

Nothing has really changed since fall

Editor:
 Since our first letter to *Excal* (Sept. 18, 1986) exposing the preposterous working schedule and conditions in our Security Department, we have been amazed how the issue snowballed into a major media event and even a CYSF election issue. Initially, we had only aimed for a change in the shift schedule, but other security cohorts and campus affiliations (such as *Excalibur* and the Women's Centre) picked up the ball and ran with it, which was probably a factor in Jack Santarelli's early retirement. Yet in hindsight, Santarelli was not the only administrator at fault with the problems in security.

That is why after all the thunder, and after Santarelli's departure, nothing has really changed. We're still working the "Timken" schedule; we're still without recognized training; we're still without policy and mandate, and still operating under questionable management.

Assistant Security Director, Linda Warren, has introduced a new mandate to improve security's tarnished image. Security offers must now, for example, call parking attendants by their proper job title: "Parking Control Officers." Furthermore, we are not allowed to simply leave after we've finished our work shift. We must now "depart from the security Line-Up Room" (as opposed to leaving the lunchroom).

As well, we were verbally informed that we are not allowed to wear our flashlights on the 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. shift as they are "intimidating." At times we must enter building basements and mechanical tunnels during fire or ambulance dispatches, or respond to actual fires where flashlights are required during

daylight hours. If our flashlights are intimidating on a dayshift, are they not intimidating on an afternoon shift?

Some of us working in the field have much experience and many ideas to contribute, but those ideas and concerns fall on deaf ears. Maybe special constable status is not the answer. Maybe it is. Maybe we'll have to meet somewhere in the middle. Unfortunately the only way this University will make necessary changes is when a student, ourselves or a fellow officer is maimed or fatally wounded (and it has come close). Security should not be left to circumstance.

—Terry Wright,
 —Rob Hughes
York Security Officers

'Peace officers' at York not needed

Editor:

With regard to the *Excalibur* article, "Security in Dire Straits, CYSF States" (March 19), we too are concerned with security on campus. However, we have some fundamental disagreements with the strategy put forward in the Open Letter to President Arthurs.

In contrast to the position of the letter writers who see a solution in more policing, we believe that policing itself can cause many problems, especially for women, members of visible minorities and of politically and economically marginal groups, all of whom are entitled to have access to and participate in campus

life. Further, we do not believe that increased policing will provide the basis for developing a community-based and collective strategy for improving security on campus.

The letter to Arthurs implies that campus safety can be equated with expanding and improving the on-campus security force. The specific recommendations appear to primarily serve the interests of members of the existing security force who may have legitimate grievances or who want to increase the powers and status of the Security Office. In particular we are concerned about the following recommendations:

- that the job description of York security staff require "a minimum of two years job experience as a . . . Police Officer—civilian or military."
- that York security staff be given Peace Officer status, presumably affording them powers of apprehension and arrest beyond those of the average citizen.
- that in light of the proposal for Peace Officer status, York security staff be issued handcuffs as part of their equipment.

Our concerns are based on two grounds. First, one significant aspect of student-led struggles that took place on university campuses during the 1960s was directed toward removing on-campus policing forces.

During that period of political activism, the legitimate right to dissent of members of the university community was often obstructed, if not curtailed, by the administra-

tion's use these policing forces to control on-campus protests. Their "security" mandate was often used as justification for harassing persons on campus who merely looked suspicious.

In our view, the desirability of further developing an on-campus force with the powers of arrest and the requisite equipment to enforce those powers (which can extend beyond handcuffs to include weapons such as billy clubs, guns, and tear gas) must be balanced against the infringement of rights and freedom that often accompanies the presence of such forces.

Our second concern relates to women's experience of policing. To illustrate, we only need to point to the ways the police have dealt with issues like domestic violence and rape to justify our view that policing forces have rarely served to advance women's interests, or to provide women with the kind of safety they need.

Perhaps the most important issue to us is the fact that, under the pressure of recent events, the issue of women's safety may become a handy justification for introducing an overly militaristic and authoritarian approach to controlling campus behaviour and campus access. Security forces are trained to adopt a particular approach to peace keeping which in turn affects their perceptions of "safe" and "unsafe" situations.

For example, this philosophy encourages the perception that strangers on campus signal danger and warrant investigation yet it is

more likely that persons of visible minorities will be identified as strangers and their presence challenged. Implicitly in this view of what is "strange" are often classist and racist beliefs about who belongs on campus.

We believe that an effective on-campus security policy should limit reliance on a policing force which is given the authority to "look after us." Rather, such a policy should be based on our communal responsibility to design and maintain a safe campus. The underlying assumption of such a policy should be the belief in our collective ability to shape and control our own environment, rather than the assumption that we are powerless to control that environment.

Arguing for more policing appears to address concerns about safety and security in the same way that censorship appears to address concerns about pornography. But just as censorship addresses only the symbol of the problem, and may cause other problems, so policing provides, in our estimation, only the appearance of a solution.

As long as our safety depends on the actions of a policing force, we will not feel safe and we will not be safe. We urge the York community to take a stand against more policing as a solution, and instead, to look to the development of a collective vision of a safe environment and practices for implementing it.

