

editorial



AH! SO THAT'S HOW THE ADMINISTRATION AVOIDS CONFRONTATION!

Under normal conditions, drivers are generally not allowed to use their cars as battering rams to hit and injure innocent pedestrians. Even in haste, an auto driver late for an appointment would think twice before mowing down a long line of school children crossing at a cross-walk.

However, in the past 48 hours at least one CUEW picketer has been hit by a vehicle; and anyone who has walked to the Ross Building from Keele Street has witnessed drivers racing the wrong way down St. Lawrence Boulevard, lights on and horns blaring.

Don't use vehicles as battering rams

Admittedly, these are not "normal" conditions—the university has been plagued by strikes for the past two weeks. This is not justifiable cause, however, for those drivers who have acted so irresponsibly as to endanger the lives of fellow human beings.

We suspect that, like the woman referred to in this week's *Excalibur* article on the subject, many of those who run picket lines or drive the wrong way down York's streets are "late for class."

This is still no reason to drive recklessly. Virtually everyone at York is aware of the strike and of the fact that picketers slow traffic at the entrances to the campus. The obvious, sane solution is to leave for class five or 10 minutes earlier than usual.

We deplore the actions of any driver who endangers the life and safety of a picketer. Walking a picket line is hard enough without having to cope with drivers who have taken leave of their senses, all for an extra five minutes.

Surely these individuals, after realizing the potential harm they might have caused, will have second thoughts about repeating their actions. It's unfortunate they didn't think about it before they acted.

excalibur

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letters

College rebuttal

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Norman G. Kester's letter which frankly related an upsetting experience with the Mac College Council. While it is regrettable that he had such a bad time, it is not reasonable or fair to denounce college politics as an all-out farce.

My one college, Winters, recently held a bi-election. Admittedly, there did occur some upsetting and embarrassing events during the poster campaign, but this is almost inevitable. Those who have the interest, concern and the guts to place themselves in the public eye are often made objects of ridicule and censure by jealous or immature individuals. In spite of these difficulties the election was handled strictly according to our constitution, and all unfairness was dealt with promptly by those in charge.

I am sorry that Mr. Kester's experience was so disillusioning. I maintain, nevertheless, that not all college politics is a joke. Most college councils provide representative, administrative, and social services of which many students take advantage. If an interested, enthusiastic, competent group of people become involved, together college life can be academically oriented, spirited, and socially exciting.

Mr. Kester and those people with similar concerns should not condemn college politics on the basis of a few isolated experiences.

—Steven Kates

Chris criticisms

Editor:

I would like to describe a disappointing experience encountered in dealing with our Student Body President Chris Summerhayes. During organization of the CUEW and Administration discussion/question period, of the 24th, it seemed appropriate to approach our Student President for assistance.

However, after not attending promised meetings or providing promised assistance, his disinterest was apparent. Other members of CYSF expressed interest for this Student oriented project though. Chris Costello, Randy Dobson, Reya Ali, and particularly Elise Hallewick were very helpful with some last day details.

Summerhayes' only contribution was to authorize photocopying of one half the required posters. This after being pressured by myself and CYSF members.

I can't help wondering what exactly Chris Summerhayes does to deserve his position, and salary.

—Anne F. Walker

Not pawns and victims

Editor:

Too often, in response to the recent strikes at York, I am hearing students refer to themselves as 'innocent bystanders.' This passive role is amplified when the Acting President uses this term to coyly bring the students in line with his 'primary objectives' in his October 18 letter to our York Community.

If one side of the current dispute is agreeing with you that you are an innocent bystander and the other side is urging you to join in their struggle, then you are implicated in a labor-management struggle.

If you think it has nothing to do with you, then you are a pawn; but not of CUEW or YUSA.

If you think you are a victim, then you have not grasped the truly educational opportunity to find out what's going on, to see that you have an important and money-paying part in it, and to actively participate in resolving it.

Ignoring a picket-line does have an effect. It supports the administration's misleading and inconsistent policy of promoting business-as-usual when there is a legal strike in process.

—Nicholas Power

NDP support

Editor:

The York University NDP Club wholeheartedly supports CUEW in its struggle for a fair and just settlement, against the York University administration. We support CUEW in its call for mediation by an agreed-upon mediator as a means to settle the strike. We also condemn the irresponsible action of the York administration in its refusal to negotiate seriously, an action which has forced CUEW to strike.

—Kenneth MacDonald
Chairperson
NDP Club

Excalibur attempts to print as many letters as space allows. Please be brief—letters over 250 words are subject to editing for length. All letters must include the author's name, address, and phone number for verification purposes. Pseudonyms may be used upon request.