

## editorial

### What next?

An announcement was made last week that about 70 summer courses at Atkinson were to be cut. Angry students feared they would not be able to graduate on schedule and they began requesting permission to take courses at other universities. Yesterday, however, vice-president (academic affairs) Ken Davey said most of the courses will be reinstated because the cuts came too late in the year and were made "without the appropriate consultation and planning."

The incident illustrates some of the fundamental problems this university is having.

One problem is communication. Dean of Atkinson Stephen Griew would not make himself available for comment, and he instructed everyone in his department not to talk to the press, except for Bruce Lowe, who works in outreach services. Lowe, however, has not been in his office to accept or return phone calls.

As another example of the poor communication at this university, neither the office of student programmes (arts) nor Atkinson's registrar had been informed of the reinstatements before the press was.

The word disorganization also comes to mind. The announcement to cut classes should have been made weeks ago, well before the summer enrolment process began. This would have still led to a lot of angry students, but at least they would have had a chance to deal with it, protest and make alternate plans. And then, to reinstate the courses after the fact creates a yo-yo effect. What will happen next at Atkinson?

The last, most obvious problem this fiasco underscores is, of course, underfunding. Overcrowded classrooms and book shortages in the libraries are bad enough, but an overcrowded class is better than no class at all.

### Certainly not security!

One of the perennial problems at York is security, which is being ignored on the new construction sites, in particular around the new academic building. Directly in front of the Ross Building is a large wooden structure surrounding one construction site, which seriously impedes vision. It has no windows cut so you can't see through it or around it. You're never quite sure what's going to happen when you walk around the corner.

There is also a new wooden bus shelter that is causing problems. It has only a few holes at the front to see through, and none at the back or the sides. It's a virtual trap. And, the closest emergency phone is at a parking lot attendant booth a fair distance away. Especially if you have to run to it in the dark. Why isn't there an emergency phone near the bus shelters? People in cars aren't the only ones who need to be safe.

The construction on campus will eventually benefit students, but do we have to suffer in the meantime?

## quadrupeditorial

### Apathy: who cares?

At the beginning of the year, we made two resolutions: no jokes about leg-hold traps and no editorials about student apathy. We were pretty good about the leg-hold trap jokes: we managed to get through most of the first term without one. As for apathy, well, it's time.

In last year's election for *Excalibur* mascot, three people voted. That's one one hundred thousandth of one per cent of the student population of York. The student body is not apathetic. This goes beyond apathetic. It's comatose.

The results were inevitable: a cow won the mascot position. And, not just any cow: a cow who, it should be noted, attended only one staff meeting all year, and whose acceptance of the status quo at that meeting can only be described as bovine. It seems the cow was more interested in partying with visiting heads of state than taking its duties as mascot seriously.

Not only that, but the cow's choice of vice-mascot, the cat, showed, in retrospect, extremely poor judgement. The cat seemed to take over; how else to explain the litter boxes in every office?

This promises to be an election of issues. Hibernation, for one. The quality of bird seed and segmented fishie yummys in Founders' cafeteria, for another. It is an election which could change the face of journalism at York University for days to come.

*Excalibur* intends to do its part. We plan on having full coverage of the mascot elections, from nominations to last minute pull-outs, from name-calling at debates to crank phone calling late at night. From fin to gill, we will be there.

But, it all comes down to you. *Excalibur* has run the candidates' platforms in this issue. Read them. Study them. Worship them. Then, cast your ballot for the *Excalibur* mascot which you feel will best represent the newspaper in the future.

VOTE EARLY; VOTE OFTEN.

