

editorial

be prepared

Take the car. That's what TTC now means for 1.2 million Torontonians. This includes, of course, about 46,000 York students. If the TTC goes on strike, or is locked out, on October 8, there will be serious consequences for everyone.

In the event of a strike, commuter students will have to make alternate plans to get to York. So think about it.

If you take a car, you're going to be late anyway because of the horrible traffic. And there won't be any place to park on campus. And you'll probably get a ticket for being illegally parked. And then you'll be angry so you won't pay it and so you won't get your final marks and you won't graduate. And then you won't get a job, and you'll have to live at home with your parents your whole life long. And so you won't ever be a rocket scientist or a ballet dancer.

But you probably won't make it up to York, because you'll be so frustrated in the congested traffic that you'll get into an accident with a poultry truck. There will be feathers all over your political science notes, not to mention the mess in your grill. And you'll have to wait for hours for the police because they won't be able to get to work themselves. So you'll miss your classes, but it won't matter because your profs won't be able to get to the university either.

And meanwhile, the exhaust from all of the extra cars on the road will contribute to the already CFC (chlorofluorocarbon) filled air, thus creating a hole in the ozone layer above York University. This will lead to a melting of the polar ice caps which will eventually cause Stong Pond to overflow thus drowning the entire campus.

And we can't forget our residence students who will be stranded on campus. Not only will they have to fight the floods, they won't be able to go home for the weekend to have decent food and give their moms their laundry, and they'll suffer from severe bouts of homesickness which will lead to a rash of car thefts as students desperately try to get off campus. Students not fortunate enough to have commandeered a car will sit huddled together around radios listening to CHRY play the same songs over and over again (because no one will be able to get up here to flip the record), while lighting *Excalibur* fires in a feeble attempt to keep warm and dry.

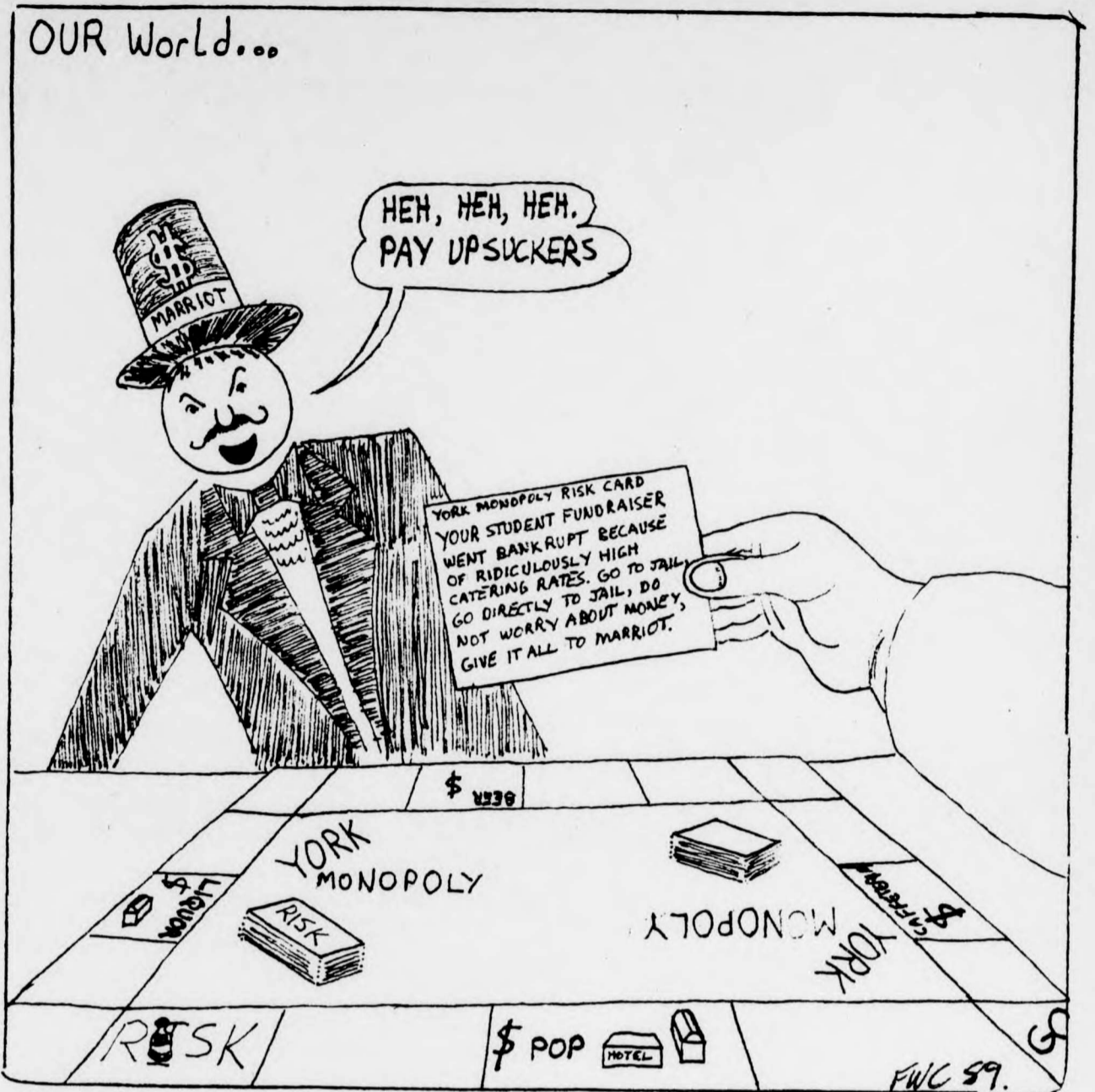
So now that you've thought about it, don't panic. You've got until October 8 to think of alternatives. Hopefully professors will be understanding about those who miss classes, because the main campus will be virtually inaccessible to those without access to cars. Hopefully students will not suffer academic penalties because of an off campus strike. And remember the magic word: carpool.

