

editorial

Fire and brimstone

The newspaper box outside our office was set on fire Sunday. Not only were the papers burned, but the box, the floor, the wall and the ceiling were all scorched.

Security believes this was just a prank. However, we tend to disagree. The incident was discovered at 6:10 a.m. on Sunday morning. The doors to the Ross Building were still locked at this time. And, not too many pranksters are feeling frisky that early on a Sunday morning.

Some say it could have been just a miss-thrown cigarette or match, however someone took the time to draw a happy face on the wall across from the fire out of ash, reminiscent of last week's cover.

Now, we know there are people out there who don't like us, as we've criticized numerous people and organizations on and off campus, but there are better, even more effective ways to let us know how you feel. We do welcome all letters to the editor and opinion pieces and ideas. We publish every letter we get, space permitting, as long as it's not sexist, racist or libellous.

Angry people can also complain to the student council, the colleges, or even write letters to the other campus papers.

So in spite of the fire, *Excalibur* is going to continue to make people angry. We will publish critical editorials that will upset people, and opinions with which people disagree. And we hope we will continue to hear from our readers. Let us know what you think of the paper and of what's happening at York.

But leave your matches at home.



Jennifer Crane

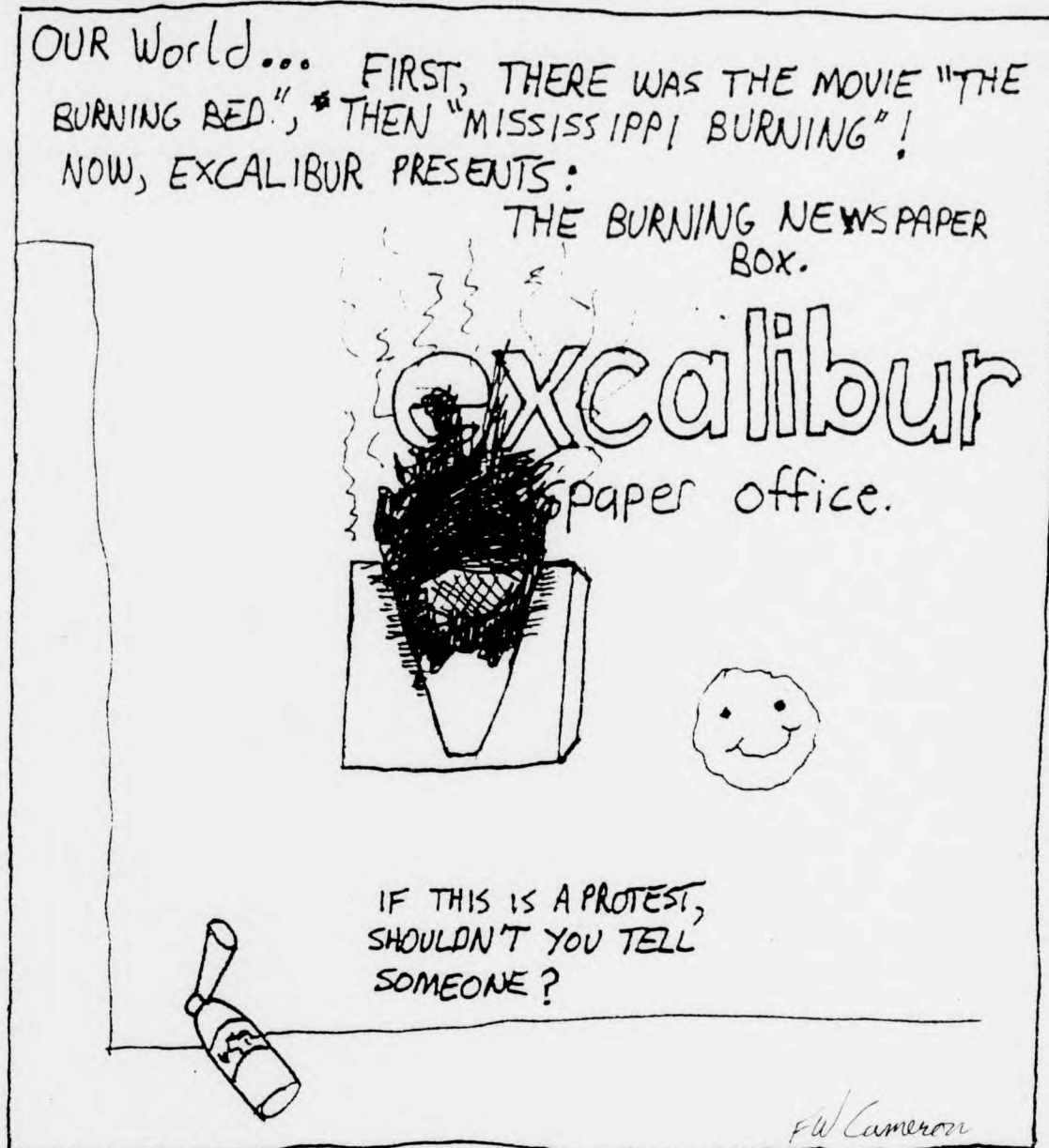
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letters

