

# Discrimination on campus

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to the attention of the staff and readers of the *Excalibur* and York University in general the sexism involved in the hiring practices of the Blueberry Hill restaurant in York Lanes. I have responded at two different times to their "Help Wanted" ad. The first time I was told there were only grill positions open, and they were only hiring men for that. The second time I was informed that they had just hired two "girls for the cashier," and were

# letters

now only looking for "a couple of guys for the grill." Neither time was I offered an application form or to hand in a resume.

I have worked in all labour positions in restaurants and I can tell you sex is no indication of ability. Will York allow this practice to go on with its stated mission of equal opportunity hiring?

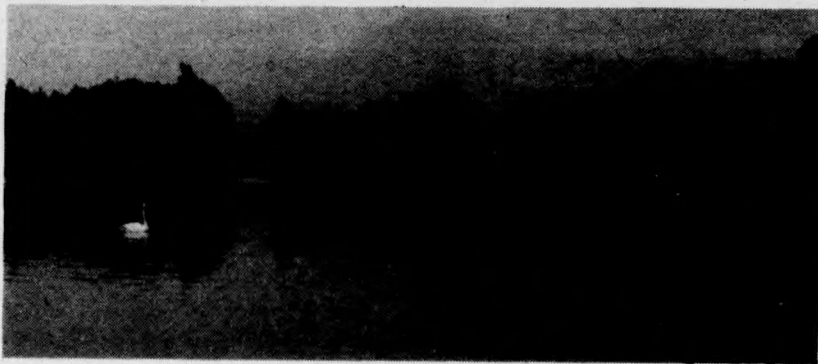
It is also upsetting to note that both times I was given this information by a woman.

Sandi Lee.

# A call for unity in Black history

Dear Editor,

Black or White? That always seems to be the question I see crossing people's



faces when they first see me. I am of mixed race. Everyone has their opinion and they are usually far from shy about sharing their views... embrace your Black heritage, embrace your White heritage... Which way do you go? Since February is Black History Month, I feel that it is the perfect opportunity to remind all the ladies and gentlemen out there with the attitude problems that we are all brothers and sisters. We all search for some kind of belonging. Looking back on a rich Black history is very important in order for us to be proud of our heritage. I want to embrace all of my culture without bias. It gives me a sense of history. I refuse to turn my back on any part of my heritage. I was born on the African continent under the African sun and spent more than half of my life there. Africa is in my heart because it is my place of birth but I still have an undying thirst to learn about all of my ancestors.

In learning about the past we cannot forget about the present. As a friend of mine stated, one cannot move forward with your eyes cast behind you. Canada is here and now and we need to deal with the present along with present attitudes. Some of us are dangerously close to reverse racism and it scares me to see the intimidation (however subtle it may be) which sometimes rises to the surface. We are here to learn and to teach. Black History Month is a time to be proud of our accomplishments and our heritage but don't forget that we need to do some learning. Unity is

strength. Don't close the circle on people who have something to contribute because this is our chance to make an impression and to make a difference.

Natalie Cox.

# College system a good thing

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your article in the Jan. 22 issue, "Why the YFS should be abolished." It would be appear from the position of the writer that he belongs to a faculty other than the Faculty of Arts. If he were a student in Arts he would realize that the overwhelming size of the faculty makes the idea of a Faculty of Arts Student Association absurd.

The college system at York was designed to reduce the alienating effects of an institution this size. The elimination of the college system would cause an even greater amount of apathy than that which already exists at York. There are approximately twenty-three thousand full-time undergraduate students currently attending this university. The idea that one centralized student government could fulfil the needs of all of these students is not realistic. The college system creates a mixture of students from all faculties which caters to the

needs of all of the students' common interests. By separating the students into faculty governments, the students are essentially deprived of involvement with others of differing areas of study.

In short, the college levy, amounting to \$28.50, is an insignificant portion of the tuition fee. For example, at Founders College, this money goes toward social events, cultural events, and subsidizes the F.U.S.E. (weight room), the Arthur Haberman Art Gallery, the Reading and Listening Room, and the Cock and Bull Pub. All of these services cater to both commuter and residence students, fostering a wide range of interests.

The article in question referred to the abolition of college councils rather than the abolition of YFS. In future, please entitle your articles more appropriately.

Sincerely yours,  
Markus Fairbairn,  
President, F.C.S.C.  
Garsen Yap,  
Vice-President, F.C.S.C.  
Joe Thornton,  
Director, Arthur Haberman  
Art Gallery.

# Debate not covered in Excal

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Sam Putinja's article (Feb. 12) about former NDP cabinet minister Peter Kormos' visit to

the Student Centre (Feb. 5) in which Kormos harangues the Ontario NDP for their so called "conservative policies".

I find it disquieting that the *Excalibur* would decide that it is appropriate to devote so much column space to the visit of a discredited politician who managed to attract an audience of "25-30". Only the week before (Jan 30), over 500 people purchased tickets for \$5.00 each to attend a debate on campus. Not one word of it was mentioned in the *Excalibur* or any other campus newsletter for that matter. The debate in question was one in which the morality of a capitalist vs. a socialist social system was explored. Five student organizations sponsored this event.

Perhaps the editors decided in advance that because reporting on the debate would entail presenting both sides of the question, it would be safer to ignore the debate altogether to avoid dealing with the fundamental moral issues at stake in our society today.

Could it be that while Peter Kormos spouted statements that were in total agreement with the views of the editors, the rational viewpoints of the debaters that held forth capitalism as the moral social system were not?

All that the editors have accomplished by ignoring this important event at York University is to point up their moral cowardice and intolerance to viewpoints other than their own.

Regards,  
David Aucoin.

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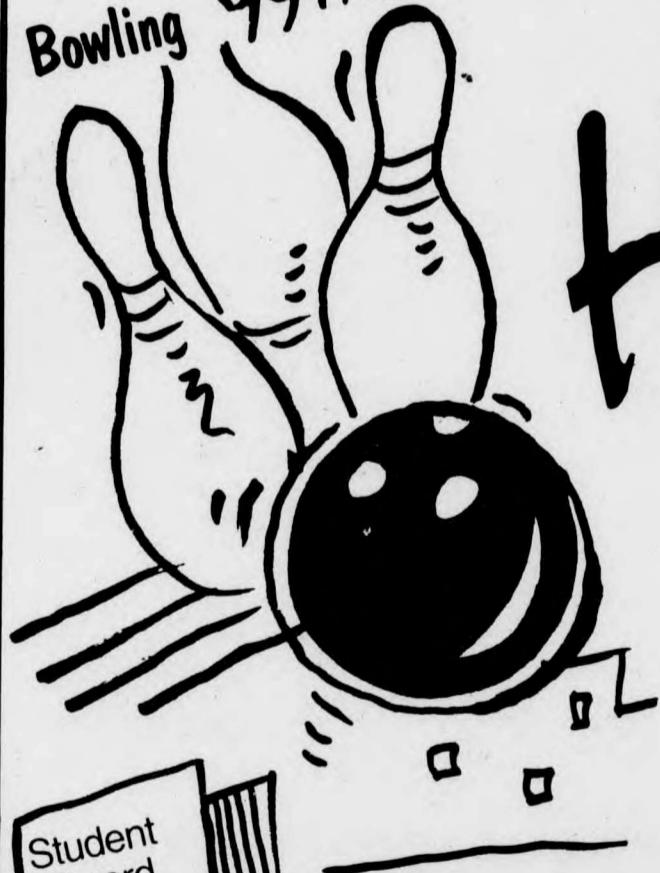
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