

## LETTERS

to do their study work at home.

The Administration of Atkinson College has now decided that the facilities are going to be curtailed. The students feel that as taxpayers and voters that they are badly discriminated against, and all this against the background of a massive reconstruction presently in full swing at the campus of York University in Downsview.

The students feel that something must be done. Voices have gone up which sound terribly angry and the students are not willing to give up the space. I invite you again on behalf of the Atkinson students' constituency to bring this into the legislature. The Executive Council of the Atkinson College Students' Association is planning to open a dialogue with the media.

I am awaiting your reply. Thank you for your courtesy for allowing us to infringe upon your time.

P.S. if you require documentary evidence, we shall furnish this at your convenience.

Yours Truly,  
Jack Gazan

## YFS backs Atkinson students

To the editor,

Jack Gazan  
Chairperson  
General Assembly  
Atkinson College Students' Association

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Honourable Sean Conway, highlighting a growing problem of lack of recognized student study space allocated by our university to its students, in your case, Atkinson College. These facilities are a necessity for York students who do not have a suitable environment available to them elsewhere to pursue their academic work (outside the classroom).

Since 1985, there have been record increases in student enrolment in Ontario universities. These increases have not been matched by a concomitant rise in government operating grants. Further, in the same period, students have had to incur massive increases in tuition that have not been paralleled by similar increases in government funding and thereby services offered by the universities to the students. Clearly, students are consistently paying more for services that are not being provided. We must unite together as students to address these concerns.

I second your invitation to the Minister to bring this issue to the immediate attention of the Ontario Legislature in a call for action. Your frustration with the lack of space and attention given to the students is shared by the York Federation of Students. Please contact me if I can be of help in this matter in the future.

In Solidarity,  
Jean Ghomeshi  
President  
YFS/FEY

## Study rooms changed to offices

To the editor,

Unjustifiable! Students' rights get robbed once again!!

The final week in July is the most painful and intolerable week in my life. WHY?? My favorite place to study has been completely torn down, and remodeled for office use.

WHERE?? It was the study room which was located in Atkinson College, Room 251. I have been using this study room for the past three years, and I consider it a part of my life, for I use it almost every day for my study purposes.

This study room has an absolute right to exist. It carried out multi-functions that were very critical for the success of the academic life of many students. It served different users at different times during the day and night. The individuals who used the room varied, and the purpose for which they used it went beyond that of doing homework.

Many new students used the room to fill out registration, and admission forms for this College. Students used the study room for evaluating course outlines, and choosing courses. The room also served its purpose as a quiet place to study.

It is obvious that the Administration of this College, who made these changes to the study room for official use are not aware of, and are even unwilling to look into the crucial role of this study space.

What are the costs and benefits from this action? It is easy to see the immediate benefits, a larger and more luxurious office space for official use. But the costs that result from this are not as pleasant. The elimination of the study room in terms of the students' perspective is certainly negative. The fact remains that WE LOST THE STUDY ROOM, a student used space, to the Administration of Atkinson College.

Could we use the Scott Library instead?? Yes, but the flexibility of the study room goes beyond that of the Scott library. The study room has no time restriction, it is less formal, food may be brought within, it has easy access for all students and it is very convenient for Atkinson Residents to use.

Theoretically, Atkinson students are to get the same privileges and access to facilities as other students from the other colleges, however, we get much less than what was originally proposed to us when we registered. Most Atkinson students work full time and are students part time. From 8 in the morning to 5 in the evening these individuals work to earn their living. Most lectures in Atkinson run from 7-10 pm. In between 5:00 and 7:00, students usually go to the study room to work on their homework, or read course material before they go to their lecture. Students now have no accessible place to do this within Atkinson College.

What's happening on the other side of the coin?? University faculty and staff earn a salary to work here (with an annual increase in salary at least to meet inflation). They claim they need a nicer and bigger environment to increase productivity. But by increasing their space, it is at the expense of

students. The study room was removed and renovated for bigger and better offices. Does this seem fair?? The answer is absolutely not!!

I wonder if the decision to change the study room in to office space followed the guidelines and stipulations of the College Constitution? Did the decision makers inform students before the change took place? Did they recognize the existing students' need for study space? Did they listen to any opinions from students before making their decision? Did they consider the negative impacts this would have on student's academic life? I don't think this was thought carefully through by them.

It seems to me that they are only concerned about their own working environment, a luxuriously new carpeted office. To enlarge an office or renovate space to make conditions more comfortable is desirable, but not a must!

I do think the interaction between university and students operates in a continuing circle. The university provides education, students provide the enrolments, in turn generating the employment need for faculty and staff. The cycle gets moving only when students are there. Any unjust actions to obstruct the movement of the cycle would only result in long term negative impacts on the whole education system. The students of Atkinson College are part of this cycle. We have been treated unfairly, and the denial of a study room will affect the success of our academic marks. Tearing down the study room is entirely unjustifiable! We have to have our study room back NOW!!!

Owen Drum,  
student

## McLaughlin committed not to discriminate

To the editor,

McLaughlin College Council believes that orientation is an integral component of one's undergraduate career. It is an unique experience, one that must be participated in to be fully understood and appreciated. It is also one's introduction to the university lifestyle. What is expected and what is permitted at university will begin to be understood by the participants.

Given the importance of this occasion, McLaughlin College does not sanction events that are not fully accessible to all members of its community. Everyone, regardless of age, financial means, or physical capabilities will be welcomed and admitted to all McLaughlin College Orientation events. Further, McLaughlin College Council reaffirms the dignity of all members of its community, and their right to enjoy life free from discrimination. To this end McLaughlin College Council will not tolerate behaviour, actions, or events that in any way demean, degrade or discriminate against anyone based on their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, class, age, or physical abilities at any time during Orientation period or thereafter.

To help ensure the safety of its community, McLaughlin College Council will provide busses to all events offcampus that could involve the consumption of alcohol. McLaughlin College Council will also make secure, overnight,

accommodation available for any member of the community who might wish to use it. We implore members of our community to utilize this service and not, under any circumstances, to drink and drive.

With the above in mind, McLaughlin College Council promises to provide you with an exciting, fun filled Orientation to remember the rest of your lives.

To these ends we remain dedicated.

Rob Centa  
McLaughlin College Council

## An end to the noise

To the editor,

Mr. Bill Lloyd  
1202 Bethune Residence

I apologize for the delay in responding to your letter of July 3, 1990. It is by no means a reflection of the import of your letter, rather the result of an extremely busy workload experienced at Hospitality York during the past three weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to give me your recommendations. Should another event such as the Brick Picnic take place at York, your suggestions will be very useful to me.

Please accept my apologies for the inconvenience and lack of consideration you and your fellow residents experienced on July and I assure you this will not occur again.

Yours very truly,  
Deborah Hahn

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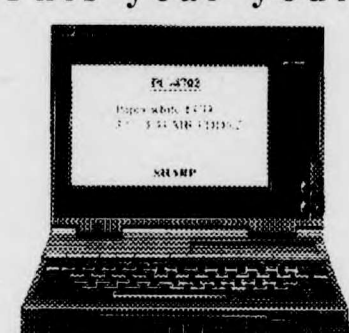
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