

letters & comment

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, Excalibur, room III, Central Square. Please type letters, triple or double spaced, and keep them to around 400 words. Name, address and phone number must be included, but name will be withheld on request. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for grammar and length. Deadline Monday 4pm.

Anti-feminist letter a hoax

Much controversy has been raised over last week's letter, "Readers fed up with feminists". We would like to give a written explanation addressed to those who may have been misguided into believing we held the view expressed. We admit to having been subject to a practical joke by a select number of male students in our college.

With this final response, we hope this affair, and the complications which may have been involved, will be ended and that friendly relations will remain. We hope it was taken in the spirit intended.

Gail Nathanson
Irene Fehr
Kris Russell

Lynn Burgess
Leh-sih Lin

Ed. note: Excalibur regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment undergone by the five women whose names were signed to the hoax letter which bore the headline "Readers

fed up with feminists", published in last week's issue.

As their letter above reveals, last week's letter was fabricated by some male students in McLaughlin College and the five women whose names were signed to it had no knowledge of its existence before it appeared in Excalibur.

This week we received several letters in response to the bogus letter, which, since the letter they responded to was not genuine, we will not print. Our apologies to these letter-writers also, for the time and effort they lost.

It is to say the least unfortunate, that in an institution supposedly dedicated to elevating our social and individual consciences, such public-school-type pranks still occur, "innocent" pranks which can potentially do serious injury to a person's reputation.



Chilean plebiscite a sham, he says

On January the fourth, 1978, the Chilean fascist military junta called a plebiscite to vote against the United Nations agreement which condemns the continuous violations of human rights in Chile. It is the thief against the judge.

It is a plebiscite carried out in the following conditions:

Without freedom of the press, the press in Chile sticks unconditionally to the government, therefore there is not an opposite or critical position against the government. And of course the reasons that give basis to the United Nations agreement against the violations of the human rights, have not been published: for example 2500 missing persons, tortures, persons arrested without legal warrants, imprisoned without a previous trial, murders and so on. All of these facts are acknowledged by the very persons that have suffered them, and by eyewitnesses.

- There is no government elected by means of popular vote.

- There is still in effect the state of emergency, invoking the court martial in state of war, and the civil courts cannot bring under their protection and impartiality persons arrested by the government.

- Workers cannot choose their own union representatives, they are appointed by the government.

- The only remaining high-ranking civil servant, Mr. Humeres, the attorney General, was fired in December by General Pinochet, and replaced by an army official.

As you can see, it is a totalitarian government, with everything under its control including the counting of the votes. Obviously there will be no impartial observers of foreign press present. In these conditions the plebiscite is a farce, a comedy, and we know the result in advance.

Cosme Pima



Parking effort misdirected

Editor's note: the following letter was addressed to the Parking Office and a copy was sent to Excalibur.

Re: Parking and Traffic Violation No. 12407

You are hereby notified that I am refusing to pay the fine assessed by the remarkably stupid issuing officer whose illegible signature appears on the above-captioned notice.

I am alleged to have violated section 9.1 of the Parking and Traffic Regulations for 1977-78; however, as a visitor to York Campus I do not fall within any of the categories set out in section 2.1 of those Regulations (i.e. faculty, staff or students) and, as such, am not required to obtain or display a parking decal.

Moreover, since section 2.3 clearly requires such a decal as a prerequisite to the issuance of a special pass, it is abundantly evident that I cannot be expected to obtain or display a special pass. It is my submission, therefore, that I have been incorrectly charged and, accordingly, I am refusing to pay.

Technical legal arguments aside, I should like to address certain other matters touching on this alleged offence. Arriving at the York Campus via the Shoreham entrance shortly after 5 pm, on Saturday, October 29, I was in no way apprised of the York parking regulations, or indeed, their existence.

There is no sign. No security staff approached me. The parking office was closed. Indeed, it took more than a full week to obtain a copy of the regulations. The fact that I am a York alumnus should not be allowed to detract from the point I am making.