EXCALIBUR

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letters

Holloway's 'reduction' not only answer

Dear Editors:
 Re: "Chemical Reaction" by C.E. Holloway in the September 28 issue of *Excalibur*. How can Canadians protect themselves from household health hazards? How does an individual decide whether a product is a health hazard?

These are difficult questions answer given that there are an estimated 80,000 chemical substances used in commercial products today and about 1,000 new chemicals introduced annually.

Does the solution lie, as C.E. Holloway seems to think, in just using less and wasting less of

everything? I think reduction is an important strategy as are the other three R's promoted by Environment Ontario — recycling, reuse and recovery. The four R's will decrease our destruction of natural resources, nature and human health.

Another important strategy is for consumers to consult books like Pollution Probe's *Green Consumer*; Linda Pim's *Additive Alert*, Dadd's *The Nontoxic Home*; and Rousseau's *Your Home, Your Health and Well-Being* so that they can avoid questionable food items, furnishings, cleaning products, building materials, etc.

But I do not believe these strategies are sufficient. I would like to see a rapid decline in the number and volume of household health hazards sold in Canada.

To do this, we will need many concerned citizens, corporate ethics and "political will" on the part of politicians and civil servants. As a society, we will have to act proactively even before all the scientific evidence is in to protect the health of ourselves and the environment. We must begin to act now.

Betty Auslander
 Faculty of Environmental Studies.

Gordon 'greatly irritated' by Holloway

Dear Editors:
 C. E. Holloway's response to my article on graduate student Betty Auslander was informative, nasty and presumptuous.

Holloway's point that naturally occurring substances can be just as hazardous to one's health as some of the man-made chemicals that are being introduced is well taken. But the fact that "formaldehyde can be found in fresh blood as a by-product of living" does not negate the fact that exposure to formaldehyde and products made with formaldehyde can be hazardous to human health.

I apologize if Auslander or I have insulted any ethical scientists, as this certainly wasn't our intention. Holloway's exasperation reflects the feelings of powerlessness that both scientists and society seem to have in dealing with these issues. These feelings of helplessness are epitomized in his claims that the time and money

necessary to develop "the effective adversarial stance" are unavailable.

While Auslander's studies are confined to ridding the home of hazardous household products, and I spend my spare time writing on some of the more inspirational research being conducted by York's graduate students, Holloway feels compelled to blame "types" like Auslander and me for the movement of PCB's back and forth across the Atlantic. Sorry bucko, I just don't buy it! No one consulted me when they started moving PCB's, and I wouldn't pretend to know where the hell to put them if they did.

Holloway also presumes that Auslander and I would have all members of the York community travel by horseback. This is unfair, when Holloway knows that in the spirit of conservation, Auslander, or I, are just as likely to propose two equally ludicrous methods of transport the TTC or a ten-speed

bike. While greatly irritated by Holloway's seething assumptions that Auslander and I "deplore" the spend-crazed consumer, or are unable to perceive ourselves as "a serious part of the problem," I also welcomed the few scraps of useful information that he was able to offer.

The most disturbing effect of Holloway's article is that it leaves people with the impression that they cannot do anything to rid their homes of products which are potentially hazardous to their health. While Holloway does not feel that Auslander or I have the capability of conducting "an intelligent discussion of environmental problems," in the end I find Auslander's constructive approach far more rational than the pessimistic approach of Holloway, which appears only to promise our own self-defeat.

Sincerely
 Margot Gordon