

Cult recruits

Dear Editors:

Going back to university full-time was a little scary. I've since overcome that fear. Unfortunately, it was replaced with another, The Church of Christ.

During the fall of '88 and the winter of '89, I've been harassed at least 10 times by members of this cult. I'm in my final year now and those parasites are at it again. For example, I was sitting alone and a young, clean cut man, who came across a little too friendly, asked if he could sit down beside me because he was waiting to use the phone. He had no intention of using the phone. His only motive was to recruit another unsuspecting victim.

I'm concerned for the students who are shy and find it difficult to make new friends. We have to be aware of the tactics they use and when approached, to make an official complaint to the Office of Student Affairs.

Be aware they are out there.

Yours truly,
Paul Tarsitano

Recycle

Dear Editors:

The Earth would like to remind all members of the York community that we have recycling facilities on campus. There is a fine paper and plastic recycling collection in the faculty of environmental studies (3rd floor, Lumbers Building), and multi-materials recycling collection (aluminum, tin, glass and newspaper) at the Assiniboine Road apartments (4 Assiniboine Road).

Please try to use these facilities as the more contributors we can make, the more viable the entire project becomes. The earth is running out of space for our garbage.

John Ferguson

Not funny

Dear Editors:

Re: "Cattle Dung Deadly," Sept. 7. The wastes produced from factory farming of all domesticated animals such as chickens, cows, steers, male calves (veal) and pigs, are a serious threat not only to the atmosphere in contributing to the Greenhouse Effect, but also to the land (toxic waste-toxic soil), to fresh water supplies, to wildlife, to agriculture etc.

To save the planet, do not kill a cow as your source so flippantly put it. To save the planet you take responsibility for the domestication of certain animals by protesting/boycotting factory farming. With information comes understanding. With understanding should come responsibility.

Save the planet, respect the earth and all her life forms today.

Actively,

Tracey Tiff

A Vegan (total vegetarian)
FASP student

correction

The article "Superstudent wins big money from York" in the September 7 issue of *Excalibur* contained an error. It should have stated that a Proctor Scholarship requirement is that recipients must maintain a 7.8 grade point average.

PhD supports use of cuffs

Dear Editors:

I read with great dismay about the dismissal of Mr. Robert Hughes in last week's *Excalibur*. There are so many issues to deal with in this, the administration's latest security debacle, that I scarcely know where to begin. However, the issue that I wish to address is the actual dismissal of Hughes on the grounds that he "attempt[ed] to establish a different method of operations on his squad out of impatience with university decision making."

First of all, the dismissal is quite out of line with the infraction. According to *Excalibur* editorial of last week, the university seems to have no official policy regarding the use of handcuffs. Given that they have not seen fit to actually justify the dismissal with the revelation of the written policy, *Excalibur's* question implying that the administration might not even have such a policy is both provoking and in urgent need of an answer.

Even given a written policy to that effect would not call for dismissal. Even direct insubordination of actual police officers does

not invoke such draconian responses. Granted, Hughes seems to have disobeyed at least general standard operating procedures, but dismissal is reprisal out of line with the infraction. One wonders *why* such a response was measured.

But more to the point of my letter, Hughes' action in allowing the use of handcuffs should be seen as initiative rather than infraction. I have personal experience of both the urgent need for York's Security to have the necessary tools to discharge its duties and Hughes' personal work and dedication.

In the fall of 1987, I was the night supervisor at Scott Library and an apparently inebriated individual began a disturbance in the second floor atrium and verbally accosted the exit control clerk. I asked the patron to leave and he insisted on staying and causing a disturbance.

Security was called and Hughes and his partner responded. They immediately attempted to defuse the situation; Hughes was tactful and professional. His concern was to persuade the individual to leave peacefully. The individual refused

and became even more verbally and physically threatening than he had earlier. A full scale brawl ensued with two more York Security officers responding. The individual could not be calmed down and it was necessary to have four officers literally sit on the individual until Metro officers could arrive approximately 15 minutes later.

The first words out of the senior Metro officer on the scene to our officers? "Why in the hell didn't you cuff him?" This is indicative of the attitude that prevails about our Security force. That they are ineffectual. This is obviously not entirely true, but the inability of two York officers to calmly and quickly restrain an unruly individual is certainly a blight on the reputation of the administration that issues policy and equipment; not the officers.

The matter is not one of civil liberties; many universities in southwestern Ontario have fully equipped armed Special Constables patrolling their campuses. This serves not to intimidate and repress, but to allow the officers to fulfill their duties to protect the

individuals on this campus. The officers should be sent to the Police College and be fully able to deal with dangerous situations. They are always the first officers on the scene on this campus, and the student body, staff and faculty should look to these officers for help and not be worried that their inability to even protect themselves adequately might endanger the lives of those that they are charged to protect. We need only remember the incident where an unarmed officer was sent to investigate a reported person with a gun. The officer wasn't even told that there was a weapon at the scene.

Are York's officers apprehensive to answer calls that might be potentially life-threatening? Perhaps not consciously, but one never knows. Is it worth the risk to our officers and the York community at large to allow the administration to drag its feet in providing for its own mandate?

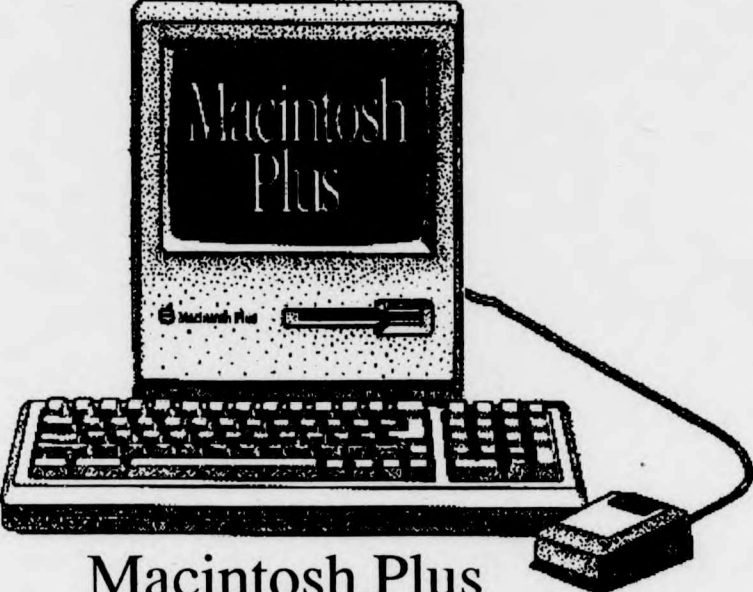
Respectfully,
Norman R. Gall
PhD II

Philosophy Department

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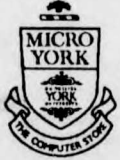
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