

**LETTERS**

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not only ignores victims of this hideous crime, but turns a blind eye to the injustices delivered by the abusive authority, and when it comes down to it, there is no mechanism to demand accountability.

Emotional abuse is a serious offence and Canadians need protection. As long as incompetent and irresponsible individuals are allowed to remain in supervisory positions, public-sector employees are at risk. Attention should be given to the age old question of "who manages management?"

The daily stress of never knowing what methods of abuse will be in effect, or if in fact, the boss will send you packing that day, hardly creates a healthy work environment. This issue goes beyond the sphere of labor/union/management. In 1987, a California senator said, "... the program exists for the most heinous examples of official abuses. It's for the outrageous abuse that doesn't fit in the normal review processes."

In a *Toronto Star* article, MP Dan Heap said, "Ottawa should take action. People ... get fired and then nothing ever gets done." In 1989, Ken Dye, Auditor-General of Canada talked about setting up a "hot line," and Federal Minister of Housing Alan Redway, introduced a private member's motion in 1987, "that called for protection of federal employees for drawing attention to wrongdoing by superiors..." The *Ottawa Citizen* quoted him as saying "employees of all levels of government and private industry deserve protection when they blow the whistle on their superiors." And in 1986, your Senior Policy Advisor, Patrick Monahan attended a meeting at my home and heard from a group of victims of their pain and suffering because the system had so shamefully abandoned them.

Mr. Peterson, you are familiar with my work. As chair of the Canadian Accountability Project, I made numerous attempts over the years, to bring this issue to your attention. I hope you'll discuss that information with your students because before we move anywhere on this, public awareness is essential.

With the excellent research facilities at York, and with your knowledge on the topic, this might be just the breakthrough that is needed.

I know of one Canadian university that has already undertaken a study on personal harassment in the public workplace. You might consider discussing this with your colleagues in the Arts and Law faculties. I know they will welcome hearing about this new and exciting concept.

Jean Liebman

**A little help from friends**

To the editor,

When you are feeling stressed out and aimless, it takes a while before you even ask yourself if there's anyone out there who can help you. And, if you've reached this level of anxiety, the answer you come up with is most likely a negative one.

Well not long ago I was one of those people. To my surprise, though, I found a number of good souls on this campus who actually care about us students.

Thus, I write this letter in the hope that their valuable and humanitarian efforts won't go unrecognized within the York community.

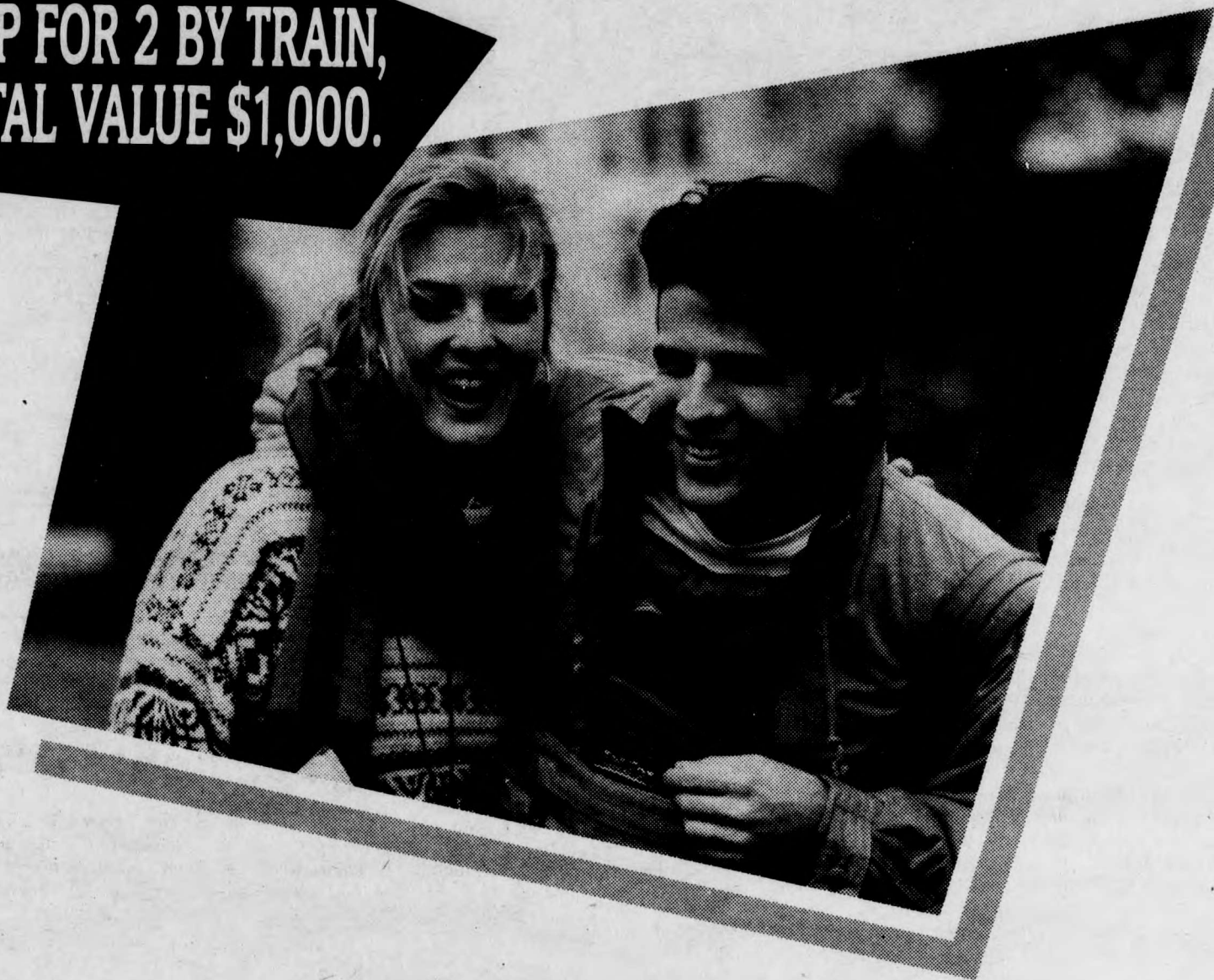
I'm referring specifically to Financial Aid assistant director Nevea Jelenic; Sexual Harassment advisor Sharon Chimning; Cheryl Litwack, a law student working at York's legal aid office; YFS president Jean Ghomeshi; and Connie

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