

Opinion:

Finances the priority for "no" vote

By TERRY CONLIN

Hell knows no fury like an editorial writer scorned! *Excalibur* editorially endorsed a "yes" vote on the recent Student Centre Referendum. Fine. York students, on the other hand, repented with a resounding "no."

Now, rather than analyzing the shortcomings that 62 percent of those who voted found in the Student Centre Steering Committee's (SCSC) proposal, *Excalibur* managing editor Gary Symons has responded with an unwarranted, and factually incorrect, attack on the Graduate Students Association (GSA). I would like to respond, on behalf of the GSA, to Symon's unfounded accusations and, particularly, to his bizarre claim that there was a paradox in the position of the "no" campaign.

First, it should be noted, the GSA was not alone in opposing the SCSC proposal. The Bethune College Council, the Environmental Studies Students Association, the Graduate Business Council, the Glendon College Council, the Founders College Council, and possibly others of which I am unaware, all took a position in opposition to the SCSC proposal. We (the GSA) were certainly not alone in having "students' best interests at heart."

All of these groups, from Symons' perspective, must not have done "their homework properly." From our point of view, however, they not only did a thorough job on this project, but in addition they deserve full grades for their efforts. It is Mr. Symons whose homework leaves much to be desired.

This is demonstrated in Symons' claim that "the GSA's primary complaint was that the referendum was premature." This warrants, at best, only part marks. We did claim, correctly I think, that there were far too many unanswered questions (and we did all that we could to get the answers from the SCSC—they did not know them either!), but our "primary complaint," the one that *always* got first billing, was the amount of money being sought in the referendum (\$50 per full-time student).

Had the "yes" vote carried the day, and no other sources of funding had been found (and remember none were being sought. In fact, the Chairperson of the SCSC actually favored *total* student funding!), students would have had to shoulder the entire cost of construction, *without* getting another opportunity to vote on the issue. That is, all students, not merely the 2,000 or so who voted, or the 1,000 or so who could have resulted in a "yes" victory. We are not talking \$1.50 per student here, as in the CLASP vote which deservedly won support, but a full \$50 per full-time student per year! We would have run a "no" campaign on this issue alone.

The rest of Symons' complaints directed at the GSA deserve a few marks for creativity, but a big zero for substance and content. At no time did the GSA suggest that "architectural models and plans for the proposed building should be completed" before holding a referendum. All that we suggested was that a great deal more fact

finding and negotiating needed to take place before a referendum was appropriate. None of this, contrary to Symons' assertions, need involve the expenditure of one cent of student money.

Students are not the only ones both on and off this campus who would like to see the construction of a student centre, and who would be willing to make a contribution towards this end. On the issue of fact finding, for example, it is ridiculous (and it was done) to assume anything about the sale of food or alcohol in the proposed building without first approaching Food Services and the campus license-holder. Failure to seek out information, or to engage in negotiations, at this elementary (and inexpensive) level can only result in the rather abrupt shattering of very expensive dreams. Dreams for which we would all be required to pay, by the way.

What of the alleged paradox in the position of the GSA? Symons' claims that the logic of the "no" campaign was "incoherent" because it necessitated the expenditure of vast amounts of student money on research before holding a referendum. Would this, he pondered, require a referendum on the question of the money to be made available for the research? Since the "research" that the GSA was insisting on (fact finding and negotiations of a preliminary nature) would not cost students anything but effort, Symons' scenario is blatantly absurd. Yet another failing grade for our struggling editorial writer. There remains, however, a very real paradox in this debate, and it is not to be found in the position of the GSA.

In the editorial before the referendum *Excalibur* endorsed a "yes" vote. Not a single reference was made to the cost involved in such a result for students. In analyzing the "no" campaign after the results were known (and only 807 people voted the *Excalibur* line) again *Excalibur* totally ignores the financial contribution that was asked of students.

When I was trying to sort out why York students voted the way they did, time and again the response I received was a simple "fifty bucks." Where, one wonders, is the concern over the expenditure of student money expressed by Symons on the question of holding a referendum, reflected in his desires for the outcome of the referendum?

The next time an Edmund Bovey, a Keith Norton, or a Larry Grossman proposed increases in tuition feeds *Excalibur*, or at least Mr. Symons, will have a credibility problem should *Excalibur* editorially oppose it. The majority of students who voted in the referendum did not see this as "apples and oranges," as is claimed by the Chairperson of the SCSC, nor does the GSA. Perhaps *Excalibur* will argue for differential access to post-secondary education. You can have access to a student centre, but not to the University. The GSA stands by its claim. A "no" vote was not a vote against a student centre. It was a vote based on a different set of priorities!

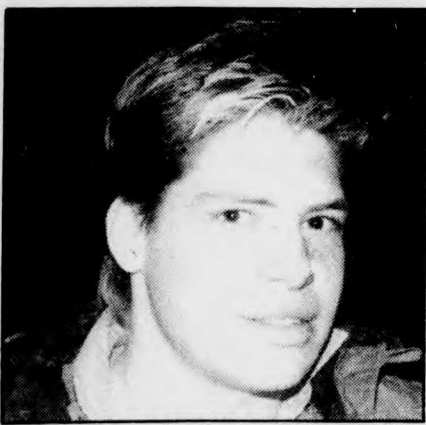
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the question

Do you feel that movies should be screened before public viewing?
Why or why not?

