

EDITORIAL

York's ineffective smoking policy

The signs read "No Smoking — City of North York by-law no. 29256 — maximum fine \$1000," but the reality of York University's incorporation of North York's smoking policy is that people continue to light up wherever they please.

York's smoking policy began on February 22, 1988 with a ban on smoking in classrooms, lecture and seminar rooms, library reading and stack rooms, elevators, stairways, washrooms, corridors, and service lines.

On September 6 of this year the second phase of the policy went into effect. Smoking was banned in all open, shared, or private offices. The idea was to allow smoking only in designated areas, creating a virtually smoke-free university.

York's policy fits neatly into society's growing anti-smoking sentiment regarding smoking in public places. A total ban cannot be far down the road.

"We're heading for a smoke-free environment by the year 2000," said Nancy McLeod, Programme Director of Workplace Policy for the Lung Association.

But York's smoking policy falls short, not only of creating a ban, but also of creating smoke-free areas. Smokers still litter Central Square and other parts of the school which are clearly designated as non-smoking areas.

The complaints procedure is ridiculous: if you spot someone smoking, you must first request the smoker to put out the cigarette. If the smoker refuses, you ask for his name so you can lodge a formal complaint with the Department of Occupational Health and Safety in the East Office Building. And after several bureaucratic layers, a fine of up to \$1,000 could be levied.

Obviously, this process can never work.

Some smokers complain that the policy infringes upon their rights. But second-hand smoke violates the rights of non-smokers, and in order to limit smoking at York, the policy must be stricter.

Granted, many smokers abide by the new rules and confine their habit to designated smoking areas, such as the north end of Central Square. But non-smokers still have to walk through a cloud of smoke to get to the cafeteria or their classes, and the smoke is recirculated through the Ross Building's ventilation system anyway.

If the University was serious about a smoke-free environment, it would ban smoking from campus altogether. But such an extreme policy would be impossible to enforce, and could never be implemented until the majority expressed support for such a move.

For now, it would be nice for smokers to abide by the rules.



ILLUSTRATION: BRIAN KROOG

Yeah, yeah — Smoking Policy Phase II . . .

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

LETTERS

Legislation a waste

Dear Editor,
When you consider the amount of time and money which is going towards implementation of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) on campus to protect us from workplace hazards (not simply chemical hazards), one must reflect with some concern on the safety aspects of actually getting to your workplace while on campus. As Chemical Control Officer Richard Grundsten reported, there have never been any serious hazardous material incidents on campus. What a contrast to the campus road situation where only recently two scholars were brutally killed.

I, for one, cannot see how all this effort will provide anyone doing with research "hazardous materials" any more protection than they already have. Can a government agency know more about an unknown substance than the person developing it? No! All it will do is take the employer of the hook in the relatively unlikely event of a problem.

This piece of legislation is *not* for the workers' protection, it is for the employers protection, who, having filled all the appropriate pieces of

paper and displayed all the required notices, can simply turn around and say: "Na-na! I told you so!"

So if you blow your legs off in the lab, you'll probably get fired for assing around!

Clive Holloway
Chemistry Faculty

will make rich? Why isn't there an internal towing company at York to at least keep the student dollars on campus? Don't we need this extra money to build a parking lot anyhow?

Johnny Rock

Parking still "insufficient"

Editor,
Is it really true that the architectural plans for York were sought after a Californian School? Who cares.

Parking at York is still insufficient. Take any given weekday afternoon and you are bound to enter York grounds with nowhere to park. You're left with two alternatives. To drive back home and bus it, or to park in designated spots for service vehicles. Obviously you chance it and park at one of many service spots still vacant.

However, class ends and you are slapped with a fine. You're a poor student who must pay the ticket with little hope of fighting the violation with a petition.

For the less fortunate who have already received notices of violation, their car will be towed. But where does the money for the towing charge go? To a company that York Parking and Security has decided it

A total "lack of support"

Editor:
We in the International Socialists felt it necessary to write this letter to illuminate CYSF's complete lack of support for the OFS sponsored rally at Queen's Park. This lack of support came as no surprise since CYSF has not paid its \$30,000 in dues for this year because of political differences and charges that OFS is ineffectual. However, to court the demise of the OFS in this fashion is to do a disservice to students across the province.

The focus of Monday's rally was tuition rates and student housing — two major problems for students across the province, and especially in Toronto where off-campus housing costs are astronomical. Both can be traced back to serious underfunding of universities and university students by the government. Overcoming these problems will require a

cont'd on p. 5

EXCALIBUR

Editor	Adam Kardash
Production Manager	Brian Krog
Copy Editor	T.J. Roberts
News Editors	James Hoggett, Garry Marr, Nancy Phillips
Arts Editors	Cathi Graham, Howard Kaman, Susan Vanstone
Sports Editor	Randy Ugolini
Photography Editors	Babak Amirfeiz, Andre Souroujon
Production Staff	Richard Abel, Roslyn Angel, Lorraine C. Anthony, Brian Archdekin, Paul Gazzola, Tania Hewett, Jehan C.S. Kladitis, Georgia Liolios, Doris Montanera, Mary O. Riccardo Sala, Jerome Ryckborst, Bob Shairulla, Lisa Webster
Staff	Marcelo Alterman, Roslyn Angel, Lorraine C. Anthony, Brian Archdekin, Mary-Ann Burns, Suzan Butyn, Stacey Beauchamp, Simon Chung, Jonathan Clarfield, Frank Clarke, Morley Conn, Orsola Lina Cugliari, Len Cler Cunningham, Farhad Desai, Stephen Dewsbury, Mark Dillon, Deborah Dundas, Sophie Fernandes, Shalene Gavor, Paul Gazzola, Lauren Gillen, Scott Goodman, Karim Hajeer, Dionne Harding, Ken Hunt, Chris Hurst, Martin Hyde, Edward Ikeda, Pierre Imlay, Terry Jacobs, Sheila Jansen, Pamela Jarvis, Jonathan Kahana, Jonathan Kardash, Jacob Katsman, Elan Kattis, Michael Krestell, Ann Lambert, Mark Levine, Mike Liddel, Jonathan Mahood, Lorne Manly, Indigo Montoya, M. O'Brian, Steven Page, Mark Pasquini, Bashir Patel, Zenaida Pereira, Paul Quattrini, Ken Quigley, Tracey Reid, Elizabeth Reyes, Trevor Rosenberg, Jessica Rudolph, Sydney St. Nicholas, Heather Sangster, Victor Serfaty, Alexander Sgroi, Bob Shairulla, Shay Schwarteman, Alpa Sheth, Monika Stegel, Alfred Stieglitz, Barney J.-Strayer, Sanju Vaswani, Christine Villanescio, David Webster, Brian Wright, Mark Wright, Daniel Wolgerenter
Advertising Manager	Merle Menzies
Advertising Assistant	Zena Kamocki
Advertising Rep	Meiyin Yap
Typesetters	Mary Jankulak, Stuart Ross
Board of Publications Chairperson	Brigitta Schmid

EDITORIAL: 736-5239
TYPESETTING: 736-5240
ADVERTISING: 736-5238

MAILING ADDRESS:
Room 111, Central Square
York University
4700 Keele Street
Downsview M3J 1P3