

## Support from fellow student

Dear Editor,

I wish to respond to a letter that appeared in *Excalibur* on Feb. 26 which addressed to Desmond Ellis' Crime and Delinquency class. The writer's name was withheld, but as a member of that class, I feel the letter warrants a response which I would like to make in the form of a letter to that writer:

I have mixed reactions to your letter, in that it both touched me and angered me. The pain and anger that you are feeling came through clearly and I admired your courage for having written the letter and for being so frank. How-



pointed in the right direction and not transferred outward in an indiscriminate way. Don't deny yourself possible sources of support by alienating those around you through misdirected anger. Support can sometimes come from unexpected places. Good Luck.

Sincerely,  
A Classmate (but not a "Jerk")

## YFS executives live in poverty

Dear Editor,

Recently there has been a lot of controversy over the so-called "raise" that was voted in by the council of the York Federation of Students (YFS) for next year's executive. Just to set the record straight — There was no raise. Here is the truth of the situation:

Two years ago, Peter Donato — then YFS President — made the Vice President positions full-time. The value that was ascribed to the labour of those positions was \$12,800.00. Since then, the rate of inflation has gone up every year, but salaries have not. What that means today, in real dollars, is that the YFS executive is paid 9% less than the YFS executive of two years ago.

YFS executive salaries are still well under the acceptable standard of living

for a single person, as set by Toronto Social Services. Full-time executive members are living, therefore, under the poverty line. The YFS executive makes about two thirds of the Ontario minimum hourly wage.

Although the members of this year's executive have lived with these wages throughout our term of office, YFS council believes that next year's executive members should not be making 9% less than executive members did two years ago.

Sincerely,  
The Executive Committee of the  
York Federation of Students.

## Useless advice from security

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter in regard to the York Security Alert dated March 3. This bulletin provides information on the Feb. 27 sexual assault which occurred between 8 and 8:30pm in parking lot DD. On reading the bulletin, we were deeply concerned and angered by this terrible act of violence. We were also shocked and dismayed by the manner in which York Security chose to present the information.

In this bulletin, there is a brief description of the events and the assailant

followed by a large security warning to community members (read women). We strongly believe that this was an inappropriate forum for this caution for two reasons. First of all, the wording of the statement, "Again we caution community members about the measures they should employ," suggests that had the victim followed these guidelines the incident would have been prevented. This clearly implies that women are responsible, in part, for the violence committed against them. Furthermore, the format trivializes the criminal act of the assailant, as the space allotted to the description of the actual event is considerably less than that allocated to the supposed means for preventing such occurrences.

The advice offered in the security alert is ridiculous. The first suggestion that "community members" travel in pairs or groups is not always convenient or possible. The second pearl of wisdom is that we use the inefficient and often invisible escort service. How a service which no longer drives you to your car could have prevented this crime, eludes us. Perhaps security was recommending the use of the foot escort service, however as users often wait up to an hour in a deserted building for an escort to arrive, we believe this is not a viable or safe alternative. "Walk only in lighted areas" is our personal favourite of all the gems offered by security. If this rule was adhered to no one would ever leave the Passy Gardens area. Light bulbs are a scarcity on York Campus! The parting advice offered by security is that "If you feel uncomfortable about a person approaching you... move away and get attention by yelling." The reality of women's lives is that we are uncomfortable when approached by anyone at night. Should we yell all the time??

We are outraged at the failure of

York University to make any attempt to provide for the security of 56% of the student body. In fact, cutbacks are further eroding the few safety measures there were. We are outraged by the implication that women are responsible, in any way, for the violence committed against them. Enough is Enough! We demand the right to walk this campus without fear. It is the responsibility of security to ensure that right and not ours. We are tired of living in fear; something must be done.

Elizabeth Sloan  
and Jo-Anne Wilkins

## Debate given another chance

To those in attendance at the capitalism-socialism debate:

The debate was, as a debate, in essence, a frustrating failure for several reasons.

Nevertheless, I believe important issues were raised, and that many students did not have an opportunity to hear issues — of concern to them — properly and fully addressed.

If you feel the same way, and are interested in pursuing issues further, in an intellectually respectful forum, I invite you to join me for questions and answers. If you wish to ask questions of the views expressed by Dr. Binswanger and myself, on capitalism and related philosophical topics, I will do my best to answer, for as long as interest continues, or energy allows.

Place: S201 Ross; Time: Mon. Mar. 16, 5-8pm.

See you there,  
John Ridpath.

We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 250 words. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and telephone number. Material deemed libelous or discriminatory by the staff of *Excalibur* will be rejected. The opinions expressed in this section are those of the letter-writers and do not represent those of the *Excalibur* staff, Editorial Board, or Board of Publications. *Excalibur* is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the letters published.

letters  
Excalibur March 11, 1992

# Letters

ever, I do have a few comments to make.

As a student in that class, I feel you were overly critical of the motives behind the student's behaviour. It is true that less than 1/4 of the class stayed until the end of the film, and I am not trying to justify their actions, but you must allow them their own emotional reactions (including being offended, if that's what some of them were) to what they saw. The students in our class are not responsible for, nor are consciously perpetuating a social atmosphere negatively targeting gays.

You obviously love your father, and are going through quite a bit of turmoil over what he has been going through and what is still to come. Your situation is a very difficult one to bear. Seeing a loved one suffer is never easy, believe me I know, I've been through it. The sense of powerlessness may sometimes feel quite overwhelming, but hang in there, your father probably needs you now more than ever before.

One last comment; you seem very angry about the situation, and justifiably so, but make sure your anger is

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Due to the lack of women running for office in this year's election, the women's centre has watched the elections with more amazement and interest than usual. After closely examining the candidates, the York women's centre has decided to endorse the following people:

**Nikki Gershain - president**  
**Heather Dryden - vp equality and social affairs**  
**Cindy Reeves - board of governors**  
**Boris Cibic - vp external**  
**Jeff Zoeller - vp internal**  
**Chris Waghorn - vp finance**

We wish all candidates the best of luck and urge students to make their vote an informed one.

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