

editorial athletic underfunding

Something is seriously wrong with the way a university is funded when the coach of a national athletic championship team is forced to retire due to lack of funding.

John Park led the York wrestling team to the national crown last year, and throughout his five years at York, left a noticeable mark on the image and status of York athletics.

With two OUAA championships and one national title under his belt, Park was still hard pressed to find adequate funding and facilities for his team.

The Yeomen raised 90 per cent of their own funds and were forced to train off-campus until this year when they were finally given a small squash court in the Tait McKenzie building. This concession came too late for Park, who this year decided not to renew his coaching contract with York.

Park's decision was largely based on personal financial considerations. While at York, Park was receiving only a part-time salary, despite his full-time commitment to the team.

According to Stu Robbins, the chair of the physical education department, Park was paid approximately \$450 a month by York. Park was also being subsidized by various levels of government during his employment at York, as he was also a coach with both the Canadian national and Ontario provincial teams. Park said York was in fact only contributing approximately one quarter of his total income.

Park also said that throughout his five years at York, he did not receive a raise. Robbins justified this by saying the university only had sufficient funds for a part-time wrestling coach.

As a full-time coach, albeit not all at the university, Park was not able to supplement his income with money from a teaching position, as do a number of his colleagues who coach other York varsity teams.

Park's decision to retire was also based upon family reasons, as weekend wrestling tournaments and late night practices often took him away from his wife and children. Nevertheless, the key factor in his departure was the negligible subsidy which he received from York. "If I had financial support, I would coach longer," he said.

As a relatively young university, York needs the prestige and recognition that comes with a successful athletic programme. The Yeomen and Yeowomen represent York outside the university. In order for these athletes and the university to achieve national and international recognition, it is imperative that they be provided with proper and safe facilities as well as determined and committed coaches.

Park was such a coach, and it is a terrible shame that York was not able to keep him.

The chronic underfunding which led to Park's resignation extends to all areas of universities across Ontario and across the country. Indeed, the underfunding of university athletics is a symptom of a much wider problem. Underfunding affects the number of faculty members that a university can hire, the amount of classroom space which is affordable, as well as the staffing of other university-run enterprises such as bookstores and libraries.

Because of underfunding, universities are caught in a vicious cycle: they are simply not able to support the programmes which would bring them both financial well-being and academic renown. This problem is one that can only be solved with support (both financial and vocal) from the public, and in turn, those who handle the public's money — our provincial and federal governments.

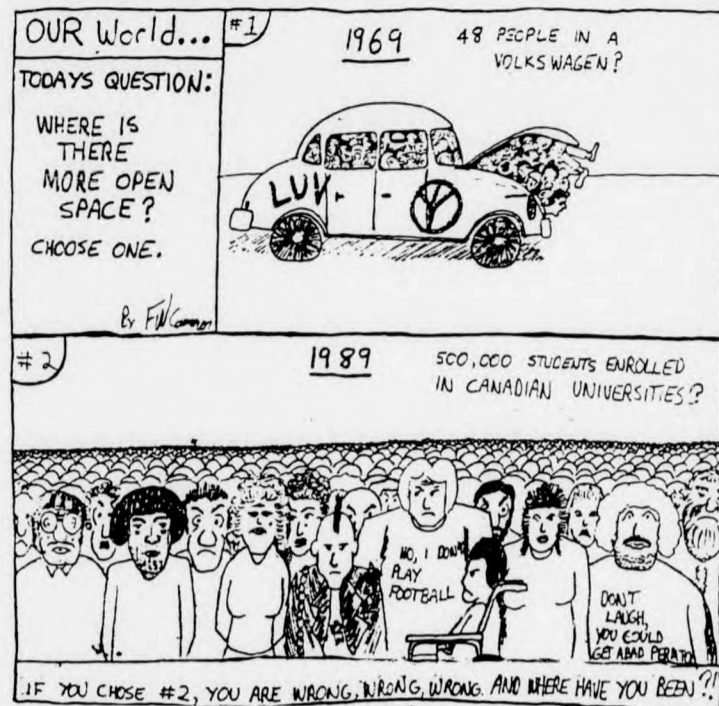
J. Katsman and J. Rubin

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letters

Bethune Clubs question CYSF pres

This letter was sent to president of the CYSF Peter Donato.

Dear Peter:

The issue of Club funding was raised in a recent Bethune College Clubs meeting and we would like to bring some of our collective concerns to your attention. They are:

- 1) Base grant of \$200
- 2) Clubs Page
- 3) Application of monies as per events.

