is the adviser at present. There is the possibility that the administration plans to axe this important post as from the next academic year. I think it germane at this time to give a personal view of what this position means and to bring its existence to the notice of a wider range of students. Mary's role deals primarily with the needs of graduate students from overseas and also Canadians, who come here from outside Ontario.

Last August my plane landed at the Toronto International Airport at 9.30 p.m. direct from London. I was some 4,000 miles away from anyone I knew, but as soon as I walked out of the "restricted area" of the airport, there was Mary's smiling face waiting to take me all the way to the York campus. Not only was it a relief to meet a friendly individual at this time, but also an advantage not to have to find a taxi in the state of fatigue in which I found myself.

I set out to write this letter in order to prove my case for an international-based student counsellor, whoever may fill the post, but it would be impossible to give any account which is not biased by having met Mary Junjek. After my arrival, I thought that her most crucial task had been completed, but this perception was to be found to be entirely erroneous. Having come so far from my comparatively friendly middle-class university in "God's own country", it was a great shock to see the alienating concrete that

is York in the light of the following day.

Hence it was a reassurance to go to Mary's office for a bite of lunch. When I arrived, I had a very pleasant surprise in that somehow Mary had accelerated the process of finding me an apartment in the graduate residences. I was to be allowed to move in that very day and I cannot explain how much this meant to a person newly arrived on Canadian soil. And so, Mary had performed two vital services, apart from just being around, within the space of less than twenty-four hours.

But, personally, she was still to play a very important part in my first couple of months at York, as I remained pretty lonely and isolated for some time and even was asking myself why I had bothered coming over here in the first place. The situation could have neared the limits of despair had I not had constant opportunities of discussing my problems with Mary. She really tried her hardest to make me feel at home, and ultimately she, rather than myself, succeeded. Her efforts have then been vital and go a long way towards explaining my current enjoyment of working and living on the York campus.

More particularly I found that the regular get-togethers that she held to be an invaluable method of finding my Canadian feet and of meeting quite a few people of all nationalities with whom, if I might be permitted to say it, firm friendships have been established. I cannot envisage any other method of fulfilling this function, which has meant so much to others besides myself.

Therefore, if the powers-that-may-be at York see fit to eliminate the position of Student Adviser, there will be an awful lot of miserable and lonely graduate students in the years to come. The social costs of having manic-depressive foreigners around the place are too innumerable to mention here. The University should rather be thinking in the direction of appointing an additional counsellor for undergraduates, who may find some difficulty in settling down. Many students want to spend some time in this land of opportunity — or, next year, will it be lost opportunity? Many people certainly hope not.

HOWARD J. WILSON

Editorial trivia and bullshit

Having just completed reading your editorial entitled "Students must help if

workers strike", I have come to the agreeable conclusion that this is the greatest work of diabolical, literary trivia and bullshit that has yet to hit the pages of "DUNG" (formerly Excalibur). Such proposals of helping the strikers are only indicative of a student body which is attempting to attain socialistic proportions while retaining its capitalistic ideals and desires. No one, and I direct this at the U.L.S. and its incorporated subsidiary Excalibur, is willing in any way or perversion to give up the best form of living for a lesser and more restrictive form of existence.

"We shall all be affected — students, teachers, secretaries, administration — everyone." With this we cannot disagree. However, there do exist people in this city who would relish the opportunity to work at the jobs which would be vacated by a strike. Those who elect to go on strike do so on their own risk. The results are purely self-inflicted.

It is my own opinion that the eventual strike should be blocked in whatever means are necessary. The few should not be permitted to control or effect the welfare of the majority.

T. WEDSELTOFT

Mays resigns from Calumet

With this letter, I am tending my resignation from Calumet college and the York university community. I hereby terminate all associations I have had with this institute. I feel that the work that I have been doing as the College Tutorial Assistant and Student Liaison Officer has not been adequate. Much time has been taken away from my major interest writing a book on the North American Indian and I feel that this is too great a sacrifice. Also I am greatly disturbed by the high degree of hypocrisy maintained in the administrative staff of this college.

I am sorry that my association with Calumet college was not a happy one, but perhaps my successor, if there will be one, will gain the appreciation that this office deserves.

This resignation should take effect immediately.

JOHN B. MAYS



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