

# editorial

## Computer mismanagement

Many people believe York compares favorably to other major universities in Ontario (and Canada). But sometimes that's hard to believe.

York is here to serve its students, but the way it treats students often amounts to something less than "service."

Consider, for instance, the case of the approximately 1,200 first-year computer science students floundering in November because they couldn't use the computer—three days before their first major assignment of the year was due.

Why? Because York had not yet worked all the bugs in allocating computer time to students in Computer Science 1500.06. Originally called "Introduction to Computer Use," the name of the course should perhaps be changed to "Introduction to Computer Non-Use."

According to Course Director Dr. Mildred Shaw, "resources were not being allocated correctly... so some people were sitting on the computers continually." We would too, if we were in a class of 1,200—and had only 60 computer terminals available to us.

But our concerns are apparently unjustified. Marshall Linfoot, manager of the CMS computer system, tells us that at York, 20 students to one terminal is "acceptable."

The Computer Science Department has recognized that there is a problem and will be compensating students who might have done poorly on their first assignments because they couldn't use the terminals.

We wonder whether any of the additional "lab fee" these students had to pay will be refunded? And what about those students who may have dropped the course entirely because they were unable—or unwilling to wait for hours—for a crack at the system?

Not the sort of questions one would expect to have to ask of a "first-rate university."

We deserve better.



## letters

Excilbur attempts to print as many letters as possible. 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.

### Not puppets

Editor:  
Re: "Pornography," *Excilbur* "Letters," November 10.

Comments such as those written by D. Hooper make me realize how much further and women have to go to achieve their equal and rightful place in society.

Hooper writes that "a lot of women are jealous of the beautiful puppets that crop up in *Playboy*. This battle is women vs. women." Is Hooper being sarcastic or just dumb? I suspect the latter.

Women are not jealous because they are not also viewed as beautiful "puppets." Women are fighting to destroy the shackles of traditional thinking which regard them as "puppets."

Beautiful or not, all women have minds of their own and control their own actions. When will *Playboy* and D. Hooper notice the difference?

Jill Arthur

### What's beauty?

Editor:  
When someone takes a stand against the dehumanizing pornography that is exhibited at local newsstands, as did Vesna Josifovski ("Letters," Oct. 27), they are invariably labeled as jealous, oversensitive females who refuse to accept the beauty of the naked female body.

I wonder if D. Hooper ("Letters," Nov. 10) and others who are quick to jump to the defense of pornography are aware of the very cruel, violent, and demeaning depictions in some of these magazines? In this month's *Rustler* magazine, there is a picture of a naked woman strapped to an electric chair, her head shaven, her legs spread apart and a spotlight brightly illuminating her open vagina. An article in this same magazine describes a woman being brutally raped, calling out to her husband for help. He is too busy masturbating to come to her aid, the more she bleeds from the vicious attack the more turned on he gets. A

cartoon pictures a man in bed with three little girls. The girls are tied up, look frightened, and the apparatus around the bed include a bat, a magnifying glass, and some artificial penises.

Is this beauty? Is this art? Have we lost our ability to differentiate between the erotic and the degrading? This type of pornography dehumanizes us all.

—Judy Szilagy

### Clarification

Editor:  
I would like to clarify the position of the Jewish Student Federation regarding the applications for space and funds made by the Society of Self-Realization and Vedic Sciences.

Lily Contento, in her article "Group Seeking Space Meets JSF Resistance" (Nov. 10), reports that the Society was encountering JSF opposition. To substantiate this claim, Contento relies on certain statements she writes were made to her at an interview with David Gord, the JSF's Program Director. I was not present at this meeting and so I cannot comment on the accuracy of such statements. However, I would like to comment on the reporter's presentation of these statements as JSF policy and pinning them with the label "JSF resistance."

Policy in the JSF is made by students elected to our Steering Committee. It is this body which decides what position, if any, the JSF will take on a given issue. The Chairman of this Committee is the only member of the JSF vested with the authority to express the views of our organization. Miss Contento relied on the Program Director rather than the Chairman, myself in this case, for JSF policy. Needless to say, this did not result in an accurate representation of the JSF's stand regarding the Society. Mr. Gord was expressing his own personal opinions.

The Steering Committee has not seen reason to question the merits of the Society's applications and therefore no

efforts have been made to resist them. Instead, the JSF encourages the formation of such groups. They can only benefit the rich assortment of ideas and opinions espoused at York.

I hope that the readers of the *Excilbur* accept this as the accurate attitude of the JSF towards the doctrine of others rather than the one which emerged from the above-mentioned article.

Guidy Mamman

Chairman, Steering Committee  
Jewish Student Federation

### Don't cut CFS

Editor:  
In the last issue of *Excilbur*, the main story was titled, "CFS to end membership with Students Federation," and the reasons cited were the prohibitive costs and the low level of service provided. The given reasons are poor and cannot make a case against the National Student Movement.

In discussing money matters one thing that comes immediately to mind is the CFS's obvious indifference to the high tuition fee increases imposed both to Canadian and foreign students the last few years. It seems that the CFS finds the time and energy to raise such issues as an increase of the membership fee by the CFS and cannot find the time to protect the students from high tuition fees, which are both a much more burning issue for the students and the responsibility of the CFS leadership to its electorate.

The other thing that comes out of last week's article is the one-sidedness of the information provided by the CFS. It would be desirable to hear the case for the CFS so that students can make up their own minds.

In light of the latest developments the All Student Union Movement (ASUM), calls on all students and student groups on campus to make every effort to defeat attempts to pull CFS out of the CFS and CFS-O.

—Saeed Parizian  
Co-ordinating Committee, ASUM

## excalibur

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