Some of us have been trying to discuss this problem with your Executive, but because of time constraints, have been unable to do so. This has prompted us to forward this letter to you.

For starters, we find the \$200 base grant, of which we have not received yet, insufficient. All of us incurred a great deal of costs during Orientation weeks and the lack of funds adversely affected our promotions and recruitment

goals. With a decline in membership fees, our programming for the rest of the year has also been reduced. Although we understand that Student Affairs has not released the operating grant yet, we are also aware of the arrangement whereby CYSF and/or Colleges can apply for advances in the interim. We would like to know whether this has been done?

The second concern is that of the "Clubs Page" in *Excalibur*. We feel that the Clubs were not properly consulted for the following reasons:

a) Most of the Club presidents were away in the summer.

b) Those who attended were told of the advertising proposal and assured that it would only go through when more consultation has taken place. As far as we know, the Clubs did not vote on this.

c) Substantial portions of the "Clubs Page" have been used for non-Club, CYSF-specific advertisements.

The third difficulty we had is with the arrangement of having to apply for funds as per event. It is already November and Clubs still have to put up money for their events. This overall arrangement is unacceptable also because a lot of what the Clubs do would not qualify under the funding-for-events process. Other important activities and services that cost money are newsletters, information bulletins, tutoring services and normal administrative costs. Although we appreciate CYSF's attempts to raise school spirit through events (like dances), this financial policy is actually counter-productive.

In light of the above, we ask that you re-evaluate your present policy of Club funding. We are prepared to discuss this further if you deem it necessary. Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bethune Clubs

Reader questions Borst's reasoning on abortion

Dear Editors:

This is in response to Karl J. Borst's letter in the October issue of *Excalibur* criticizing the opinion piece on pro-choice.

I must say your letter to the editors, or rather, your collection of thoughts, made for very interesting if not disturbing, reading. The whole piece seemed to be a jumble of self-praise (where you celebrated yourself as a thinker) and of proclamations that lacked validity and insight.

In your letter, you averted making a judgement on the abortion issue by claiming that you were neither "Pro-Choice (Anti-Life)" nor "Pro-Life (Anti-Choice)." Instead, you chose to call yourself "Pro-Thought (Anti-Guilt)." I fail to understand how pro-thought and anti-guilt could be synonymous! Are you trying to say that you rationalize everything so as to keep yourself free from a feeling of guilt?

You end your long winded and confusing letter by stating, "to make the right decision (on abortion), listen inside yourself, not to your heart, but to your mind." You preach (pro) thought, yet, you seem to possess little of the quality yourself. Therefore, you are also a hypocrite!

Consider your view on morality. You said, "Morality is just the majority's belief. If society said it was alright to steal cars, God would think it mighty fine also." How do you know this? Did God let you in on this little secret, while failing to tell the rest of humanity?

How dare you make this insulting proclamation!

Historically, there have been many heinous crimes committed because of what "the majority" believed. I would be very interested to hear your views on the Jewish holocaust during World War II. "A majority" of the German people believed that the Jewish were nothing more than sub-human, and therefore, had to be mass-murdered, exterminated, if you will. Are you saying that God condoned this? Looking at your views on morality, one would think so. Obviously, you have never heard the quote, "A minority may be right; a majority is always wrong."

Interestingly, you also stated that if a fetus could not rationalize "then we should be allowed to kill (it)." What about new-borns? They cannot rationalize. What about the mentally handicapped who may not be able to rationalize to "normal" potential. Are you suggesting that they should be wiped out of our society? Or that they have no place?

You did, however, point out one thing very clearly — there is a great amount of skepticism regarding this very controversial issue. One must remember that skepticism means, not intellectual doubt alone, but moral doubt. The question still remains: Is the fetus human, or not? As long as there is doubt, should abortions be allowed to continue? Don't you think human life has become cheap enough already?

Monica Jacob

York "disregards" the disabled

Editors:

The York University community never ceases to amaze me. It prides itself on academic excellence and quality education, while some common humanistic actions go unattended.

The past few years has seen an increase in the number of disabled students. While forming an integral part of our system, most people seemingly disregard their existence. People with special need do not require sympathy, but rather occasional assistance.

During the last week, I witnessed no less than three visually-impaired students lost on their way to classes. Walking aimlessly in circles, not one passerby took time out to ask if they required any assistance. It took me less than a minute to direct or lead them to their destinations.

This complete disregard of our students' special needs is an unfortunate byproduct of a busy university where individuals are far too preoccupied with their own activities to take time out to help other. Students with special needs are capable of taking care of themselves. But we all need some help, now and then.

Sincerely
Tom Lazor