—Linda Briskin, Patricia Bush
 Domenica Dileo, Ellen Flanders
 Vassilios Katsoupas, Janice Newson
 Anastasia Tritakis

L e t t e r s C o n t ' d

cont'd from p. 7

begun the talks before strengthening their position at the bargaining table; in other words the 990 Soviet warheads already in place and aimed at Western Europe should not have been taken into account at the start of the negotiations.

Mr. McNamee conveniently ignored the fact that the then Soviet position with regards to on-site verification differed drastically with their position today. According to former Soviet chief arms negotiator Victor Isseralyan on-site verification, "can only complicate relations between states." The Kremlin stated that "US insistence of verification proceeds from total distrust between states and is an expression of outright nihilism with regards to international law."

In reference to his alarm in discussing the French and British potential to destroy Soviet cities, McNamee, like many others in the Western peace movement, avoids commenting on the far greater Soviet potential to destroy all of Western Europe in the space of 20 minutes. Through this mastery of Orwellian "double-think," the blame for the Soviet missiles aimed at the West rests solely with the US.

I would imagine that if Mr. McNamee knew anything about the

Soviet system his attitude toward them would change dramatically. By Soviet definition, "peace" does not mean an absence of conflict and war. "Peace," in their view can never be achieved until communism prevails throughout the world. As Lenin once said, "As long as capitalism and socialism remain we cannot live in peace." According to *Pravda*, until the "complete and final victory of communism on a world scale, the Soviets are committed to waging war for 'Peace.'"

*Michael Payne
 York University Chapter
 Canadian Coalition for
 Peace through Strength*

Nuclear reality can't be ignored

Editor:

I can't tell you how much it pleases me to have seen four intelligent letters written on the nuclear arms race we live in. However, one important point was either ignored or buried—the stark fact that nuclear weapons can be the end of the earth. To most of us, it's a figment of imagination, something that *might* happen years down the road. Besides, only a few of us are morbid enough to actually believe it could all begin as I write

this letter, and what it would be like to be bombed directly or die slowly of constant radiation bombardment. I won't even touch the proposed nuclear winter we would experience.

The issue today is a strong one, yet there are still those who deny it. "Build up the weapons as a deterrent force," and "SDI will enable North Americans to protect themselves"; With all those "right-wing war mongers," including President Reagan, we could blow the world up 28 times over.

Sorry, Mr. Denman. I'm not a "communist Pinko subversive" or a "hippie intellectual." I am a female science student hoping to apply my knowledge in the medical field, and I am a mother. The joy and pain of giving birth to my daughter into a world filled with misguided martyrs and a powerful man who feigns laryngitis and forgetfulness has taught me plenty. If you are not already a father, you will understand that upon the arrival of your first-born there grows an intensity for their dreams and hopes that completely takes over a prior indifference. You will see how hard it is not to expel the content of your stomach when you watch the news at night and realize your child(ren) will grow in the shadow of a nuclear silo. You will become outraged because you

feel inadequate in preventing someone waiting to push the right button. And you will hold your flesh and blood tightly, swearing to God that you have to find some way to stop this. It does not take over your life, but it lurks there in the dark corners, waiting to spring on you at any given moment.

It is not an issue of the plague of war, or a struggle for power. It is a threat to human and other life forms. Peace through strength, yes, but strength of heart and mind, and an eye towards the future. We won't escape it, so face it head on, and do something about it. Let your elected representatives know how you feel. Everyone knows how to use a phone, so stop putting it off. Or the next time you use one may be to call your loved ones far from you and tell them one last time you love them.

—Elizabeth Newhook

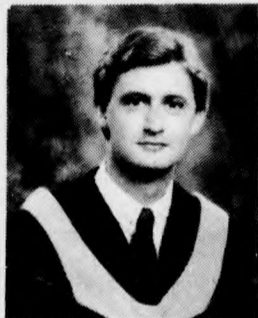
I'm so glad we had this time . . .

Editor:

I will be graduating soon, and though I always intended to, I have never written a letter to our fine newspaper. I thought that I'd better do it now, before it's too late.

Sheldon Inkol

GRAD PORTRAITS WHY PAY MORE?



SUPER SAVER #1

- 1 - 10x13
- 2 - 8x10
- 4 - 5x7
- 6 - W/S

\$79*

SUPER SAVER #2

- 1 - 10x13
- 1 - 8x10
- 2 - 5x7
- 6 - W/S

\$54*

SUPER SAVER #3

- 1 - 8x10
- 2 - 5x7
- 6 - W/S

\$29*

*Includes Sitting Fee & 6-8 poses
 Mail Order Service

University

Photographers Associates

9 St. Joseph Street, Suite 405
 Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1J6
 (1 blk n. of Wellesley/Yonge sub.)

(416) 283-2525

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

New Contemporary Ballet Co. will be holding a

CHOREOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

All Welcome
 For more info.
 call

886-2858

STAFF PARTY

This is the big one of the second term. It may even be better than the *Excalibur* Curling Bonspiel.

It all happens tonight, 6:30 p.m., at the Jack Russell Pub (Wellesley and Yonge) in the Henley Room upstairs.

END OF SCHOOL DANCE

in the
Vanier Dining Hall

Saturday, April 11
\$5.00 admission

(First 50 ladies free before 9:00 p.m.)

DJ—TKO

featuring:
 Super Blues, Reggae, Rock 'n Roll,
 H Life, Calypso, Funk

\$1.00 Off
 with this
 coupon