

# Letters to the Editor

Address letters to the Editor, EXCALIBUR, York University. Those typed (double-spaced) are appreciated. Letters must be signed for legal reasons. A pseudonym will be used if you have a good reason.

## If boyfriend parks car gets towed away

Sir:  
Cop cars, fire trucks, jiffy trucks, Versafood trucks, Globe, Star and Tely trucks... and now it's tow trucks. It's little wonder we're having a traffic problem on campus.

The new parking and traffic regulations are necessary because of the jammed roadways on campus every evening and weekend. But while it will alleviate the immediate problems with regard to fire access routes, in the long run a much greater problem must be solved.

I am convinced the architects who designed this campus are now sitting around their drawing boards howling in laughter. Not only is it planned for a Californian climate (ever notice that all the pictures taken of our intellectual haven are taken in the summer?) but it also well laid out for inconvenience to people living on campus. And people do live here.

They are paying a high rent for the privilege of living here. And there are no facilities for visitors to resident students. Of course if they plan to stay awhile then parking on the outer extremities of the campus is logical.

But what about the fellows who like to pick up their dates at the door rather than have them struggle a half mile trek through all kinds of weather? What about parents, who are often paying for their sons or daughters to stay here, and who would like to visit for a half hour or so on Sunday?

The question arises: why wasn't some provision of close, temporary metered parking made for the residences?

Recently a young co-ed telephoned C.G. Dunn, director of the campus safety and security department. Her complaint was that every time her boyfriend came to pick her up he got a ticket. It takes him about 10 or 15 minutes to get at her door. Now granted it is admirable that our department of safety and security is on its toes, but really?

Dunn suggested to her that perhaps "you girls are spoiled." He told her that the girls in residence should all get ready early and wait in the downstairs lobby of the residence when they're going out. (Now, isn't that a basic infringement of basic women's rights?)

But in the case of Winters Residence, one of the main doors have no view on the roadway for quick pickups. The doors are within the courtyard. Perhaps all the girls should wait outside?

What do we do now, Mr. Dunn? He now suggested that a visitor leave the car running with the lights on and make a dash to pick up his date.

(That way instead of getting his car back from the pound he can have the police look for his stolen vehicle?)

But to this plan of action he added rather negatively: "I can't guarantee any particular vehicle won't be towed away." (I think we're running in a circle.)

Dunn feels we should warn our

visitors that if they see a tow truck in the roadway, don't park, not even for a few minutes.

"We're gonna get several tow trucks in and have them around campus. They won't stand around and wait for you to get going. Time's money to those guys," he said. So now along with cops on campus we're going to be invaded with a fleet of tow trucks waiting to get you.

His final solution was to leave the car and take a chance.

Take a chance that your car may be towed away; take a chance it may cost you \$10 to get it back.

Certainly, we do need fire access routes. But certainly there should have been some allowance for people living on campus at least as far as being picked up at the door.

By the way, Mr. Dunn, have those tow trucks paid their registration fee?

Kandy Biggs

## SPAC representative answers chairman

Sir:

I hope you will find the space to permit me to defend myself, since I was the student representative attacked by Dr. Kohn in his letter in last week's EXCALIBUR (SPAC chairman blasts student, page 9).

Dr. Kohn obscures a simple issue by weaving about it a tissue of distortion and fabrication.

The facts are quite straightforward. Naively assuming that faculty would be as interested in facilitating intra-area communication as are the student reps, I asked Dr. Kohn for the stationery and, if possible, secretarial assistance necessary for keeping students in the area informed about area affairs. Dr. Kohn refused.

Dr. Kohn now claims that I asked for what was not in his power to grant; namely, funds. Hogwash! I didn't ask for funds at all, and Dr. Kohn quite easily could have granted my request; i.e. by telling me to pick up the necessary ditto masters, etc., from his secretary (note that the cost of the required stationery is a paltry \$1 a month.)

