

# editorial

## Hobson's choice

A lesson in how to identify the make-it-look-like-a-choice-and-they'll-end-up-thanking-us scam:

In a CYSF ad in *Excalibur* two weeks ago, you may have noticed a brief survey. You were supposed to indicate whether you would rather see library photocopying fees double to 10 cents, or be charged an annual "library fee" of \$5. Having made your choice, you were to drop the survey off at the CYSF office.

What you experienced was an excellent example of artful wool-pulling. Late last year, the Senate Library Committee decided it needed more money. Everyone needs money on this campus, so that's no surprise. What is surprising is the means the Committee went about asking for it.

The Committee saw that it would be possible to make big money by bumping photocopying rates to a dime a copy. York libraries currently make no profit on photocopying machines, but doubling the fees would result in an estimated \$100,000 annually. But then the Committee realized it could make about the same amount by charging each student, say, \$5. To help the Committee "decide," it recommended that the CYSF make the "choice," thereby giving the students some "input."

But the Library Committee's "choice" would have made Hobson blush.

Clearly raising the cost of photocopying 100% is unacceptable. Not only do we object to the size of the increase, but increased rates would also likely result in a drop off in use, and those books and magazines—so easy to copy now—would inevitably suffer from greater rates of vandalism and theft. Any measure that might encourage people to rip out those needed pages rather than copy them must be opposed.

But charging a library fee is also unacceptable. Our tuition fees contain enough mystery charges already.

If the libraries really need money, there are alternatives, like the York fund. And if they wanted to raise photocopying rates (admittedly a bargain), there are alternatives to doubling the cost. The University of Guelph, for instance, uses a credit card system: students insert a plastic card into the photocopier while they make their copies and are sent a monthly bill. Not only would a system like this make photocopying less bother, but it would allow more modest increases. Since no coins are involved, a 6¢ or 7¢ photocopy is not impractical. The libraries at York should be more resourceful.



## letters

*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.

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## Disgruntled

Editor:

Your editorial of January 19 was insulting. It's not the quality so much as the content that's the problem. You have consistently managed to deal, in a student newspaper, with issues that are of unfortunately little concern to students.

Would it be too much to expect our one and only campus newspaper to tackle the problems that face us all? Apparently so: you have subjected us repeatedly to attacks on the various governments in a manner which sidesteps the whole question of student concerns.

While we're in the neighborhood, let's take a look at your stance on the CYSF this year. I for one do not recall a single article since September which even *hinted* at confrontation. Your blind acceptance of everything the CYSF does is a disservice to the students who pay good money toward your continued support.

Two weeks ago, when President Chris Summerhayes finally took a stand on something—that eyesore of a statue which pollutes the hall outside his office and bears absolutely no resemblance to anything commonly known as "art"—you actually treated the story as news. Get real! The only part of that whole charade that was newsworthy was that once Summerhayes finally took a stand on something, it was on an issue which absolutely didn't matter. Yet you failed to comment on that.

The role of the press in such a situation must be adversarial. For one thing, why didn't you point out that that "work" (another bastardization of the language) was the creation of one of Summerhayes' friends? I don't mean to insult the artistic talents of a wide variety of members of the York community. I especially don't want to imply that the artists' friendship

with Summerhayes in any way diminishes his own abilities. My point is that you missed the point.

Summerhayes has made a science of waffling his way through each and every situation this year, yet you have never even suggested the possibility that he might be wrong. This leaves us with but one question—what's wrong with you?

—Larry Till

**Editor's note:** Larry Till is the managing editor of *The Vandoo*, a small Vanier College newspaper.

## Keep the art

Editor:

I know you will be as sorry as I was when I learned that the lovely old sculpture donated to us by one of our eminent artists, Mr. Scott Childs, will be removed, despite the beauty it gives to the Central Square, and the prestige York University derives from it. Oh!, how will its beauty and grace be lost to us forever? All of us who appreciate nature's immeasurable artistic gift regret this tragedy.

The removal of this statue from this unmatched location within the Campus appears to be a step further to what one might be tempted to label an act of vandalism to York University's reputable artistic ability—a problem which can affect all of us unless we make a mutual effort to rid ourselves of it. We should give credit to our able leader, Mr. Chris Summerhayes, for coming forward fearlessly in time to defend the majority's right. His fellow efficient administrators should be credited also for their enormous support.

Though we appreciate the concern of the Central Square Coordinating Committee, we need to ask this Committee if Central Square is what we really want? If

at all, do they want the Central Square to be a prison for our scholars or a place of freedom and academic growth?

Shall we instead face this problem frankly and constructively? Let us consider a few facts. Does York University have adequate infrastructural facilities that the students need most or should we be deceived by an empty freezing space called a Central Square. Have the authorities concerned really done everything within their resources to make York University the institution in which we all shall be proud to grow up, and have time to waste at the Central Square?

In the interest of maintaining your exceptionally good press relations with students, please kindly publish this article so that every student will be notified of the serious danger facing our academic brain-child in this University.

—Okezie Iroaga

## Cut 'dirty' ad

Editor:

I am dismayed by your willingness to print advertisements for a café where table-dancing women are displayed as sex objects. Ads like this are subtle but effective in promoting the idea that women are one-dimensional people; that their greatest value lies in the physical pleasure men may gain from them. Every time I am excluded from an intellectual discussion among men, I am reminded of this attitude.

You cannot force the women to stop working in the café or force the customers to stop going there. But you don't have to *help* a business of this type by advertising it. Frankly, I'd rather see a 12-page *Excalibur* than a 20-page issue with an ad like this.

—Julia Steinecke