I was further incensed by the circumstances surrounding the alleged offence. The fine was assessed after 5 pm on a Saturday, when a vacant space existed both in front of and behind my car. If ever the situation merited turning a "blind eye", that was it. Nevertheless a mentally deficient, megalomaniacal parking officer, whose anonymity is preserved only by his inability to write legibly, issued me a ticket.

In my six years at York my car was vandalized on three occasions necessitating repairs totally approximately \$125 not to mention incalculable inconvenience. Many of my acquaintances suffered far more serious losses ranging from broken windshields and stolen tape decks to loss of an entire car.

Throughout the six years, however, your tireless, vigilant staff consistently assessed fines as thoroughly insupportable and ludicrous as the one which I refuse to pay. Such an obvious misdirection of effort, especially when permitted to continue over such a protracted period of time, suggests that the issuing officer herein is not the only moron in the Parking Office.

The incompetence, inefficiency and ineptitude of the parking officers coupled with the maddening complacency of the Parking Office Staff serve only to reduce a potentially valuable service to something laughably akin to the Keystone Kops and deserving of as much respect.

Ross Earnshaw

Council veep reminds you of Harbinger's services

For the past several months, Harbinger, the peer counselling center for the York community, has come under a great deal of fire from those who, for numerous reasons, feel its services are not essential.

To merely shrug-off those attackers would be at the very least negligent on the part of those people who wish to objectively understand the Harbinger situation. At the same time, there is the positive side to Harbinger which none of us should overlook.

Harbinger provides resource material for students doing papers

on abortion, rape, sexuality, health care, etc. Besides offering resource material Harbinger provides educational services for classes. So if you are a professor, lecturer, or student and interested please contact Sue Kaiser at -3632.

In Excalibur there is a weekly Harbinger column which gives advice on different social problems such as smoking, drug use, nutrition, etc. In fact this particular column has been printed across Canada.

One of the most important things about Harbinger is that it alleviates

congestion around the Health Center, providing information or unplanned pregnancy and birth control, etc.

Many people wonder how professional Harbinger is. The staff goes through a weekend and on-going training program in all the services provided by Harbinger.

Harbinger focuses ninety-five per cent of its energies on the York community but is also active in the Toronto community. Harbinger is a member of the Family Planning Network of Toronto. Harbinger is open from ten to six, Monday to Friday to provide these services in person and over the phone.

If Harbinger is to survive, we must find an efficient valuable means of operation that is available to the entire York community.

David Chodikoff
CYSF Vice-President
for Student Services
and Communication

TTC service disgusting

The enclosed petition was written and circulated on a northbound Keele bus on January 9 at approximately 11:30 am. It is my hope that this petition will help expose the fraudulent service the TTC offers the public at the grossly inflated rate of seven tickets for three dollars.

What ever happened to free, efficient transit? What ever happened to Bill Davis who was dubiously dubbed Time's transit man of the year way back when?

The Keele bus service and other similar routes are especially inefficient as they serve workers and students, people low on the political influence scale. The rich get the Spadina subway. The poor suffer with diminishing service at their expense.

"We the undersigned, most vigorously protest the inaction of the TTC on January 9, 1978. Between 10:30 and 11:30 am no fewer than thirteen empty buses passed the Lansdowne subway

station. They picked up no passengers. This was an insult to the more than sixty people waiting. On one of the coldest days in winter and in the aftermath of the recent price hike, this non-service is disgusting! We demand an explanation!

Paul Lima and 37 others



Calendars aren't free

Just a minor point. I believe Professor Walter Beringer, ("American holidays on York calendars", Excalibur, January 5), is mistaken in thinking that his calendar for 1978 came to him "with the compliments of" the Purchasing Department. In fact, these calendars are requisitioned by individual departments, and represent a considerable strain on the budget.

(Mrs.) J.E. Humphrey