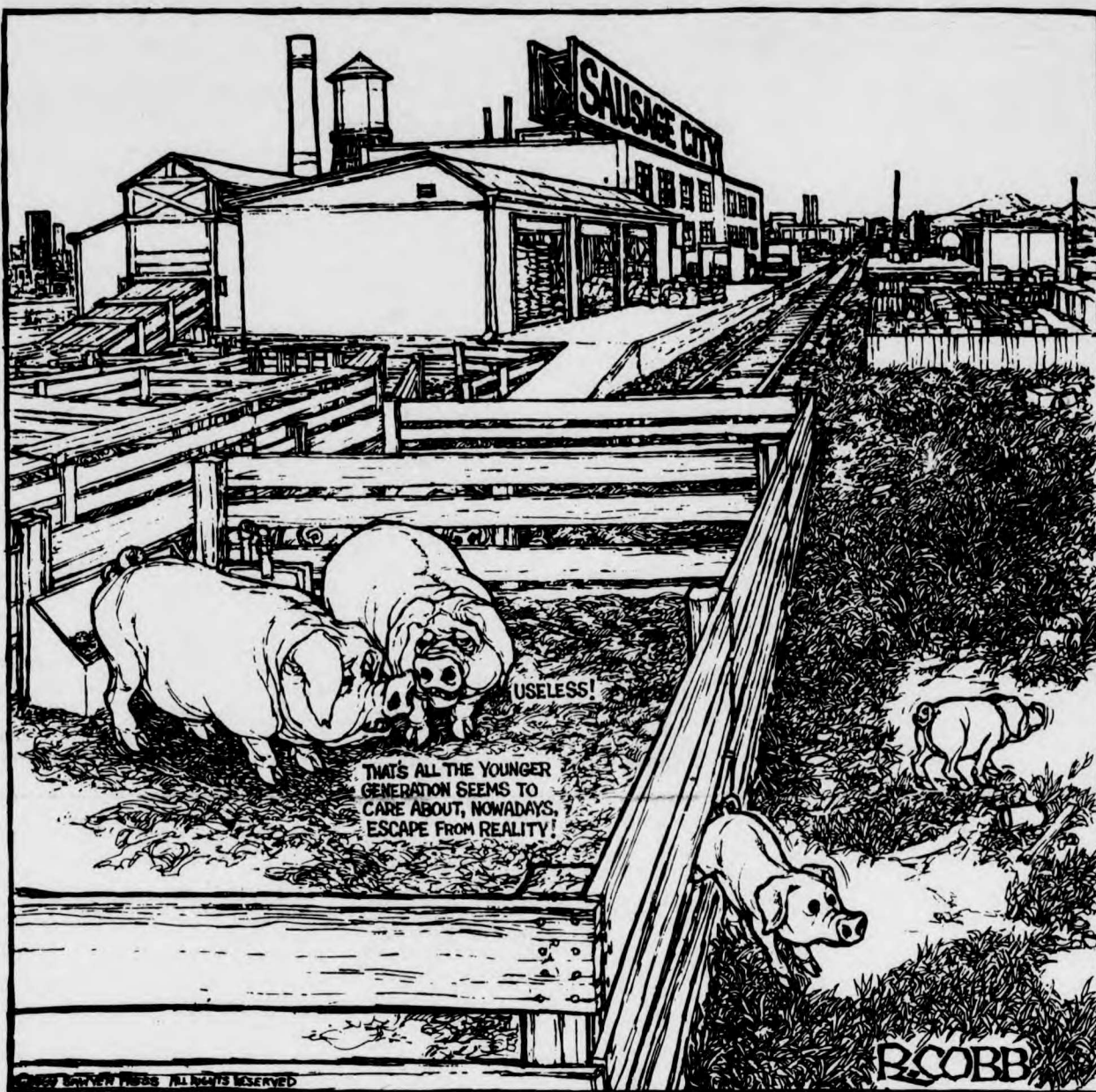
Dr. Kohn states that I did not have the enterprise to investigate the alternative sources which I got from him. This is a complete fabrication, unwarranted and irresponsible at best, malicious at worst, with which Dr. Kohn attempts to discredit me, accusing me of neglecting the interests of those I represent.

This sudden though belated concern for student interests is touching. Since, however, his allegation is totally false, a retraction and apology would be in order.

I circulated a memo to students apprising them of this incident and drawing what seemed to me to be the appropriate conclusions. Dr. Kohn asserts that this memo is full of dire threats of resignation.

This also is false. In a fairly lengthy memo there was one low key sentence which referred to resignation. It states that I promised those who elected me to keep them informed, and if I can't do this, I will therefore resign.

The preceding sentence makes it



plain that I do not expect this to happen. There is no "dire threat" at all. The purpose of the statement was to make plain the importance - communication.

