

EDITORIAL

ACSA influence and Kruchio both to blame

She claims that he personally suspended the printing of the newspaper. He calls that a blatant lie. They say it was a move done purely out of financial considerations. She calls that a lie. They state that personality differences are not involved. She called him a dictator. On and on and on and on.

Although many were difficult to substantiate, some sense can be made of the dozens of allegations that have been tossed about since the Atkinson College Students Association (ACSA) made their decision not to renew *Atkinsonian* editor Agnes Kruchio's contract this past April.

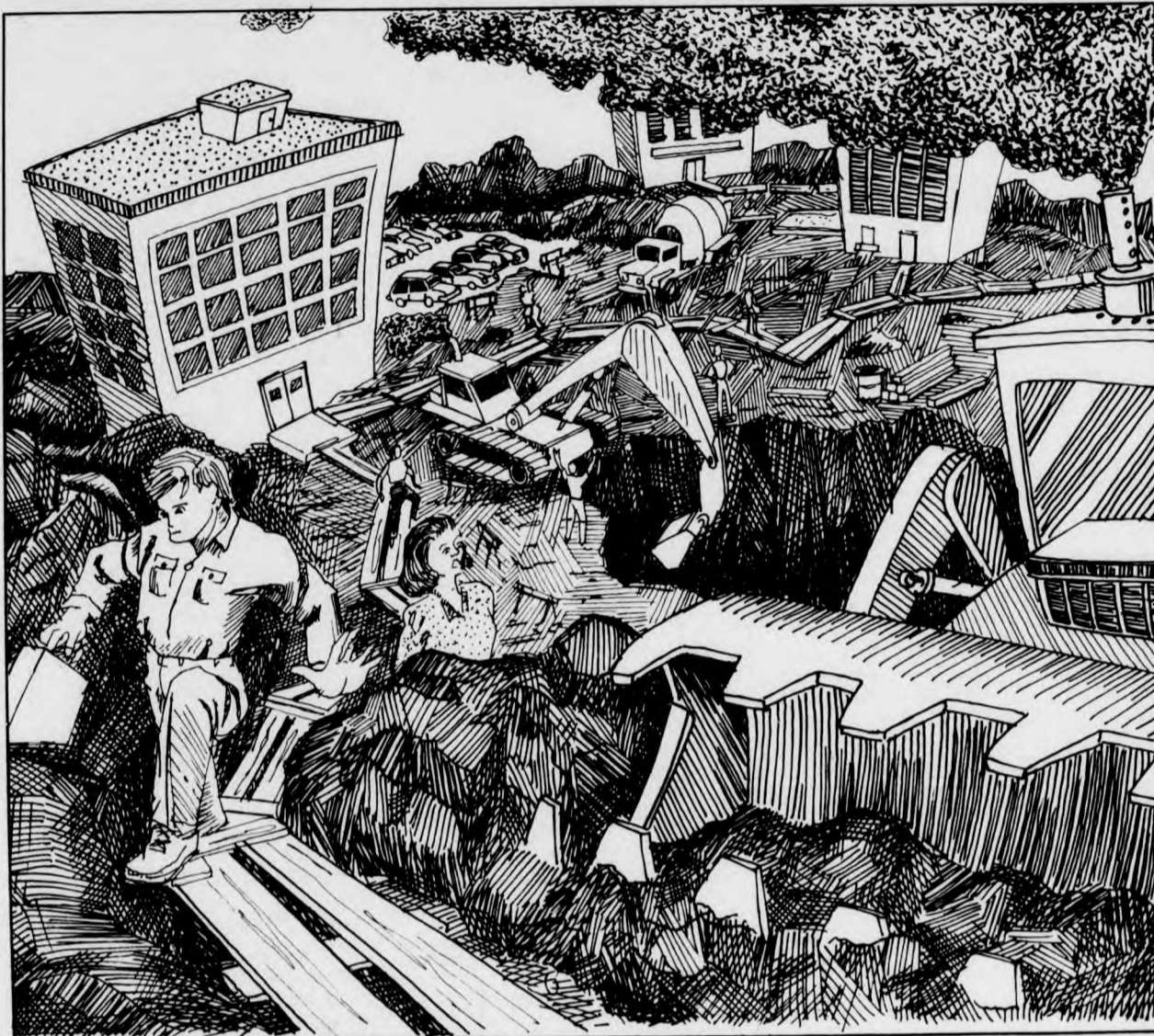
Most significantly, Kruchio was not fulfilling her administrative duties. Aside from the problems she incurred by not submitting staff payroll on time, Kruchio was consistently late in publishing issues of the *Atkinsonian*. Out of the nine *Atkinsonian* issues published this year, six were late. Kruchio even aggravated relations with the ACSA by dismissing these problems as "petty," claiming that they were not a major part of the issue at large.

Kruchio should be given credit for her dedication to the *Atkinsonian*. Many readers, including the ACSA executive, were pleased with the quality of her newspaper. However, these positive aspects were completely undermined by her actions concerning the content of the year's final edition, dated April 25. In a move that showed nothing but a complete lack of journalistic responsibility, Kruchio littered the issue with editorials and letters she had solicited which criticized the ACSA's decision not to renew her contract and praised her ability and achievements as an editor. In essence, Kruchio used student funds for her personal campaign against the ACSA Executive. This alone is sufficient grounds for her dismissal.

