

editorial

Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.
—Napoleon Bonaparte

The \$30,000 lunch

The federal government must have egg on its face in almost every campus newspaper across the country this week. The story goes like this:

When *Excalibur* reporter Carol Brunt was assigned to cover a conference with Minister of Employment and Immigration John Roberts last Friday—along with about 30 other university newspaper reporters—she had no idea what the conference would address. At the end of the conference, Brunt—along with 30 other reporters—still had no idea what the thing was about.

Students were flown in from across the country at government expense. Out of town reporters stayed gratis at a Ramada Inn, and received about \$40 in spending money. In all, the government reportedly spent \$30,000 to conduct the conference. Surely some monumental announcement was going to be made, some new job creation scheme, perhaps.

Nope.

The students were to have breakfast with Roberts—but Roberts didn't make it. They were then taken on several mysterious tours of unemployment bureaus for disadvantaged youth (aged 15 to 24), one of which was apparently uninformed the visit would take place. Finally, Roberts made it to lunch where he spoke in politician-ese for five (5) minutes, telling them they are "the opinion leaders," and that they play an important role in the government's "communication process." He then evaded vitriolic questions from the students asking why the government brought the students together for this.

After all, what did Roberts expect of them, that they write stories datelined TORONTO explaining that, yes, the government is doing just fine creating jobs for underprivileged youth?

Roberts denied that the conference was an election ploy. We figure the event was the result of a zealous but not-too-bright MP whose perspective has been warped by the high wages and extended vacations that go with government service, and who's developed a guilt complex over his expense account.

Meanwhile, many of the students used the conference to visit relatives or hunt down summer jobs. Yes, the government looks silly—that \$30,000 could have created quite a few summer jobs. And yes, reporter Brunt reports that the government is doing just fine, thank you, in placing those disadvantaged youth.

THE SUMMER JOB CRISIS

THE JOBS THAT NEVER WERE

18 YEARS & OLDER



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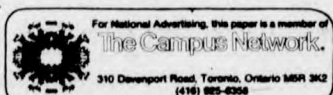
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letters

Student X-ing

Editor:
I cannot understand how no one has been killed or seriously injured while using the crosswalk under the Ross ramp. The majority of students using the TTC must pass by this route daily. Students crossing from east to west are invisible to vehicular traffic until they step out of the shadows behind the concrete massiveness of the area. They are in the crosswalk sometimes faster than a driver can react. The inevitability of a serious accident to anyone using this path is apparent to see any morning before nine. A large convex mirror and some spot lighting would go a long way to improving this deadly situation and would certainly pay for itself if it avoids a single personal injury accident.
—L. Starr

Use tunnel

Editor:
I would like to share a thought with the University. I'm not sure exactly who I should specifically address so hopefully I can reach them through this letter.
Would it be possible to use the tunnels on the north-west corner of the campus? There are several reasons for this. First it is the most open end of the campus and therefore quite windy and cold in the winter. Secondly the buildings here are the most widely spread out. Thirdly, it is between these buildings that the people probably most susceptible to the cold, must travel.
The track centre, arena, and Tait McKenzie Physical Education Complex are set from the heart of the campus. This walk seems even longer for those who use

the University's athletic facilities in the winter. Sweating athletes or those fresh out of showers must commute back to the other buildings often with wet hair. As an extreme I have seen athletes, especially physical education students, with their hair as icicles. Ten minutes between classes is barely enough to shower and change and then run to the Curtis Lecture halls or the Ross Building, let alone to blow dry hair. It is especially aggravating when one must shuttle between activity courses and academic courses all day.
Most of those who use the facilities are not aware of these tunnels and it may never have been requested. I do not imagine the costs of upgrading them would be great, if at all necessary. If there is a cost it may be well warranted. Please consider this suggestion. I'm sure it will receive much support.
—Rene' Jansen in de Wal

Racism in YPC

Editor:
Racism lives amongst the York Progressive Conservatives. I didn't know this until I happened to pick up a copy of the York University YPC Newsletter last week. In it is an article entitled "French Power in Ottawa" which contains several examples of ill-informed and racist propaganda. It would be maddening if it were not so pathetically absurd.
The writer first displays his bias by stating that "French Power" in Ottawa "has dedicated itself to imposing the French language on the English-speaking provinces of Canada." This is so ludicrous that it's probably not necessary to ask if he knows of anyone who has been forced to speak French by Federal laws. He further goes on to display either ignorance or deceit by basing his

arguments on the assertion that "the Canadians in nine of the 10 provinces speak English." I guess the writer doesn't know about Manitoba, Ontario, or New Brunswick (whose Tory government made French an official language years ago). As well, there are long-established French Canadian cultures throughout the West and the Maritimes, of which the writer should inform himself.
If the young Progressive Conservatives at York have any respect at all for their new leader, they will support him in his call for official bilingualism in Manitoba. Such views are clearly inconsistent with the kind of material appearing in their newsletter.
—Jake Brooks

Corrections

In last week's X-cal, Director Joyce Bunuel was incorrectly described as late Spanish director Luis Bunuel's wife. In fact, she is married to Luis' son.
In the January 19 issue of X-cal, it was reported that CYSF President Chris Summerhayes said two new Housing positions would result in a 6.7 percent rent increase. The actual increase resulting from the new positions is .5 percent; 6.7 percent is the total rent increase. Another article reported that the Residency Budget Committee recommended that residence students supply their own sheets. In fact, this was not an official recommendation of the committee, but rather a suggestion on the part of York University Tenants' Association chairperson Anna Esposito.
Excalibur regrets the errors.

Excalibur attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be brief—letters over 250 words are subject to editing for length. All letters must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonyms may be used upon request.