

The brick wall

Gus Pantelidis, president of Glendon's Student Union, wants students to protest a proposed plan to increase residence rents to 95 per cent of market value. He wants the university to listen to students' concerns and to let students be integral members of the Residence Budget Committee. We can predict, however, that no matter what students do, if the administration wants rents to go up, they will.

The university refuses to hear the York University Faculty Association's grievance on behalf of coach and professor Maasaki Naosaki. President Harry Arthurs will not comment on his offer to the Canadian Gymnastics Federation that if it had paid \$8,000, or one-third of Naosaki's term salary, he would have let him go. The university seems to be saying, "We would have broken our policy for money, but since the CGF didn't pay, we won't even discuss it through established mechanisms."

Members of the administration met with angry students in Central Square last term to "discuss" issues of concern, like overcrowding, the restriction of space for tables in Central Square and the proposed AIDS Policy. Nothing has changed and no plans for solutions were agreed upon. Although Arthurs promised to meet with students, he still has not and it is the end of January.

There is still asbestos in Osgoode Hall Law School.

In November, York accepted \$1 million for a scholarship fund from Japanese billionaire Ryoichi Sasakawa. About 10 faculty members have since protested the donation, including Bob Wakabyashi, who was so dead set against it, he resigned as chair of the East Asian Studies programme. Sasakawa made a fortune by gambling and was once imprisoned as a suspected war criminal. And York is keeping the money.

A friend of this newspaper asked her undergraduate thesis supervisor for tips on getting into a graduate psychology programme. He told her 75 per cent of female grad students sleep with a professor or advisor.

Why bother?

TWICE
WEEKLY

excalibur

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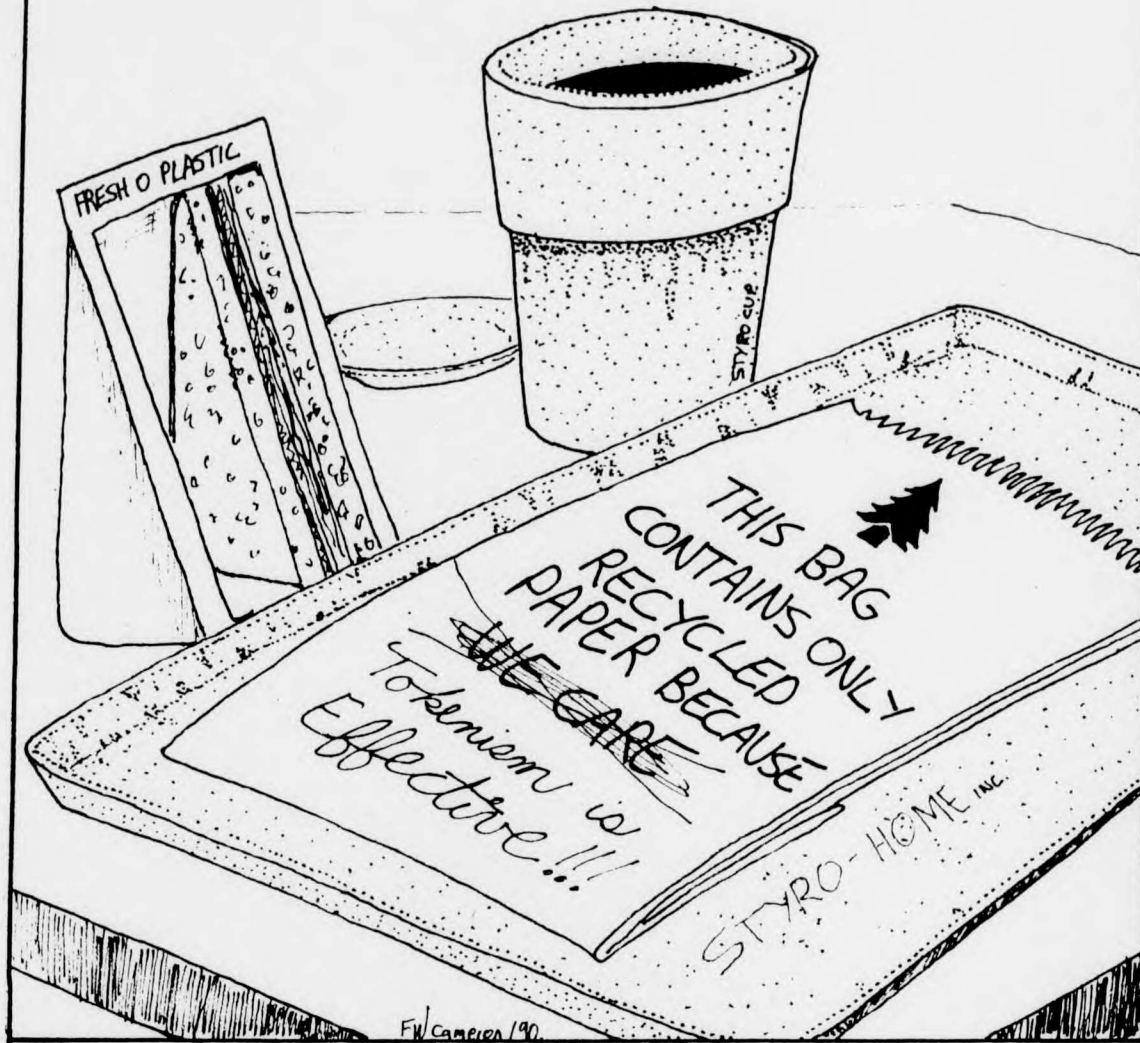
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Our WORLD₀₀₀



