

EDITORIAL

Smoke 'n' shit

Smokin' sure has become an expensive hobby these days.

What with the price of a pack at \$5.00 for starters. And, heck, with the price of gasoline going up, the last thing you'll wanna do is drive off-campus to find butts once campus tobacco sales are stopped this October. Hell! Even worse, if you get caught puffin' in the wrong place, you could face up to a \$500 fine courtesy of the York security department.

Geez! I guess the university has really gotten serious about their healthy workplace slogans this time around, because they've come out with a brand spanking new commandment, in effect: "Thou shalt not smoke."

Pretty soon, you'll be able to go see a Smoking Complaints Officer if anyone illegally lights up next to you. This isn't surprising in such a progressive institution. Why, we have recourse with sexual and racial harassment, why not smoking harassment as well?

Of course, the smoking sub-committee that drafted the new policy had everyone's best interests in mind — smokers and non-smokers. After all, I hear they're bad things, those cigarettes — I sure am glad someone told me (just in the nick of time too). Now I know why I feel so bad when I'm walking around Central Square in a haze. It couldn't be my classes getting me down or the administration taking care of my every need. No! It's the cursed old cancer-stick sending out smoke signals to my brain: "Hey! stop smokin' that shit, boy! It's bad for ya, don't y'all know any better..." (Gee thanks, dad. When can I make big decisions like you?)

Of course, there mustn't be any resistance to the new smoking policy. Let's make sure we listen obediently to our beaming patrons of good health and quietly accept a virtual ban on smoking. It's all part of that famous motto: Ask not what your university can do for you; but what you can do for your university. Something like that, anyway. Something about personal sacrifice and suchforth...

But the sacrifice doesn't stop there. You realize, of course, that many of your favourite pubs are going to be affected. Yeah, that's right — you won't be able to smoke there anymore. Too bad if beer gives you the craving for a quick drag. You'll have to take a trip outside, not just for a piss break, but for a smoke break as well.

The university has to comply with provincial legislation to curb smoke in the workplace. The fact is that smoking will only be permitted inside wherever there is appropriate ventilation. Great! I can hear someone saying, "OK, so open up some windows or something."

It's not that easy, partner. The university doesn't have enough money to retrofit buildings, so the easy (and cheap) way out is to prohibit smoking entirely in these locations. Not a bad solution really — it keeps construction and maintenance bills down, pleases all of the friendly non-smokers, and probably forces some diehard chimneys to put a cap on it. Quit the smoking or quit the building. That's a pretty simple concept to understand, n'est-ce pas?

Enough of the diatribe... If someone's smoking is bothering you, just ask them to put it out or move elsewhere. The average mild-mannered Canadian will apologize profusely and comply immediately — you don't have to report them to the puff police.

Now the interrogation... First question: who is going to catch a smoker yellow-handed?

Second question: how are a half dozen puff police going to cover the entire university effectively?

Third question: if you manage to accurately report a criminal smoker, how can you restrain them from leaving?

Fourth question: how can York security force anyone to willingly identify themselves for prosecution? (Trick question — they ask Metro Police to take over or they lobby harder for special constable status.)

Fifth question: even if someone was successfully charged, who in their right mind would actually pay a smoking fine?

One last question to ask yourself: how much public discussion will be allowed on this smoking policy before it is drafted into York law? Or am I completely off track in mentioning that it was done during the summer — obviously one of the busiest seasons at any university.

EXCALIBUR

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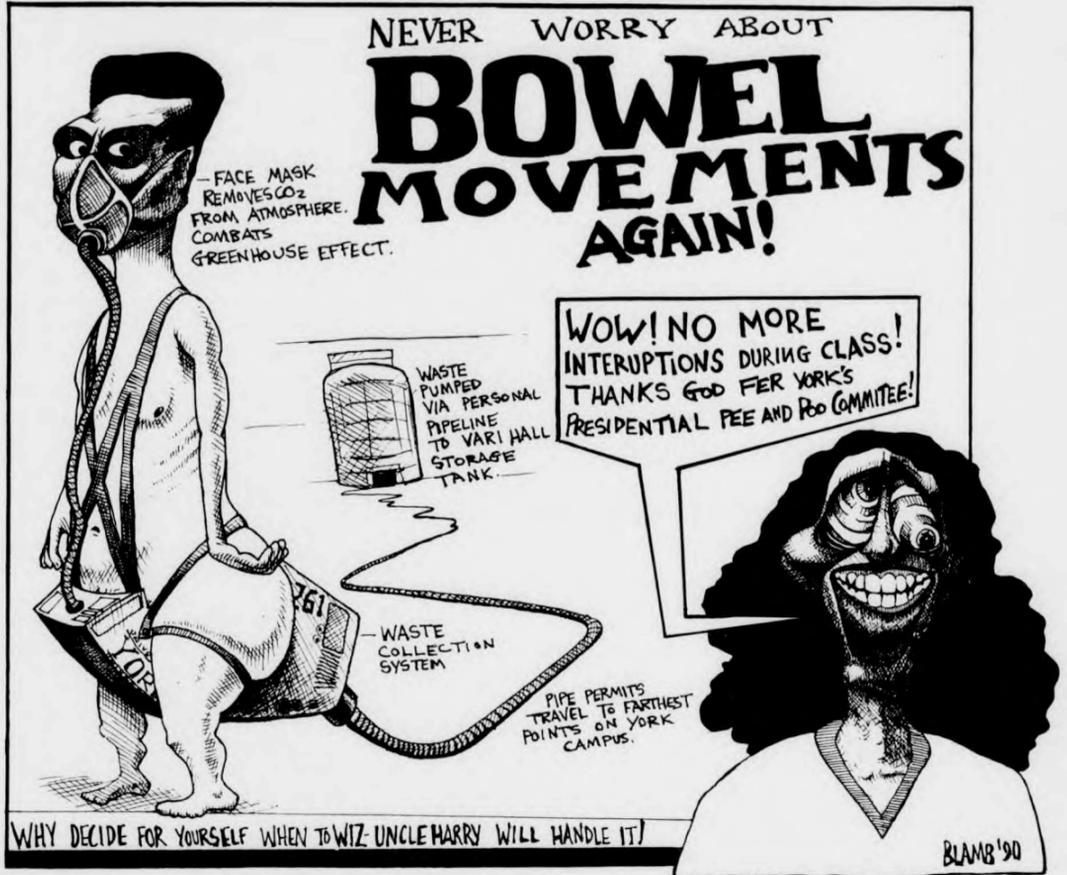
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LETTERS

