

## Raising intra-mural fees in quest for austerity overlooks human costs

The Physical Education Department, like the rest of the University, is strapped for funds. In their quest for budgetary austerity, they are considering drastic increases in intra-mural entrance fees. As recently as two years ago, the colleges participated in intra-murals for free. Now each college may be asked for up to \$6,000 for their involvement. Such an increase would seriously jeopardize the colleges' ability to maintain their intra-mural programs. Is the Physical Education department aware of these repercussions?

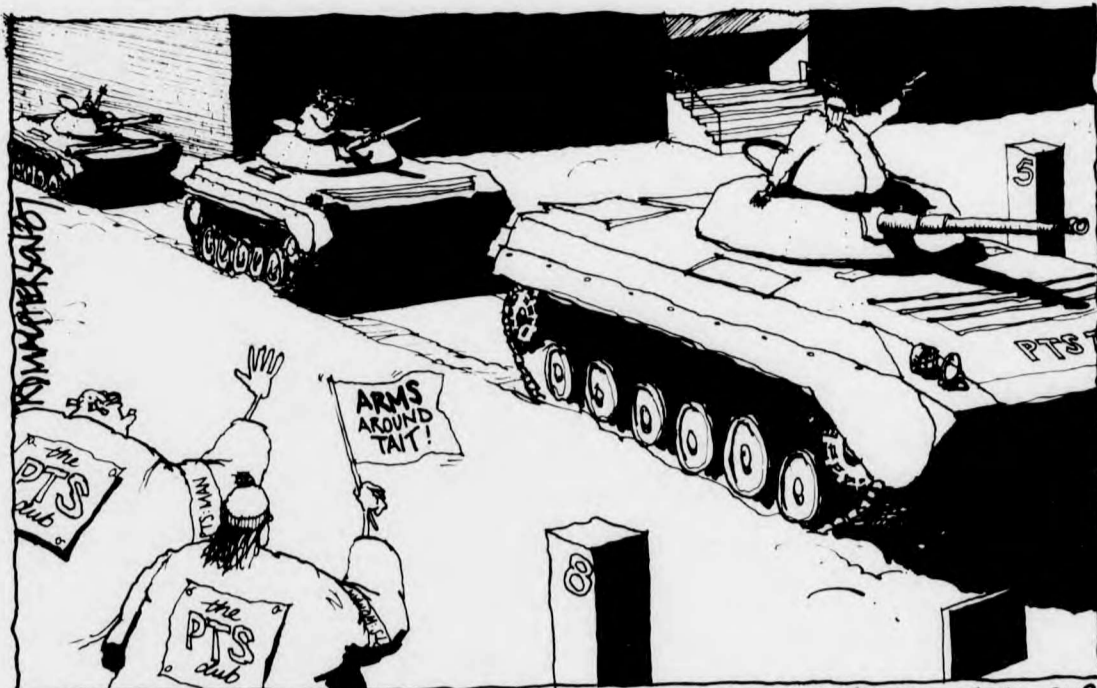
Physical Education claims there are "real costs that must be met" in order to justify the increased entrance fees. Obviously they downplay the magnitude of the hidden human costs involved in eliminating intra-murals on campus. Can one evaluate the decreased participation in college activities as a result of the demise of intra-mural activities? How about the subsequent reduction of commuter-resident interaction? Aren't recreational athletics important for a well-rounded university experience? And what of the long term implication?

Any healthy university relies on contributions from alumni whose loyalty to the institution is established during their enjoyable years here. Intra-murals, in which hundreds of students participate, have a lasting effect on how students view their stay. By critically injuring our intra-murals, are we not mortgaging away a portion of our future endowments? When all the hidden costs are revealed, both monetary and otherwise, is the proposed increase in fees really worth it?

Given the gravity of the situation, it should be mandatory that the Physical Education department justify their decision with a detailed breakdown of its forthcoming budget. For too long, students have been left in the dark by arbitrary administrative decisions that directly concern them. Apparently, the Physical Education department is determined to continue this trend as it has no plans to reveal how its funds are allocated.

Sadly, this is characteristic of York's bureaucratic style, which often leaves students uninformed of how their university fees are being spent and which cuts will impede on what programs and activities. This episode cries out for the establishment of a student activities fee breakdown.

The increasing in intra-mural fees are fortunately still speculative, leaving concerned York students time to mobilize support and reverse this potentially devastating decision. The tentative protest, set for March 18 and organized by representatives of Stong and Founders College Councils, is a welcome sign of students desiring to influence the Administration's future decisions, rather than reacting to them after the fact.



PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH SUGGESTS A DIFFERENT KIND OF PROTEST...OK?

## Letters

Letters to the Editor are welcome, and should be sent to 111 Central Square. All letters should be double spaced and preferably typewritten. Although Excalibur may withhold names of correspondents in extenuating circumstances, all letters must be signed and include the writer's phone number for verification. Anonymous letters will not be published. Excalibur reserves the right to edit letters for length, and to withhold all correspondence which is of a libelous nature.

### Ignorance root of homophobia

Editor:

B.J. Chatterton's letter (Jan. 22) confirms yet again that one of the main supports of homophobia is ignorance—presumably willful ignorance, as the facts are there for anyone who cares to investigate them.

