

Playground tactics don't solve problems

What began as a request from the CYSF (an organization that has money) to the Women's Centre (an organization that wanted money) quickly turned into an immature, mud-slinging clash, reminiscent of something you'd see in a grade-school playground or read on the pages of *People Magazine*.

The problems began when Rob Castle was hired by the CYSF to conduct a study of the Women's Centre as part of "a wider attempt to rationalize (CYSF's) funding programme and to determine if York students were receiving value for their money." In connection with this, they requested financial records and a history of the Women's Centre.

The Women's Centre, however, felt that they were being asked for far more than any other club had been asked for. As such, they took exception to the amount of information which CYSF wanted. After it was pointed out to the Women's Centre that what CYSF was looking for was financial accountability, they responded by saying that they had submitted all pertinent financial documents. CYSF said that they had seen no such documentation.

Such is where the two sides remained for three long months. However, they did not limit their conflict to such civilized discourses. Rather, both parties got personally involved, and talks took a turn for the worse.

Castle was known to call the people at the Women's Centre homophobic, arrogant and paranoid. Nice coming from somebody who wants to get some information from the Women's Centre. The Women's Centre also got in their share of barbs, saying that Castle needed "to take a course in feminism at the remedial level." They felt that Castle was behaving like a little boy who didn't get what he wanted. A stupid move on the part of an organization who is requesting funds from the organization which Castle represented.

To both parties' credit, however, they did finally come to their senses, and entered meetings with the help of Joan Stewart, Advisor to the President on the Status of Women. The whole conflict turned out to be based on a personal problem Marcia Cooper, currently CYSF's Director of Women's Affairs had with last year's Director, Catherine Lake. According to Cooper, Lake left office in possession of a number of files pertinent to the efficient running of her portfolio, including the files which contained the required information from the Women's Centre.

The whole conflict could have been avoided, and the reputations of both parties could have been saved from being tarnished, had they acted like civil human beings instead of bringing personality conflicts and name-calling into the picture. Such immaturity inevitably leads to a complete breakdown in communication, and there is absolutely no place for it in negotiations such as these.

An appropriate point to keep in mind here came from Paula O'Reilly, Chief Negotiator for the Administration during the CUEW negotiations, who noted that the success of the CUEW/University talks was due to the fact that both parties were looking at the problems which had to be dealt with instead of focusing on the rights that each party felt it must defend. If more people at York would act in this way, perhaps we would have far fewer needless confrontations, and a much more congenial university environment.

At last—an editorial with a stance!

Well, Kevin has told me that I have this space to fill, and as an editor-in-chief, I have learned to write about important issues right on the spot. But editors have to be decisive about these things, I mean they can't be fence-sitters. Fence-sitters make good politicians, and party guests for when the relatives come over. But now I am ready to come out and express my opinion on something which I've been dying to write for ages. When it comes to winter, Torontonians are whimps—they don't even know what cold is. I would like to see them face a Winnipeg winter, where it was a balmy high of -25 degrees Celsius this past Sunday. And then there's Toronto, reaching an unbelievable 12 degrees on the same day. But do you think those people in Yorkville would take off their coats? Not for a sec—oh, have we filled enough space, Stu?

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University rules state that at all regular meetings of the Senate a quorum shall consist of 20% of the size of that body. With only a few voting at meetings, who knows what they're passing!



Due to an unexpectedly early delivery from Swiss Chalet, Student Senator Alouitius Thibeault must abstain from voting on the motion put forward to grant an honorary degree in Computer Science to Feargal Sharkey.

LETTERS

We will publish, space permitting, letters under 250 words. They must be typed, triple-spaced, accompanied by writer's name and phone number. We may edit for length. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Food contract inexcusable

Editor,

After completing surveys rating Beaver Food Service's performance this year as completely inadequate, residence students were shocked at the University Food and Beverage Service Committee's decision to give Service a five-year contract. Students strongly objected in the survey to the quality of food and service being offered. Although Beaver Food's promise to make the cafeterias "look trendy" is admirable, it does nothing to help solve the real problem. The UFBS's high-handed disregard for student concerns clearly indicates both the unimportant position of students in this university, and the infuriatingly, inconsiderate attitude of the administration as a whole.

Joanne Oud

Redhill's review "putrid"

Editor,

Michael Redhill's "review" of *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne* (Jan. 28.) was a *pointless* and foul interpretation of an exceedingly fine film. Immediately Mr. Redhill displays his philistinism by misspelling the protagonist's name no less than seven times. Redhill's desire to give Miss Hearne "an almighty wallop" is sadistic because it undermines the grave and immutable plight of the heroine.

Redhill's feeling of superiority, vis-a-vis the naive Judith, is typical of the shallow Hollywood-bred mentality which demands its characters be worldly, if not wise. Obviously Mr. Redhill was unmoved by Miss Hearne's search for identity, her striving for sexual fulfilment, and her

conflicts with various authoritarian traditions.

In sum, I think Mr. Redhill should read some good literature before he starts scribbling—otherwise his next "review" will be as inaccurate and as putrid as this one!

Paul B. Danis

Hopper's ideas are his own

Editor,

It is in my interest that I clarify some issues that I believe to be misunderstood by a certain sector of York University's population.

I am a member of the Liberty Coalition and I am not a Hopperite. Only Mr. Greg Hopper can fairly be called a Hopperite. The opinions he expresses are his own and should in no way be affiliated with the Liberty Coalition.

I would also like to bring in the Oxford dictionary to explain some things. First of all the definition of coalition is as follows: Union, fusion, temporary combination between parties (people) that retain distinctive principles. The definition of distinctive is as follows: Not identical, separate, different in quality or kind.

These definitions will hopefully explain that when somebody, who belongs to a group writes in a letter to the editor, it reflects his/her own opinions and not the opinion of the group that he/she belongs to. Someone may do this if they have the consent of the group to use it's name. God Bless America,

Jerry Jorritsma

Pollution is no excuse

Dear Editor,
 I have a few things to say in reply to

the letter from M. Gable and Jean Smith (Feb. 21, 1988) about public smoking.

I do not care whether your smoking is hazardous to your health; the point is, it is hazardous to *mine*. I applaud your desire to contribute to the air pollution already in the environment, but I think it's misguided.

The difference between your smoking and the pollution created by motor vehicles and factories is tremendous. Buses, trucks, and cars provide convenient transportation; factories provide goods and jobs, contributing to the economy (and yes, we do have to shut them down when pollution levels exceed certain reasonable limits). Your smoke has no redeeming features. It causes my clothes and hair to smell disgusting. It gives me headaches, makes my eyes water, irritates my throat, and causes lung cancer. That it may do the same to you (and many times worse) in your own home does not concern me. I think I have the right to demand that you exercise your right as far away from me as possible.

Sarah Cannell

Beaver Foods contract foolish

Dear Editor,
 In an article last week your paper indicated that Beaver Foods will be given a five year extension of their current contract. I would like to voice various concerns that I have in regards to the new agreement.

First of all, I have to wonder why the extension is for such a long period, especially since the article indicated that, "Beaver rated unfavourably in a number of areas including quality of food, sufficiency

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