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opponents.

In an illustrated guide to the ISU debate which the *Excalibur* ran in advance of the recent ISU forum, ISU supporters were characterized as "space-nerds", some sort of social misfits who take refuge from the complex and turbulent currents of the real world in the calmer, more predictable waters of the sciences. Seduced into snapping at the lure of an ambitious research facility dangled before its bespectacled eyes, the "space-nerd" is unwilling, or unable to recognize it's already been hooked. Presumably the *Excalibur* hopes to warn the rest of the school, before it, too, succumbs to that fatal temptation. Admirable intentions aside, depicting pro-ISU science students as "nerds" has got to be offensive to all science students, and to anyone else interested in an informed, objective debate. (Not to mention the questionable value of the old Arts/Sciences dichotomy, given the environmental challenges we now face.)

The offended parties quickly responded with a defamatory attack of their own. In a letter to the *Excalibur*, the anti-ISU forces of the YFS were labelled "HPYS" or "Highly Paid York Socialists." The letter writers were so proud of (or surprised at) their little witticism, that they took the effort to spell out exactly what the acronym implied. I learned that the YFS' anti-ISU arguments aren't really arguments at all. They are just a symptom of a doctrinaire socialist world view that comes from smoking marijuana.

If this was supposed to have been an argument for supporting the ISU, and honestly, I have been looking for one, then I wasn't impressed. Besides, I smoke marijuana, and I am not a socialist. But then maybe I just haven't smoked enough.

Lastly, a word about the role of some of York's administration in all of this. I'd like to believe that the Board of Governors is at all times acting in the best interests of the University. I'd like to believe that when the Board wants the ISU to come to York, its motives have everything to do with what's good for York, and nothing to do with any other interests. However, some of our



photo by Matt J. Cromecki

Board members are also executives in various Aero-space enterprises. These enterprises might conceivably have something to gain from a successful York bid. These same Board members have tried to convince me that they are still able to act in York's best interests, notwithstanding their own. I'm not so sure that I would be able to, were I in their position, so why should I be convinced they can?

Terry Silverman

Find alternative to long line-ups

Like many other students, I have experienced considerable delays in receiving my OSAP funds. There seems to be no reasonable explanation why it took the Financial Aid Office two and a half months to check my application and send it to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities in Thunder Bay for processing. The University recognizes these delays, and issues deferments for tuition fee payment to OSAP applicants and other students who have paid the \$75 deposit. This is done through the

Financial Aid Office.

I enrolled in all my courses and paid the \$75 deposit on July 11. I immediately went with my receipt to the Financial Aid Office and asked for a deferment. My request was denied, since the Office had made an arbitrary decision not to take deferment applications until Aug. 31.

When I went to the Financial Aid Office at 9am on Aug. 31, I was confronted with a line-up nearly 100 yards long. From other students I have learned that people waited up to six hours for service. Students were in the line-up for two main reasons — the first was to receive grant cheques and student loan approval, the second was to apply for deferment.

Instead of wasting my valuable time, I wrote out an application for deferment, attached the deposit receipt, and dropped that into the drop slot. I also filed a complaint with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. As a result, the Financial Aid Office issued me an immediate deferment until Sept. 25, and opened their office from 7am during the week of Sept. 10. Of course, this increased the wages expense required to operate the office. So much for University underfunding. University ad-

ministration inefficiency is the real issue.

Therefore, I can conclude that the line-ups are totally unnecessary. The process of applying for deferment can be done by mail. Even the receipt for the \$75 deposit is redundant, since the computers at the Financial Aid Office are connected to the Student Accounts Office.

Finally, if students choose to line up for six hours without complaint, then they will get the service they deserve. Perhaps dissent based on reasonable inquiry is part of the education process.

Graham McCready



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