By HEIDI SILVERMAN

Photos: ANTHONY SARA



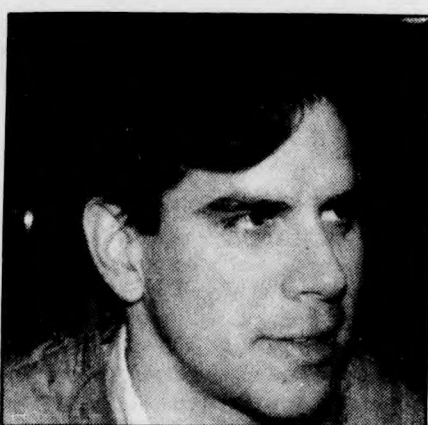
Duncan Rowe, Science II

"Yes I do feel they should be screened but not to the extent that it would be taking away from the plot. Any excessive violence or sex should be screened."



Andrea Miller, Physical Education I

"I think yes only because there are some scenes in movies that are not suitable for everyone. That does not mean that I believe in censorship."



Rick Davis, Mass Communications III

"Part of the screening process should be left to the market forces. If screening is necessary, 'word of mouth' would be the screening agents."



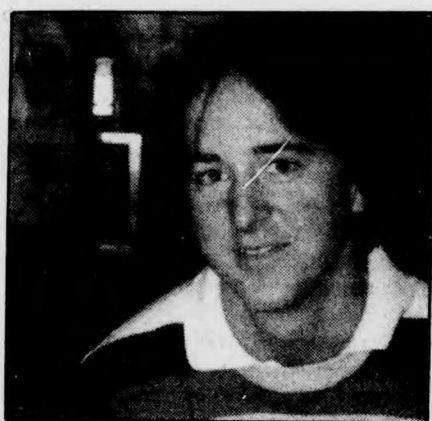
Claudine Zanussi, Sociology I

"That depends on the movie. If it is an adult rated movie, it should not be censored, but if the movie relates to the family or children then I believe it should be censored."



Susan Blanke, Psychology I

"No they should not screen movies because if you pay to see a movie you pay to see the original movie uncut."



Rob Polan, Economics II

"No I do not because I feel the public should get a chance to view the movie in its entirety and judge it on its own merits."

In my humble opinion

Light in darkroom nixes terminal computer life

By STUART SCOTT GOLDBERG

A friend recently approached me wearing the longest of faces. Depression had set in. He was disillusioned with his course of study at college. Doubt had set in, his goals were fading, and he was quickly losing sight of his dream.

I remember my friend as a social sweetheart, always wearing a smile and delivering an upbeat 'hello' to anyone he met. He had plans to travel the world, strike it rich, and retire at the age of 30 with his Pentax camera. And after his retirement he was going to look at the world, and picture it the way he saw it. It was always an invigorating pleasure to hear his plans for the future.

Choosing a major was not easy. He would have liked to study languages and photography. But after accepting *practicality* and *reality* for what he thought they were worth, he enrolled in the computer science program at York. After all, the future was in computers. The question he should have asked: "Is my future in computers?"

He made the same error many of us make in deciding our futures. Instead of focusing on what our goals and dreams in life are and making them our reality, we accept "reality" and ignore our dreams; peripherally, if not totally. Our futures become nightmares of boredom, lacking the purpose we find personally valuable. Our careers then become jobs we cannot wait to retire from, as opposed to occupations we thoroughly enjoy and wish to continue.

Does all this sound naive, utopian? Not really. I myself have had the distinct pleasure of meeting people who enjoy their work and who value it as purposeful and useful. My father is one. As a physician, he helps people all the time. He sees his job as an important one, from which he will probably never retire.

These people do not own time clocks. For them, there are either not enough hours in a day to complete their work, or their office hours are too enjoyable for them to care what the time is. I suggest to you, that if your career does not excite you and stimulate you to such an extent, you should reconsider your career choice.

My friend? Well, he is no longer a computer science major. He is an entertaining young man avidly pursuing a career in photography, a field in which he finds consolation and sanctuary. The smile is once again on his face. His 'hellos' are friendlier than ever.

My only question is what about you?

—Stuart Vincent Peel

Ms. Lonely Hearts

Ghosts, vampires and cubscouts

Dear Ms. Lonely Hearts:

I need help with kind of a desperate situation I find myself in. The problem is this. The other day I was sitting on a park bench. A man with a poodle sat down next to me. "Hello," said the man. "Hello," I said back. We sat there in silence for quite some time. Then an airplane flew overhead and it began to rain. I turned to my left to tell the man that he better get indoors. The man was no longer there. However, he had left the dog tied to the bench. It began to snow. I took the dog and went to a shelter. I closed the door of the shelter because it was beginning to get extremely cold. I looked for a light switch but all I could find was a slot machine. I put a quarter into the slot machine and the dog began to bark. Then I heard thunder outside and I got the sensation of flying through the air. I opened the door of the shelter and found that I had been transported to a river basin. The dog ran outside. I ran after the dog. Night fell. I curled on the ground and fell asleep. Then I had a dream. A strange dream full of ghosts and vampires and a cub scout who said gee, mister and offered to help me tie my shoelaces. Only I wasn't wearing any shoes. The next thing I knew I had awoken. Do you know what I'm getting at? Even as I write this, I can not honestly tell whether I am living in reality as we know it, or whether my senses deceive me and all that I once considered temporal has entered the realm of the transcendent. Ms. Lonely Hearts, only you can help me.



Lost in Limbo

Dearest "Lost in Limbo"—

A community service message

I guess you college kids think you're pretty funny. Well let me tell you a thing or two: I don't believe this letter is true. That's right. You heard me. Call me slenderous, call me narrow minded, but I have to draw the line.

There are people with real problems at this school. Even though they don't write in, I sense this. Call me a crazy prognostic, I don't know. Or call this a plea. A cry for mail. Let's get some truly heartrending communication happening. Emotionally mutilated, lend me your horror! Remember what Andy Warhol said, and be famous for five minutes. (p.s. I'm worried about the dog.)