

editorial



people at York?



students?



you mean York is
attended by people?

Edmund Bovey, chairperson of The Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario.

Support security

The clean open spaces of the Keele St. Campus can easily create a deceptive feeling of security. But it's no oasis as serious crimes in the past here have shown. Presently Student Security patrols and escorts are one way in which students here are protected. Up until now, however, Student Security has been a bare bones operation, hardly capable of keeping watch on the University's 600 sprawling acres. Their coordinator, Bob Jandl, confesses that "we haven't even had minimum services in the past."

To make this campus as safe as it seems, more funding is needed for security services. Until now Student Security has been making due with a minimum budget jointly provided

by the colleges and the administration. Now Jandl has "a 99 percent guarantee" from new Safety and Security chief Santarelli that his organization will soon be incorporated into, and *funded* by, the department of Safety and Security Services.

Jandl is planning on getting increased funds guaranteed by the new arrangement. He's planning for more outdoor lighting, more emergency phones and more foot patrols. Safety and Security has gone ahead for their part and has provided Jandl with a temporary 'shuttlebus' service to handle escort calls. A permanent shuttlebus vehicle and other Student Security needs will require more funding. That funding is now "99 percent guaranteed." Let's hope that means Student Security gets the money.

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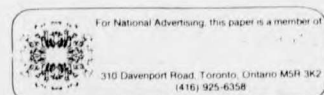
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Letters

Editor:

It seems likely from his recent letter re faculty salaries that Mr. Dan Raxlof has not taught (if he has, I should hate to be one of his students). In case any of your other readers share his misconceptions, I should like to reply to a few of them.

Mr. Raxlof regards faculty members as overpaid because they "do not return home to dinner with faces reddened by an iron smelter." Do eyes reddened by dozens of straight hours of reading hundreds of poorly written (in the logical, grammatical and orthographical senses) essays and exams count for anything? (As an extreme example, I once had to read and mark 161 final exams in 48 hours.) Or not getting home for dinner at all due to late meetings, counselling students, checking sources of suspected plagiarism, keeping up with research or any of the dozens of other requirements of a faculty position?

Mr. Raxlof further alleges that these unworthy, overpaid faculty members do not "endure stress syndromes associated with survival in the areas of business and politics." Would he care to nominate another term for ulcers, migraines, divorces (recent research at OISE indicates that the majority of marriages that survive the Ph.D. founder in the year following) and assorted nervous breakdowns

produced by anxiety over grad school acceptance, comprehensive exams, dissertation defenses and desperate attempts to get something published for one's CV (this is all *before* one can even start looking for a job). The average Ph.D. in the Humanities now takes 10 years, primarily due to lack of funding and complexity of research problems (remember, every Ph.D. dissertation is required to be an *original* contribution to the field—try that, if your field's Shakespeare). TAs make less than \$6000 p.a.; most fellowships are little, if any, more and tuition and taxes must frequently be paid out of that. Research, which may require anything from tons of books and photocopies to six months in the Vatican library, must also come out of that. Little wonder that many grad students moonlight (working more than 10 hours per week will get one thrown out of most full-time Ph.D. programmes) and have to keep putting off their dissertations, thus lessening the chance that they will find a tenure-track position after they finally do finish.

Due to cutbacks, most faculty positions currently being offered are contract or part-time (remember that 45 percent of the teaching at York is done by part-timers or TAs). The average number of applicants for any contract or tenurable position in my field is 400 (I once received a notification, numbered 651, of receipt

of my application for a position). If one does get a tenurable position, then one must face a whole set of new course preparations (I find that preparing a course requires at least 10 hours work out of class for every hour in—and few faculty members teach less than nine hours per week).

Finally, Mr. Raxlof regards the salaries of faculty members' theoretically high-paid spouses as sufficient justification to deny them a raise. This sounds suspiciously like the traditional male chauvinist justification for under-paying women; since they all have rich husbands, they don't need the money. The fact that they've done the work is irrelevant. Shall we add all of academia to the pink-collar ghetto? After all, any man who prefers reading and teaching to driving truck and getting drunk watching Hockey Night in Canada must be effeminate, mustn't he? Perhaps so; in view of all the above drawbacks to an academic career, the dedication shown by many faculty members can only be matched in such traditionally underpaid, female-dominated service professions as nursing.

—A CUEW Member