

letters

Mature student enjoys "kids"

To The Editor:

Since I have no classes in the complex that houses Winters, I had not yet taken the time to investigate the Mature Students' Lounge. I did have the intention. After all, my middle age qualifies me for that privilege.

After reading Ms. Barcza's comments, I debate whether to stay clear of the lounge forever, or to dash over to gape at the misfits she describes who "have to find refuge from the youth outside," grow halos by making sarcastic remarks about smokers, comment on the exceptional grad student who "feels good" about being with mature students and state that they resent showing kindness to an 18-year-old.

Good God, protect us from elements such as this in society. I can only hope that Ms. Barcza does not speak for the rest of the group. Did it ever occur to her that "kids" are actually young people? That they belong to the human race? What terrible things are they doing that put her off so badly? No wonder the "kids" couldn't relate to her. Rejection breeds!

Let me give you some advice, Ms. Barcza. You are here to get an education, that's true. But everything we learn in life is a part of our education. Some things you have to pay for. Those are taught by

professors. Some things are free. Those are picked up everyone around you. Including those undergraduates.

I'm in my second year at York. Not having been aware of the Mature Students' Lounge, this novice was "forced" to mix with the cross section of the university. I discovered some wonderful young people in classrooms, in line-ups, at blood donor clinics, in cafeterias, in lounges.

Sure, Bob is a loudmouth, Fred uses the f-word, Barb is a whiner and Sue always acts superior. Are there no "adults" with these traits? What about the others? Four of the "kids" work in wonderful harmony with me in the science lab; someone waves me over in the caf to sit with them; Steve discusses his poetry with me; Penny crouches on the floor beside me, waiting for an interview. These are the others.

I may not get invited to their parties. I wouldn't want to go, for in some ways we do diverge. That's what makes us mutually stimulating. We are not clones. You, on the other hand, Ms. Barcza, are trying to become one. That's fine. But please keep your metamorphosis to yourself. I wouldn't want the young people to think that we older ones are all like you.

Christa Hobden



We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words. They must be typed, double spaced, accompanied by the writer's name and phone number. Libellous material will be rejected. Deliver to 111 Central Square during business hours.

Cows must provide 2 pieces of i.d. and are eligible for a special opinion section, if we find their letters moo-ving.

Osgoode students, staff, faculty fight to have asbestos removed

By Daniel Wolgeleenter

Osgoode Hall Law School students have decided to step up their fight to have asbestos removed from their building.

A group of about fifty students, faculty and staff decided at a workshop November 7 to hold an asbestos awareness week next term with daily events and outside media exposure.

As well, the group decided to start a letter writing campaign and, as a regular policy, to begin giving out symbolic surgical masks to distinguished guests.

The workshop was organized by the Student Committee for Asbestos Removal (SCAR) and chaired by SCAR chairperson Kathryn Seymour.

Other proposals that may be adopted in the future include recommending that asbestos warnings be included in Osgoode recruitment calendars, a possible tuition strike, possible mass transfers to another law school, or suing the university.

Seymour said that students were in a position to influence the York administration at this point in time because they are about to receive a new cost estimate for asbestos removal. She said that now is the time to step up the campaign.

"I'm prepared to try any strategy that we have tried in the past. Maybe the time is right,"

she said.

Asbestos, which was used extensively to treat beams in buildings as a fire retardant in the late 1960s, causes asbestosis, lung cancer, mesothelioma (a form of cancer) and gastrointestinal cancer, according to the Ontario Public Research Group (OPIRG). It becomes dangerous when it decays and flakes off the beams and disintegrates into dust or chunks.

According to OPIRG, all involve long latency periods between initial exposure and appearance of the disease. As well, all are fatal and no one is sure what levels of exposure to asbestos are required to contract the disease.

In early October, the law school was closed for three days after a chunk of asbestos was found in a professor's office and unsafe asbestos levels were detected in the hall way surrounding the office. As well, last June, unacceptable asbestos levels were found in Osgoode's library.

Dean of Osgoode James MacPherson told the group that all but two universities in Ontario have asbestos in some of their buildings and that 11 per cent of university buildings in Ontario have asbestos.