Excalibur welcomes letters to the editor on all topics. We will publish, space permitting, letters up to 500 words in length. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name, signature and telephone number. The opinions expressed belong to the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of Excalibur staff or directors. However, letters judged to be racist, sexist or libellous by the editor will be refused. All material is subject to editing. All submissions must be addressed to the Editor-in-chief, Room 111, Central Square.

Parking fees cause uproar

To the editor,

Over the summer it came to our attention that students who wish to purchase an unreserved parking pass for the 1990-1991 academic year will have to pay \$105.00. This is an increase of \$25.00 from last year's fee. York students are already scraping to pay for the increasing costs of tuition (which to this year alone will rise by 8 per cent), residence/apartment rent, and textbooks; not to mention the added costs of living in the "most expensive city in Northern America." Students cannot afford increased parking pass fees added to these burdens of the contemporary university experience. Even indexed at the national rate of inflation a "realistic" increase for the York parking pass fee would be \$85.00.

The size of the proposed increase serves to adversely affect accessibility for students to York, particularly those who have to drive because bus/subway transportation is not available to them. We must be conscious of the environmental costs of auto emissions, however, surely the answer is not to deny the opportunity for education. We must work together to ensure accessibility to post-secondary education for all students.

We encourage the campus newspapers to join us addressing this issue in the interests of York students.

Sincerely,

Jean Ghomeshi, President YSF/FEY
 Anna Segal, President, Atkinson College Students Association
 Shelley Beck, Chairperson, Calumet College General Meeting
 Rob Centa, President, McLaugh-

lin College Council
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 Rhys Bowman, President, Winters College Council
 Mary Tsilka, YFS Representative, F.E.S.A.

Commuter refuses fine

Chair
 Presidential Advisory Committee on Parking
 York University

Dear Sir or Madam;

I have recently received a notice of an alleged parking violation committed on my part on September 17, 1990. I am writing to complain about the improper manner in which parking locations are patrolled.

I was parking in the 'C road parking' location, according to the ticket as the location was not marked by any proper parking decal or pass. Not only is there no attendant at the location from whom I may obtain a pass or decal, there is also no indication that one is required. Since cars parked at parking meters and other locations do not require any pass or decal, it is clear that such things cannot be mandatory for all vehicles parked on university property.

I have been using the York campus for more than eight years as an undergraduate and graduate student, and as such I am well aware of where and when I may park in certain places. It has always been the case that an unat-

tended parking area which is unreserved is available to use free of charge unless a sign to the contrary is posted. Today, in fact, the location designated as 9A is unattended and the attendant in the location on the south side of the road is directing drivers into it even though there is no one to provide decals or passes.

I would like to know if it is York's policy to misinform drivers so that they will park in certain areas so as to raise extra revenue by giving them parking tickets. Will a security officer later ticket all the cars in location 9A who do not have stickers?

The location in which I parked is clearly a parking lot, though there is no attendant's booth, nor is there any sign suggesting that one may not park there. Also, I have observed the use of the lot by various sports teams all this summer, and having parked there myself, have had neither complaints from the parking authorities nor seen tickets given out.

I feel that someone at York is worried about the loss of revenue from the five to ten cars that are parked there from time to time. I would assume that the York administration will probably close the lot down for the sake of maximizing profits rather than provide a small out of the way parking area where those of us who are willing to walk that extra distance can save a few dollars.

I have no intention of paying this fine and will pursue this matter as far as necessary. I also intended to continue parking there until there is some visible indication as to where I may obtain a pass or how parking is restricted. I am willing to abide by the rules at York, however, no one can accept a situation where rules are misapplied at random.

I look forward to hearing your response to my letter.

Sincerely
 D. Jason Nolan