Proposed solution to toxic cloud of smoke

Dear Editors:

It is with great interest that I have been following the recent debate in these pages regarding the Tim Horton's concession outside of the Curtis lecture Halls. I support those who claim that the stand is located in an "unhealthy" environment and that it should be relocated to a designated non-smoking area where all students may purchase Mr. Horton's delicacies free of the noxious cigarette discharge which currently plagues the stand's present location.

However, I do not think that there are many areas in the Central Square complex which can honestly be said to be smoke-free. This lack of smoke-free areas is due to the deliberate and mali-

cious disregard many smokers have for university policy, City of North York bylaws and the rights of non-smokers.

While walking through Central Square to the cafeteria in order to purchase a healthy carton of milk, one is subject to a toxic cloud rivalling one that emanated from the Chernobyl reactor — in what is designated a non-smoking area!

I believe that a solution can be found to this problem, as well as to other problems which have recently come to centre stage. This solution involves giving York Security the right to issue tickets (similar to those issued for parking offenses) to those smokers who violate the university's smoking policy. This action would result in three effects:

1) The university would benefit

from the revenue collected through the "smoking fines" during a time where governmental funding of universities is being cut back;

2) The Central Square area would be cleared of some of its congestion by smokers leaving the area to go to designated smoking areas. Thus, the absence of these people would permit clubs and groups to set up their tables and stands without impeding the flow of traffic;

3) According non-smokers their full rights under the law by enforcing and strengthening the deterrents that have been erected to protect them from those selfish and criminal smokers who violate the law.

Stu Miller

Socialist jeopardized student movement

Dear Editor:

I knew this would happen. The socialist member who rose to speak at the rally on November 8 seriously jeopardized the credibility of the current student movement.

At the early meetings to deal with the student space problem, I carefully warned that we must not lose sight of our objectives, otherwise our protest will become a farce. What we must do is band together under CYSF leadership and attack the problem. We cannot become ideologically directed.

The week before, certain students were bent on fractioning off

and forming a "United Students Coalition." We took a vote on the matter and they lost — democratically. Certain members of the administration would love to see the student body divided and bitter. These "United Students" are trying desperately to achieve this, and for what — personal, political and ideological gain. The agenda, as set out by the CYSF, has now shifted to the philosophical few.

Now we have a member adding his group's views to the agenda. He was referring to the opposition to the GST, and the nuclear submarines. I can recognize that there is opposition to some federal government policies, but that was not the time or the place to

display his group's platform.

What do nuclear submarines have to do with the student space at York? If you must criticize the federal government, do so, but with your own party banner behind you. You do not speak for all of us on that matter. Stick to the local issues at hand and vigorously defend your view on them.

It is true that I am the Progressive Conservative president on campus, but I am speaking on behalf of myself. I do not and will not manipulate a political forum to put out my ideology. This is a lesson that my colleague should take into consideration.

Stephen Reid.