

LETTERS

cont'd from page 5

20's, to allow people employed to help me through my education to treat me as if I'm a child. If these people were employed in the service sector, they probably wouldn't last a day. Their approach to customers would turn them away. Snarky is probably a good adjective. If they are so unhappy, I wish they'd find another job. Toronto's big; there's a lot of jobs out there. I wonder if they understand what their attitudes towards students do for morale around here. I can hardly wait to leave—just like all of my friends, the people in my classes, and I'm sure most of the rest of the student population. It's sad, isn't it?

University is an important part of the lives of those, such as ourselves, that are so lucky to attend. I hope next time I'm handled so poorly by the administration I will once again find it in myself to be excruciatingly polite and proper, the way the Golden Rule says. I hope every other student will as well. Maybe if we all band together and take vows to be friendly to administration all the time, no matter what new problems face us, they in turn (and, again, it's not *all* of them just enough to shadow the others) will treat us like adults, human beings and people that deserve respect, if for no other reason that without the student body, they wouldn't have jobs. I've tried, and given up, and am about to try again. I really hope someday the hostility is gone, and the entire administration will warm up to students. But my God, how do we do this?

J.L. Cameron

P.S. If we all got together we could probably write an amazing book that would instill fear in anyone venturing near York University!

Needless hero-worshipping

Editor,

Please consider the following conundrum: if *Excalibur* faithfully quoted Professor Chris Holmes' statement that "You can't evaluate my teachings" (my italics), then I must conclude that your newspaper has consistently favoured an instructor whose approach to academia is

decidedly messianic. In light of Mark Kemp's article on cults, I find myself wondering if your stance is simply not one of hero-worship for a needlessly charismatic instructor.

Professor Holmes' record is not particularly impressive. While it is true that his courses are heavily subscribed, most of the students who take them are not psychology majors. He has not published relevant work in psychological journals, does not direct graduate students, and is not well known for academic research in "mystic" studies. Indeed, his chief claim to fame outside of his undergrad class lies in his operation of the Rainbow Centre, a delightful commercial operation which offers courses on various aspects of New Age Consciousness as well as selling the appropriate crystals, tarot cards, and divining rods.

Moreover, his evaluation of students through their "journals" is ridiculously subjective; demonstrating a lack of controls and recognizable criteria which is outrageous even for the Psychology Department. Not that it makes a great deal of difference, since even those students who *do* get the grades that they think they deserve rarely go on to do graduate work.

In short: given the messianic and charismatic nature of the instructor, the fogginess of the material—"I am teaching the unknowable" (then how does he know what to teach, pray tell?), and the questionable criteria employed for evaluating students, it seems to me that Professor Holmes' courses, while no doubt extremely interesting, lack the stringent requirements of a university setting.

Either way, the loud noises which herald the value of Professor Holmes' courses remind me of the old saying that "if you listen to dogs barking you'll go deaf and learn nothing."

David E. Armstrong

ERRATUM:

Excalibur apologizes to Claudio Colaguori, whose letter last week appeared under an incorrect headline. The headline contradicted Colaguori's intent.



10 MINUTES FOR LOOKING SO GOOD: The *Excal* staff hangs out on "Sticky Wicket," that obnoxious orange thing in front of the Administrative Studies Building. From left: Michael Redhill, Adam Kardash, Blair Cosgrove, Mark Eklove, E.A. Johnston, Kevin Connolly (squinting), Sanju Vaswani, Stacey Beauchamp, "Howie" Marr (backdrop), Stuart Ross (gun to head), Clark Hoskin, mascot Ryan McBride and side-kick Zena Kamocki, Merle Menzies, Liz Flagal with big brother Jamie, Nancy Phillips (trench coat), Patty Milton (sliding), Howard Kaman (sitting), Randall Schnoor, and Jennifer Parsons (inset).

Insane Authors lusts for Lego

By SHERLOCK HOLMES

York Security has confirmed that on February 29, 1988, York president Hairy Authors committed a theft at a house on Kingston Rd. He stole a man's Lego block collection.

Bryan Clark had spent the last 25 years collecting the Lego pieces to build a "Christmas village" annually in his basement with his family. Now all but 300 pieces are gone. "It's a crying shame," said Clark, "that a man would want to steal another man's life and blood... that Lego was everything to me."

Questioned by the press after the crime, Authors stated there was a purpose for the theft. It appears that the new Fine Arts building at York is to be built out of Lego. "It's the perfect material," said Authors, "the sculpture students will have the opportunity to re-construct it every year as a final project."

Controversy over the decision has entered the Senate, as members fear

that vandalism and re-construction without permission may hamper the project. "If people will have the ability to change the building at will, they will not hesitate to do so," said one member. "With a constantly changing structure, nobody will know where anything is!"

Another member made the point that "Nobody knows where anything is already." Still another person mentioned that the building will be a "disgrace" and will "represent all the indecision in the York government."

Authors disagreed, saying that the new Lego building will add colour to the campus with its bright red plastic blocks. "And they snap together so easily," he added. "Look at the ease of construction." The President suggested a contest to determine the final (or should we say first?) shape the building, to be constructed by the end of 1989. "The entries can be

Lego miniatures, using up to 100 blocks—no more. Entries which follow the instruction in Lego kits will be disqualified," he explained.

"Buildings at York were meant to be made like this," said Authors. "Look at the Ross Building." He stated that Ross was originally designed to look like "a giant Lego block," the material is perfect for adding on to existing structures." He cited the Ross ramp as "a great example."

Other benefits of Lego, according to Authors, include their bright, long-lasting colour, which makes painting the buildings unnecessary.

In a unanimous Senate vote, it has been decided that President Authors is mentally insane.

Ignoring the decision, Authors also added that, if the Fine Arts building is successful, future building will be built out of Construx and Tinkertoy.

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