Dr. Kohn's letter serves only to reinforce my beliefs concerning faculty's insensitivity to students' human needs. Beneath the surface affability and protestations of concern lies an uglier reality. In Dr. Kohn's case the mask slipped for a moment, and it seems that even he himself does not care to look closely at the grim visage beneath.

Alec Gelcer

## Don't blame apathy on Bruce Taylor

Sir:

I was very disturbed to read the letter from Mr. Le Man in last week's EXCALIBUR (Athletic apathy at York knocked, page 9) regarding Dr. Bryce Taylor's role in the athletic program at York. I wholeheartedly agree that there is a sad lack of enthusiasm on the part of the students at York regarding athletics but I cannot see that it can be blamed on Dr. Taylor.

As a member of the cross country team, which Stan says Dr. Taylor "humbly coaches", and as an active member of the Men's Inter-university Athletic Council, I can assure Mr. Le Man that Dr. Taylor probably spends more time in his role as director of physical education and athletics than any other professor on this campus spends in his field.

If Stan ever bothered to ask Dr. Taylor himself how much time he has available to see his family - yes, he does have a family who hardly ever sees him - let alone time to attend every football or hockey game York plays, I'm sure he wouldn't be so quick to jump to such conclusions.

Dr. Taylor is in his office by 8 a.m. every morning and works until 11 p.m. most nights. As coach of the cross country team he spends two hours a day coaching the team and I would like to say that he is probably one of the most enthusiastic coaches that I know and is one of the only coaches in

North America who can boast to go the full distance in training with his team.

He is also the only coach at this university who has led a team to three successive league titles and a third place finish in the nationals. Unfortunately, many of the team meets away conflicted with the home football games and he was, therefore, unable to attend all of them. However, he did attempt to make an appearance at most of them, although they may have been very brief.

Apart from teaching four courses, coaching the cross country team, doing research work, sitting on numerous committees, participating in and leading in many useful research projects of interest to the whole nation rather than just for a small minority, he has probably done more for gymnastics in Canada than any single coach has done for one of York's teams.

He was not only instrumental in setting up national clinics, creating the concept of a national program in gymnastics and bringing to York two of the top gymnastic coaches in the world but has also a vast array of other achievements to his credit.

I would also like to point out that Dr. Taylor, as director of the physical education department, has also been completely involved in setting up York's young physical education program and in three short years has set up a department that is already one of the best in the province.

So if you can still tell me that Dr. Taylor is apathetic regarding athletics at York, I would like to see someone who isn't.

David Smith

## Reflections on Quebec seminar

Sir:

The weekend seminar sponsored by Vanier College Nov. 14-16, 1969, contained a scintillating array of participants both from the English and French Canadian communities. On paper the seminar appeared to be one of the "hottest numbers" on this year's campus calendar. The ironic question remains: Why was such an attractive program not well attended?

To discuss the quality of the seminar would miss the point: few people showed up to find out what the seminar was discussing. Instead I should like to raise the question whether a weekend seminar format is indeed the best format for the university community to arouse interest in the question of anglophone-francophone relations. In important ways, weekend seminars have a very ephemeral quality: they appear as another piece of entertainment which is enjoyed for the moment with little more than an afterglow remaining on Sunday evening. I should personally hope that our endeavours to achieve a more profound understanding of our francophone brethren should involve more of a commitment and leave a more enduring trace than a warm feeling. Rather I should wish to direct attention to other types of programs which would replace a weekend seminar format.

First of all, exchange of students between francophone and anglophone campuses is rare indeed - in my opinion inexcusably so. The time has long passed that Torontonians can excuse themselves for their lack of knowledge of the French language. Such an attitude appears only anachronistic to Quebecois.

Secondly, the interest in French Canada in the classroom is growing, but it requires far greater an input than is presently available. Few, if any, writings are studied in French other than in courses dealing with French literature or history of France. How many professors' libraries (not to mention those being collected by York students) contain more than an introductory textbook in French?

In short, I wonder whether it is time for self-reflection on the question of whether our own university structure inhibits the very kind of exchange which this conference purported to foster? There should be no quarter at York for token attention to the question of relationships with our colleagues in Quebec. To engage in such tokenism would result in making progress by retrograde!

C. Michael Lanphier  
Director,  
Survey Research Centre