At York, only Osgoode and the boiler room at Glendon have asbestos, he said.

He said a 1983 study reported that a three stage removal programme would cost \$1,600,000. The first stage, clearing the asbestos from the air ducts above the classrooms, has

already taken place, he said, but members of the university administration have said that there is not enough money to finish the job.

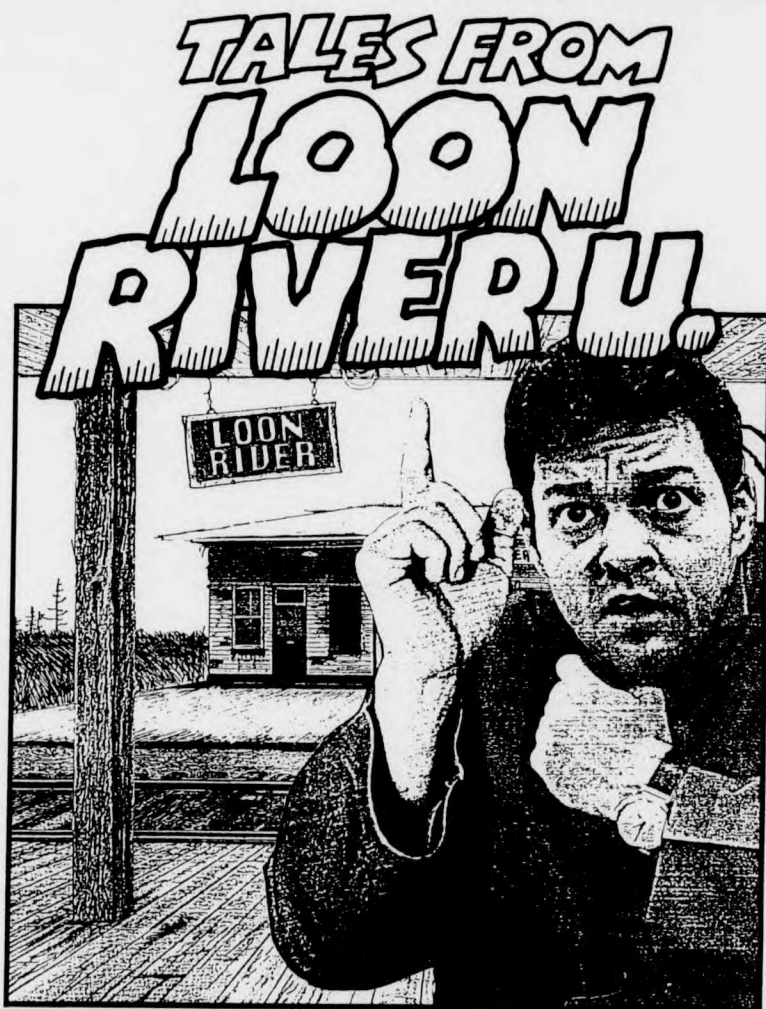
In July, said MacPherson, 13 universities made a proposal to the province to pay for the removal of the asbestos from all their buildings, or to pay for safety control and to provide reimbursements "if something goes wrong." The province has not yet responded, he said.

Macpherson said a second cost study on removal is currently being done and is expected to reach Vice-President (finance and administration) Bill Farr by the end of November. He expects the latest estimate will price the removal at about \$4 million to 4.5 million.

He said the cost will have to come out of York's budget, since Osgoode cannot afford it with its much smaller budget. He also said that both the administration and students should send a clear message to York president Harry Arthurs that the asbestos must be removed.

First year law student Michael Adam accused MacPherson of not taking a leadership position in trying to have the asbestos removed. He asked MacPherson if Osgoode should include an asbestos warning in its recruitment calendar. MacPherson replied that such a suggestion was problematic.

"We don't want to lose good students from all over the country," MacPherson said.



Billy Joe MacBride had just written his last paper. Who was Jane Austen? And why?

He had a few days before it was time to start preparing for finals. He was just getting into the theory of relativity, and boggling at how it takes light 200 million years to travel the universe when he made a quantum leap... he would get away for a few parsecs.

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