

Editorial

The shooting of American President Reagan has put the issue of violence in society on our front pages once again.

We are surrounded by it. If it is not a full-scale brawl during the pre-game warm-up of a junior hockey game, it is yet another Metro murder trial.

York University's campus has not spared from the malaise.

'A woman is attacked by a razor-wielding thug. A car is overturned in a parking lot. Over \$2000. in property damage, including more than \$800. in broken glass.'

This crime sheet only covers some of the incidents on campus last weekend.

Snack bars and pubs were recently robbed. Over \$2900. was taken.

But, shouldn't one expect this? York lies on the fringe of the Jane-Finch corridor, one of Metro's high crime areas. It's only natural that the trouble should spill over to our campus.

York is not unique. Campus vandalism is a universal problem. University of Toronto students have formed a vigilante squad to

patrol Philosopher's Walk. The tunnels at Carlton University provide a convenient locale for violent crime, including rape.

The solution to the problem is not an easy one. Obviously, the campus cannot be turned into a fortress. Atkinson Professor Harold Adelman puts this well when he states, "...a police or military state is not acceptable in an institution of higher learning."

Security Chief George Dunn, his staff and student security perform well under the circumstances. They are operating on a tight budget with a lot of area to cover.

Some of Chief Dunn's suggestions are now being followed by student organizations. Campus pubs have become more stringent in demanding student ID at their doors.

However, there are critics of this policy. The dissenters claim that the intruders, annoyed at having been denied entry, will roam about the campus looking for ways to get even.

Many issues have to be considered. First, the entry

problem; people who attend the many sports or theatrical performances available at York must be let in, while undesirable troublemakers should be screened.

The cost issue also has to be balanced. There has to be adequate security in order to prevent mayhem and act as a deterrent to hooliganism. But costs must be kept in line or we will face tuition fee increases or further cutbacks.

The real answer is an increased awareness among York students. A greater sense of responsibility must be shown by the student body. For some reason, a lot of people find the senseless damage to person and property funny.

Perhaps this is too much to ask. Students will only be at this institution for a few years. They only rent living quarters, they don't own the place on campus where they live. Why should they care?

Simply because one never knows who'll have to dodge the razor next time.

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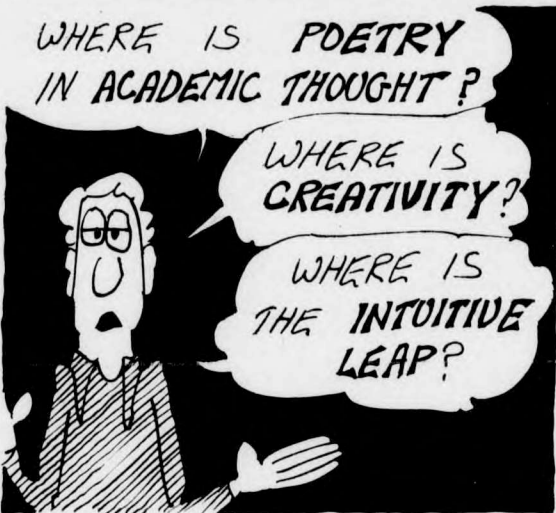
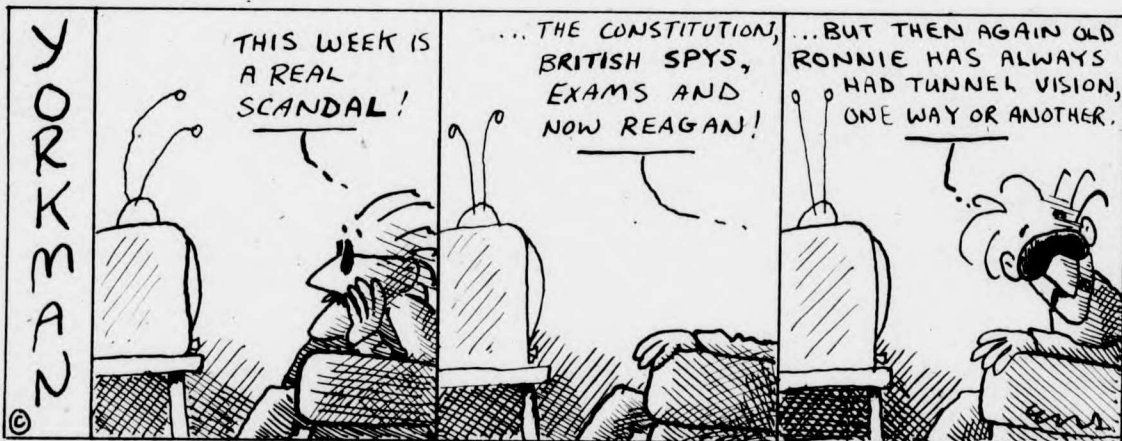
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