Letters

Student praises Donato's "initiative"

Dear Editors:

I would like to offer congratulations to CYSF president Peter Donato for taking the initiative to "clear out" all off-campus publications from Central Square. It's very comforting to know that our political leaders are "looking after us," and are deciding what it is that we as students should and should not read. How often have I agonized and convulsed over which paper to choose to read on a particular day? To have the decision made for me in advance brings me great solace indeed!

The fact that these other papers (*Now* and *Metropolis* in particular) do not compete with campus papers (for either comparable stories or advertisements) is irrelevant, as is the fact that other universities *do* allow free off-campus newspapers to be distributed on their property (one need only stroll through the Robarts Library at U of T to be persuaded of this). The bottom line is that students at York should not have to suffer the excruciating pain of deciding which newspaper to read. Besides which, students at York should only be permitted to read on-campus newspapers anyways.

I would like to suggest that Mr. Donato also ban the city papers (*Toronto Star*, *Globe and Mail*, etc.) from York premises. Again, these publications interfere with campus newspaper readership. Perhaps Mr. Donato should ban all off-campus posters as well. Why should students seek off-campus entertainment when York has it all? Oh... and one more thing Mr. Donato — could you please convert all of my cable TV

channels to the single York University information channel?

Once again, my congratulations to Mr. Donato for this unprecedented initiative. You have an inspiring career ahead of you as a politician. Incidentally, if you're looking for employment, I hear Romania has an opening for a new leader.

Gratefully yours,
 Tom Weega
 Graduate Student
 Faculty of Environmental Studies

Objectivity impossible in abortion referendum

Dear Editor:

It appears that under political pressure the CYSF has decided to hold a referendum to determine its stand on abortion. But I wonder, considering that the outcome of the plebiscite will depend largely on how it is worded, how truly representative of student thought it will be. Will it ask, "Do you support the recriminalization of abortion?" or "Do you support the right of women to have reproductive freedom over her own body?"

Or will it ask, "Do you support the need to protect and affirm the value and equality of all human life?" or "Do you believe that the fetus or unborn child has a right to protection under the law?" Each of these questions is emotionally loaded and contains enough persuasive language to sway the voter one way or the other.

I argue against the fallacy that objectivity is possible. We have all been touched in one way or the other by the abortion issue. We have all been affected by propaganda on both sides of the debate. The written word is a powerful and persuasive tool. The only way to

come up with a fair plebiscite would be to have intelligent representatives of both sides of the debate work together to come up with a wording that would allow for an unmanipulated survey of student opinion.

Sincerely
 M. Parker

Juvenile journalism, sour grapes

Dear Editor,

In the January 11, 1990 issue of *Excalibur*, you printed a letter by Brett Lamb, the editor of the *Vandoo*. In this letter, Mr. Lamb criticized CYSF president Peter Donato for not including the *Vandoo*, and other college newspapers on a list which thanked all those who helped contribute to a successful first term.

As I am sure Mr. Lamb realizes, often people do make mistakes. I am certain that Mr. Donato had no intention of downplaying the importance of college newspapers. What Mr. Lamb has done to make his point is down play others who have contributed to the York community, including fraternities and sororities.

In the style which has become commonplace in the pages of *Excalibur*, persons completely uninformed about Greek life have been granted space to pass judgements concerning the worthiness of fraternities and sororities. I find such tactics, both by Mr. Lamb and *Excalibur* reprehensible.

Where does Mr. Lamb get off attacking legitimate efforts to improve student life, simply because his efforts were over-

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