All of the ACSA executive's actions concerning Kruchio and the *Atkinsonian* were "technically" legitimate. However, the Executive did not conduct itself in an appropriate manner. For example, according to the ACSA constitution, the Executive is ultimately responsible for the *Atkinsonian* and its financial affairs. Therefore, if a potentially serious financial problem does arise, the Executive has the right to exercise its power over the newspaper. Unfortunately, in the case of Kruchio, the Executive took complete control of the Board of Publications, a body set up specifically to act as a "buffer" between the newspaper and the Executive. Regardless of how serious the problem may have been, the move set an extremely dangerous precedent.

In addition, aside from a number of unrealistic expectations they imposed on Kruchio and her staff, the ACSA Executive's actions indicate that they are unaware of the editorial independence required by a college newspaper to function properly. The ACSA constitution states that the *Atkinsonian* "ought to be an autonomous instrument." Clearly, as the history of the ACSA has shown, this has not been the case.

The relationship between a college newspaper and the college council is a tenuous one, to say the least. Situation like the Kruchio affair, however, may be prevented if the roles of the College Council Executive, Board of Publications, and College newspaper are more clearly defined.



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LETTERS

Holmes responds to Psych dept. review committee

Editor,

It comes as no surprise to hear the rejection of my proposed courses "Mystical Psychology and the Psychic Sciences," and "Mystical Views of Consciousness and Creation," by the psychology undergraduate studies committee. In my view, this is because the viewpoints I represent to students are too mind expanding and enlightening, and raise too many profound questions about the nature of life and the limitations of our usual psychology and education. Although psychologists like to imagine themselves as open minded, rational and tolerant individuals, this has not been my experience at all. Instead, reviews of my teaching, this past year, as in previous years, have demonstrated a level of intolerance, stupidity and dishonesty which is really quite shocking. In a university supposedly dedicated to the pursuit of truth, and to the larger welfare of students and society, the reality of the situation is disgraceful.

Mainstream psychology today ignores the study and investigation of mystical, spiritual, psychic, occult and esoteric psychology, and so, I have become a heretic - violating custom and routine thinking in my open minded pursuit of truth and reality. In my view, the widespread dismissal of the paranormal, mystical and spiritual dimensions to psychological study has profoundly adverse consequences for the advancement of psychology as a science, for the education of students, and for the larger welfare of our society. If there is 'any truth' to these areas, and to claims about spirits or souls, about subtle dimensions of being, about psychical powers or states of mystical/spiritual realization and the like, then psychologists and educators are doing a great dis-

service in ignoring these subject matters. In fact, the enigmas of the psychic sciences, the questions of an afterlife, the possibilities for spiritual or self realization, the nature of transcendental consciousness, and the secret teachings of the mystics and seers are proudly important areas of investigation and study. In fact, it is simply the arrogance and ignorance of modern psychologists and scientists that leads us to believe that we are too clever and learned to even explore these areas.

Unfortunately, the tide of pseudo-scientific psychological thinking and materialistic/mechanistic science philosophy of our day is very strong, and a heretic such as myself cannot be tolerated. What I teach students about the fundamental questions of consciousness, life and creation, is profound material - drawn from the mystical teachers of humanity, and synthesized with modern psychology, science, cosmology, philosophy, religion, and cosmic humour. How can a department of almost 80-100 psychologists tolerate a fool such as me who knows nothing, yet speaks about the mysteries of the Universe? They can not.

Is it really a mystery why Professor Holmes' mystic courses would be dropped? I find no mystery in it. It all follows quite mechanically where nobody is to blame, their hands are all clean, its all on paper, and no one has any comment. No one even had the time to hear what was being taught, no one cared, no one dared. Of the three people on the sub-committee which evaluated my courses, only one even attended a half of one class over a five month period! The committee members have made a complete mockery of the ideals of academic freedom and honesty.

Fortunately, the story is not over. I refuse to accept the committees reports on my courses as adequate, and as fulfilling the terms of my 1986 settlement agreement with York and

YUFA. I have fought for seven years arguing that no one has given my courses a fair hearing, and the fact is that this has simply happened again which is quite preposterous. I will do whatever I can to bring public and official attention to the farce of academic freedom and intolerance encrusted into academic life of York's psychology department. The exclusive study of soul-less psychology, and the neglect of spiritual perspectives in education and science, is a disgrace to York and within a democratic society such as our own.

The rejection of my course proposals on totally superficial grounds is once again such a crime to higher education. It violates the principles of academic freedom; it violates students' rights; it violates my own civil liberties. And so, the saga of Christopher Holmes, mystic scientist, is not over. I will protest this decision, and fight this intolerance, as long as I am able. I will be back this fall to teach my final half course on mystical psychology and science, and I recommend to students interested in the profound mysteries of life to enroll. Fortunately, they cannot burn heretics today, although they have other ways to silence them.

— Chris Holmes

Student outraged over closing of Art Store

With regard to the May 12 article by Adam Kardash "Fine Arts Store To Be Permanently Shut Down," I am outraged for the reasons Professor Bieler gave to justify an abrupt end to such a service to students. Bieler, Chairman of the Visual Arts Department, stated that it didn't make financial sense to sell art supplies at higher prices. However, higher prices is not the key issue here; it's the convenience of having an art

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