The basis of her/his letter is the old, long-discredited assumption that homosexuality is 'unnatural.' Two (perhaps, for most of us, over-familiar) points need to be made:

a. Psychoanalysis has demonstrated conclusively that everyone is innately bisexual and that the repression of one's homosexual side is one of the major causes of mental illness. Both heterosexuality and homosexuality are socially constructed; neither is 'natural' (or, alternatively, both are 'natural'—take your pick).  
b. Homosexual behaviour begins with the primates (the lower animals indulge in it, for the most part, only when heterosexual outlets are blocked). When creatures began to walk on their hind legs, exposing their genitals and making them much more accessible, a very important development took place: sex ceased to be a mere mechanism for reproduction, evolving into a most wonderful means of mutual pleasure, tenderness and communication. As soon as reproduction ceases to be the sole or primary aim of sex (the general acceptance of birth control acknowledges that this has become the case), there is no longer any logical reason why its potential for pleasure and communication should be restricted to partners of the opposite sex. The availability of homosexuality is, then, the mark of a higher phase of evolution.

Is B.J. Chatterton not aware of how such a letter exposes him/herself? Homophobia has no rational explanation (why should anyone hate or fear people because they fall in love with members of their own sex?): it can only be explained psychoanalytically. The homophobe is s/he who feels (albeit unconsciously) severely threatened by the repressed homosexuality that continues to exist in every socially constructed heterosexual.

Finally, B.J. really shouldn't try to mislead us with that silly old chestnut about 'choice.' No one 'chooses' to be heterosexual or homosexual. I have traced my own homosexuality to the age of six, long before I had

even heard the word. I certainly didn't 'choose' to feel a sexual response to men rather than to women; because of social pressures, all through adolescence, young manhood, and 10 years of marriage, I *tried* to choose to be heterosexual and failed. I now bitterly resent the waste and misery (not only my own) that a generally homophobic society foisted on me. Happily, we no longer have to tolerate ignorant bigots like B.J. Chatterton.

—Robin Wood

### Letter made of hatred and lies

Editor:

I was intrigued by the amount of coverage given to lesbian and gay issues in last week's edition of *Excalibur*. However, my surprise turned to dismay when I encountered a letter by B.J. Chatterton entitled "Reader 'adhores' passage of Bill 7" (*Excalibur*, Jan. 22).

I feel Chatterton's letter is an example of manipulative misinformation, as it follows the conventional hate-literature formula: start with sound facts, move to half-truths, then liberally spice with myths, lies and insults.

Rather than pick apart the myths and lies propounded in that invective letter, I would like to use this as an opportunity to set a few things 'straight.'

Bill 7, which passed in the Ontario legislature this past December, was blanket legislation designed to bring the province's statutes into line with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Section 15, the equality rights section of the Charter, states the grounds on which it is illegal to discriminate: race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age and mental or physical disability. Although it is not specified, Justice Minister Mark MacGuigan has officially interpreted Section 15 to include sexual orientation. This is because Section 15 is not limited only to the grounds specified; the Ontario Human Rights Code, however, is. Thus, in order to bring the Code into line with Section 15 of the Charter, sexual orientation was included as a specified ground.

Heavy debates and fierce political lobbying focused upon this amendment in the legislature, but it passed with a majority vote of 64-45 in favour.

The legal implications of this amendment are very specific. All it really means is that it is now illegal to deny anyone access to employment,

housing or services (such as restaurants) on the basis of sexual orientation. It also means that any individual subjected to discrimination on this basis has grounds for legal recourse.

In a 1985 Gallup Poll, 70 percent of Canadians nationwide and 80 percent of university students were in favour of this sort of legislation.

It should be mentioned that although the lesbian and gay population is predominantly invisible, our community does meet the necessary criteria for inclusion in the Ontario Human Rights Code as set forth in Attorney-General Ian Scott's background paper "Sources for the Interpretation of Equality Rights Under the Charter."

In a better working society, perhaps we wouldn't need to protect ourselves from this sort of discrimination. Unfortunately, due to the high incidence of it in areas such as employment, housing, education and services, this legislation was definitely called for.

It can be very easy at times to de-emphasize the humanity of individuals simply by dismissing them with a label. Ignorance and fear may lead to irrational hatred and prejudice. Education and high visibility lead toward the only acceptable compromise; that of tolerance, awareness and acceptance of the diversity which enriches us all and makes life so interesting.

—William Pritchard

Co-ordinator, The Lesbian and Gay Alliance at York

### Homosexuality not a lifestyle

Editor:

B.J. Chatterton's letter of Jan. 22 ("Reader 'adhores' passage of Bill 7") contains basic misconceptions concerning homosexuals and their place in society.

Chatterton contends that "homosexuals have the same rights" as everyone else in society. The notion of an invisible minority is viable as long as homosexuals do not indicate their sexual orientation. In other words, as long as homosexuals "stay in the closet" they will not face discrimination. For those who do not hide their homosexuality (or are suspected homosexuals), life in our society can be difficult indeed. Trying to rent an apartment becomes virtually impossible, as does getting many jobs.

Chatterton mistakenly names homosexuality a lifestyle. Homosexuality is a sexual orientation in

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EDITORIAL: 736-5239  
ADVERTISING: 736-5238  
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MAILING ADDRESS:  
Room 111, Central Square  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Downsview M3J 1P3

