

## Comment

## Under Attack hides issues, creates phony confrontation

By AGNES KRUCHIO

Is there such a thing as a fair and unbiased show, a fair and unbiased report, a fair and unbiased investigator? It is in the nature of the media, this or any other, to exaggerate some aspects of the story, the most dramatic ones by and large.

And that is why a show like Under Attack is no more than cute, since the people 'under attack' have all sorts of ways to obscure an issue. The people on the panels, myself included, may or may not be practiced debaters. The way the format of the show works, what counts are points and counter points. Often it boils down to "who is winning", the students or the guest, and few seem to listen to the content.

Looking over the list of participants, it is evident that the students have little chance of success. The people invited to be on the show are inevitably practiced and vocal people, who very often make their living by the very matter they defend. Take William Pickett, the president of American Motors; the man has been in the business of defending American Motors and the automobile for thirty years or more. He is a PR man through and through. He has a vested interest in defending the industry because it's his bread and butter.

While there is little prompting by

the organizers of the show as to just what the panelists ought to ask, it is evident that what they are after is confrontation. Let us not forget, the name of the game is "Under Attack". Therefore the most dramatic aspects of all possible questions are brought out, those that will bring on some sort of clash, some sort of dramatic scoring situation.

It is a sad but true statement that the show that originated during the era of student revolution and dreams of the grand new world, has been co-opted by the system.

No really incisive questions can be asked and no constructive conclusions can be derived. It is all due to a format that will keep mom and dad happy. 'Look mom, isn't it cute that the university students can question the status quo?' Not too close though, 'cause we don't want to rock the boat. Too much rocking results in cancellation.

While none of this has anything to do with the people who run the show — after all, they are only doing their respective jobs — little can be accomplished in a show that cannot afford to listen to real issues, only to phony confrontation.

As a lamb on the symbolic official altar, this panelist feels that aside from a good PR job for the man involved, little of the real issues were heard, and even less was accomplished.

## Fight for women's rights

The York Right to Choose committee was launched last Thursday with an aim to helping the fight for women's rights.

The committee's objective is to organize support on the campus for the repeal of Canada's anti-abortion laws.

Activities will focus initially on Dr. Henry Morgentaler, who is currently

## Overdue books may cost degrees

The Senate Library Committee will be holding the third in a series of three open meetings to discuss a library lending code and sanctions against delinquent borrowers on Monday at 1 p.m. in the Senate Chamber (Room S915, Ross Building).

The committee hopes to focus this time on proposals for sanctions which might be applied against borrowers holding overdue books or owing excessive amounts in fines. At present the only existing sanction is a system of fines for student users of the library; under this system, outstanding fines of \$25 or more are sent to the accounting department for collection.

The library committee would like to see a system of fines apply across the board to all library users, whether faculty, students, or staff. In addition, the committee will be giving serious consideration to some or all of the following proposals for further sanctions: withdrawing library privileges, either on the spot through a "blacklist" or the following year when sessional validation cards are re-issued; withholding degrees from students in their graduating year; charging gross violators with theft; reporting offenders to their dean or principal, or even to the president.

All interested members of the university community are invited to attend the meeting to express their opinions on these proposals, or offer alternative suggestions for cutting down on the drastic temporary book losses suffered by the library each year.

appealing his conviction for "illegal" abortions to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The name of the committee, selected after great deliberation, was designed to reflect the committee's belief that the decision whether or not to have an abortion should be left up to the woman involved.

"We are neither for nor against abortion per se," said one spokesman for the group, "but we demand that enforced motherhood be ended."

The committee intends to become an official York club and to receive CYSF funding and office space. Interested York students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate by contacting Dale Ritch in N109 Ross (667-3532) or by getting in touch with CYSF.

## York Chile day

The York Chile Committee is holding a Chile Day Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Graduate Students Common Room, 7th floor, Ross Building. On the agenda are speakers, films and a reception for York's Chilean students. Professors or students interested in using any of the material presented, or in obtaining a speaker from the Chile Committee may contact Judy Shand at the SCM office, N105 Ross.

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