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EDITORIAL The presence of an attacker is not just newsworthy — it's news

Recently, it seems that the pages of this newspaper have been filled with more than the usual ads and latest CYSF scandals. Unfortunately, our reporters and typesetters have been busy banging out stories of a bleaker nature — about assaults on campus.

To most of the York community, these stories are grim but necessary reports of a real-life situation. However, there are some readers who choose to criticize *Excalibur*'s reporting of violent crimes.

Such journalism, they say, creates an undesirable atmosphere of paranoia. Another argument holds that, by reporting such occurrences, it may encourage more of the same. In additon, the general trend of cynicism towards the media causes people to label any crime story as sensationalism.

It is a sad day indeed at the *Excalibur* office when another

assault attempt is brought to our attention. Our reporters have to walk across this campus just like anybody else. Some of us may be aspiring journalists, but by no means does that make us leap at the chance to cover a grisly "biggie" for our portfolios. Anyone who suggests that we look for violent incidents to increase our circulation has been watching too many movies.

Lamentably, tabloids of terror do exist in this city; papers that may skew the facts to get a juicier picture. These publications are not the ones we try to emulate.

We are a *newspaper*. The presence of a sexual attacker (or more than one) in our midst is not just newsworthy, it is news, period — news to which everyone has a right and should be made aware.

It is tragically laughable that some people do not deem the attack stories "appropriate" for front page coverage. Perhaps they do not go to their cars or residence at night. Or even to the Osgoode washroom in the afternoon.

Knowledge of what goes on at York may prompt people to take more precautions, even if it means something as relatively simple as leaving that nightschool class with another person beside them.

The reporters at *Excalibur* who cover this beat must contend with understandably reluctant victims, people who "know" something but don't want to get involved, and big and small brass who say one thing one day and swear the opposite the next. Nevertheless, these reporters try to write, not "stories" but accurate accounts.

We hope such violent events will not recur. But if they do, we will respect our readers' right to know.





4 Excalibur April 1, 1982

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