

LETTERS

The thing to do when you are a Psychologist-at-heart is to clarify questions and problems in order to reach "healthy" solutions. So what I shall try to do in this letter is provide an answer which is beneficial for everyone.

Recently, I submitted an article to the Excalibur entitled "Nutrition for a Nation". I was very glad that the editor was so enthusiastic about it. If you will recall I came to the Excalibur office several times in order to be sure that the article was correctly edited and that the final version would make a great deal of sense.

My original article was "edited" considerably. A new and incorrect title was given to it. The nature, content and "style" of the article as well as its "tone" were altered. As a result the article did not really "read" as it was intended to. But people still found it to be fine.

Many people on this campus have asked me about Nutrition. My purpose in writing the article was to respond and to provide some answers. I set out to inform people about some of the basics, controversies, in nutrition, and dangers of eating artificially produced foods. I cited examples of four internationally known leaders in the field of nutrition from whom I derived this knowledge. Many people responded very favourably to what was written despite the editing.

My reply to both Paula Beard and Lynn Wells is this: It is a bad idea to try to solve problems by attacking and being belligerent. It is a "healthy" practise to solve problems by assuming a very constructive and positive attitude especially under difficult circumstances. Hostility and derisiveness are low-level expressions. Understanding and empathy are high-level ones. You may feel that the articles were not good in some way, but that does not give you the right to be so negative. It's the "spirit" that counts when you do something.

When I submitted my article I found Mr. Lefko to have been very receptive and co-operative. He really tried his best, I think, especially because he was under time-pressure. If any mistakes were made they were human mistakes and we must try to understand and empathize, just as we would hope that others would with us if we ourselves had made mistakes.

Many people had very positive things to say about the article despite the editing. They were able to see how valuable the article was and have even asked for more knowledge about nutrition. In the future all of us will try to improve the quality of our work especially because this is a university community Newspaper, which intends, in part, to educate us in the newspaper process.

I, for one, have learnt a great deal from this experience, and I will be very happy, as always, to talk to and with anybody who would like to know more about a subject which is true to my heart.

Warmly, sincerely, and with spirit,
Randy Herman
Psychology Major
Atkinson College

Contradictory Coverage

Some comments on a recent issue's uneven and contradictory coverage of CUEW.

1) The (anonymous) writers of the "Analysis" piece, in their attack on chairperson Janet Patterson, display a distressingly

elitist view of leadership and organization. CUEW has a seven-person executive, which during the strike, merged into a 14-person steering committee. To single out the chairperson for "daring" to criticise the settlement is ludicrous and unfair.

The fact of differences within the union over whether we could have gained more and whether the strike would have been continued should not mislead people with authoritarian personalities into thinking that this weakens the union. You won't find any of us who "dissented" quitting in disgust or calling for resignations. CUEW is a democratic union, in which disagreements and conflict are open and indeed, vital to its health. We will all work to keep class size and job security in the forefront of community attention.

In its six years of existence, CUEW has slowly but surely built up an effective collective agreement, which has enabled us to establish a firm presence in most departments, and has demonstrated that it can mount a strike which forced the administration to consider class size more seriously as well as to back off from its attack on part-time faculty. Not a bad record, I'd say. CUEW's presence is problematic in some areas, notably Science, where a feeling of insularity tends to exist, reinforced by outside research money and closer relationships between grad students and supervisors. Our clear effectiveness during the strike was achieved despite Science and strike-breaking in other areas was very low.

2) By insisting on labelling the strike as a "demonstration", Vice-President Farr can only be trying to minimize its effect on the Administration and to cover-up the considerable disruption it was causing. If Mr. Farr considers it such an "effective demonstration" against underfunding, then given the Administration's repeated claims to be against underfunding, why wasn't he on this "demonstration" with us? The answer is that, on this campus, it is the Administration which in fact administers cutbacks, jeopardising academic quality and attacking working conditions. This was a strike against the effects of cutbacks, a

withdrawal of services from unsatisfactory working conditions.

There is no point in simply demonstrating, or expecting the Administration to fight underfunding for us. Collective action can at least stem the tide, at best force them to change their policies. Students should realise this and strengthen their own organizations.

Michael Michte

He Ain't Heavy, He's My Union

A recent editorial suggests "the burden of the enormous issue of class sizes" was to great for the shoulders of CUEW. Well, we are a principled union and we are proud of being the first group at York willing to take risks and suffer hardships in the struggle for smaller classes. At the same time, our members are responsible people who try to balance their ideals against what can realistically be achieved at any given time.

The collective agreement between CUEW and York University will not reverse the government's policy of underfunding — that is beyond the capacity of any union's collective agreement which is always a specific united legal document. This year, CUEW's negotiations addressed the issue of class sizes. We won assistance for instructors when classes are much too large and a committee to investigate types of tutorials and their appropriate enrollments so that we can begin bargaining to try to make assistance unnecessary in the future.

According to the Labour Relations Act, our contract is, and must be, primarily concerned with our members' "terms or conditions of employment". However, we know that it can also be part of a wider political fight against underfunding which should continue on many fronts all the time.

Class size will be the main topic of conversation at York this year. CUEW will continue to struggle for smaller classes both in and outside of negotiations. With similar efforts by other groups, the York community will find that the enormous issue of class size is not too great a burden. CUEW could well win legally binding language that ensures

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Black Creek Crusader

With regard to your article "The Great York University Food Fight" of Oct. 22/81; I do not feel that the Black Creek Food Co-op was realistically represented. Apart from mentioning prices for two articles that the co-op does not carry, most of the articles listed on the price comparison chart differ tremendously in quality at the sources quoted. When comparing prices of the same brand of good with various "health food" stores in the city, Black Creek Co-op is almost without exception dramatically lower. I would like to submit for publication this chart comparing Black Creek Co-op and Dominion Stores on a random sampling of name brands and therefore comparable products, as of Oct. 28, 1981:

	Dominion	Black Creek
Delsey Bathroom tissue	1.93	1.56
Scottie facial tissue	(special) .97	.95
Primo Chick Peas	.75	.63
Tomato Paste	.45	.30
Tomato Sauce	.75	.74
Tomato (canned)	.95	.79
Hills Bros. Coffee	4.29	2.98
Lipton Chicken Noodle Soup	.91	.72
Starkist Tuna	(special) 1.39	1.36
Brunswick Sardines	.53	.45
V8 Juice	1.36	1.24
frozen orange juice (Sun pac)	(special) .89	.85
Allen's vinegar	.87	.68
Corignan Mineral Water	.78	.66
lettuce	.88	.64
broccoli	1.38	1.12
Apples: Macintosh	.59	.44
Apples Delicious	.69	.54

This list does not include bulk items such as flours, grains and beans which, to say the least, undercuts any supermarket price.

Don Jones

KEESTEEL AUTO CENTRE

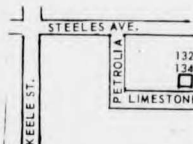
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