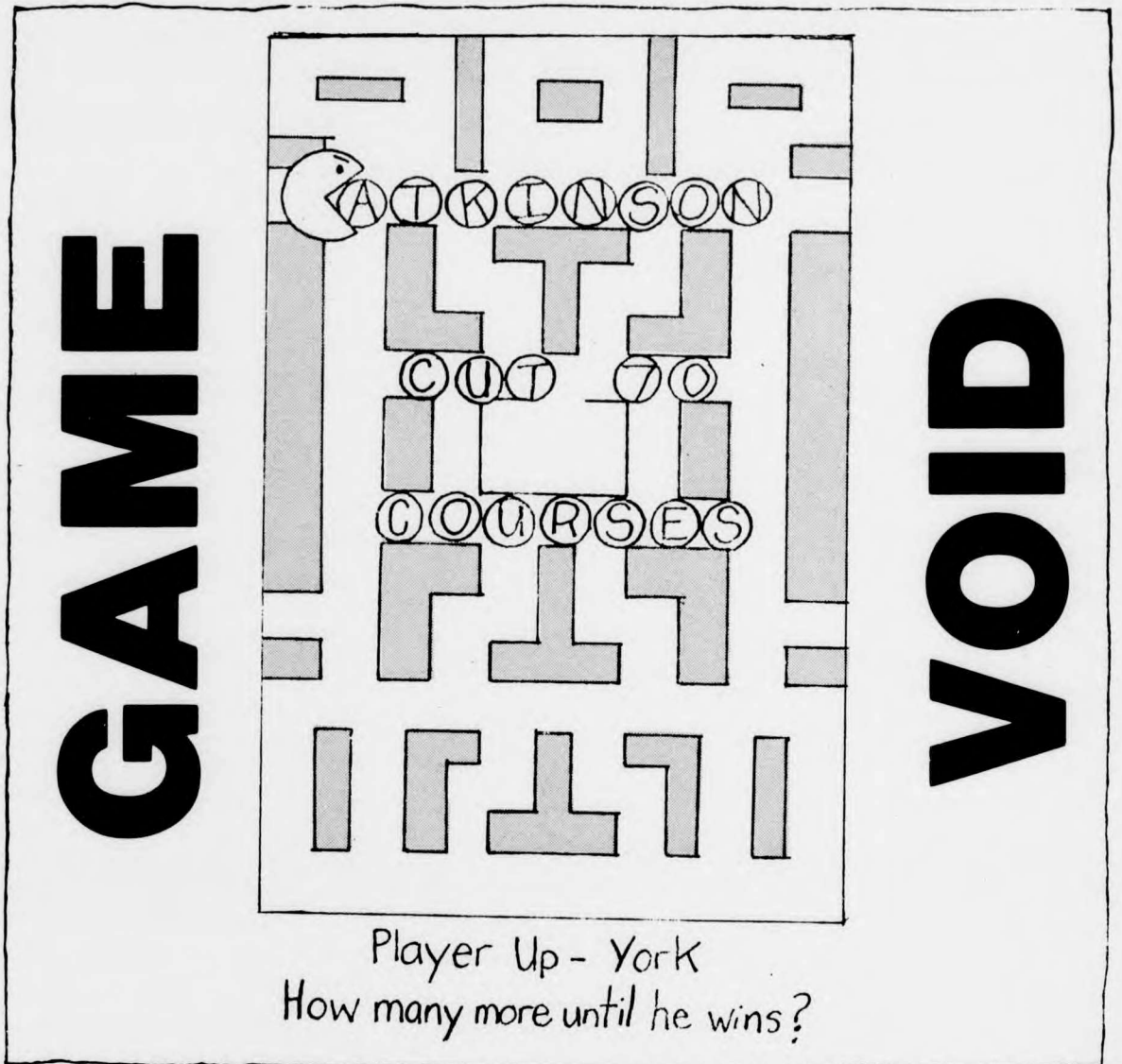
Ira Nayman  
CRO (Chief Rodent Officer)  
*Excalibur* mascot elections

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## letters

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

### Election posters a waste of paper

Dear Editor:

In these days of dwindling natural resources and major budget cuts, why can't the CYSF enforce some anti-waste laws? I am referring to the massive waste of paper associated with advertising for this week's elections. The walls in Central Square were, in many places, totally papered with signs for the election. A lot of the signs were printed on glossy paper, which is not recyclable, and I have serious doubts as to whether the signs printed on flat paper were recycled.

Even if there were plans to recycle the paper, why were so many signs put up in the first place? I think that a few large posters placed in Central Square would have been adequate. No doubt this huge waste of paper was warranted because it probably resulted in another massive turnout at the polls. Nice going CYSF; you have just added to Toronto's escalating garbage problem, killed a few trees, and wasted a lot of money.

Lalita Archarya  
Department of Biology

*Editor's Note:* We have been assured by presidential candidate Jean Ghomeshi that the glossy paper used in this election was recyclable.

### Posters contribute to York's problem of waste

Dear Editor:

The recent campaign for the CYSF elections has resulted in an unnecessary contribution to the increasing problem of excess waste and garbage in Toronto. The candidates showed little concern for our environment by printing posters on shiny non-recyclable paper and covering entire walls with hundreds of the same poster. Posters lined every empty space in Central Square. The night before the elections, all the posters, even the ones that could have been recycled (and those of candidates who assured me that they would recycle them), were ripped down and thrown into the garbage in large plastic bags.

The current members of the CYSF seemed equally unconcerned for our environment by advertising on election day with the same distribution of posters. Entire walls were plastered with the same poster. I realize that campaigning requires the candidates to make themselves known, and one poster would go unnoticed.

The barrage of waste during this campaign however, went far beyond efficient advertising. As students, we use much paper, but many departments and members of the university try to reduce our contribution to Toronto's waste by using and reusing paper which is recyclable and then making sure this paper does go to the recycling bin.

I am angered and very disappointed by the actions of the CYSF. I hope that other members

of this university will express their outrage so that this type of blatant disregard for the environment will not be repeated.

Sincerely,  
Alison Neilson

### CYSF needs solution for poster mess

Dear Editor:

By the time this letter is published, we will just have made it through another CYSF election, and perhaps this is a good time to consider a solution to one of the more embarrassing aspects of the campaigns we see here at York.

I strongly encourage the CYSF as its first act as a new council — and what for many would be an act of contrition — to pass a resolution banning the display of any sign within 25 feet of any other sign promoting that same candidate. And while they're at it, why not broaden the policy to cover any CYSF-sponsored club or event?

The kind of MacLuhanesque nightmare we see here at York every year at election time makes any talk of environmental concern among the candidates a ludicrous hypocrisy; it escalates the minimum economic means necessary for someone to run a successful campaign; and heaven knows it's the last thing an aesthetically starved campus like York needs.

I will not, absolutely not, vote for any candidate who is pretentious enough to paper the walls with dozens of identical posters of themselves. I'm outraged that my mind should be trampled by this barrage of junk every year.

cont'd on p. 5