

YAMS a place for peers

Editor:

I wish to respond to the letter by Christa Hobden that I was disappointed to see in last week's *Excalibur*. It is a pity that Hobden has never visited the Mature Students Lounge. It is for this very reason that she is unqualified to label (libel?) YAMS members as "misfits" and "clones." She draws her conclusions from an article on YAMS by Margaret Barzca. Hobden responds to what she misinterprets as sarcasm with sarcasm of her own which does little to dignify or justify her arguments. In the final analysis one must still ask oneself if there is anything wrong with a grad student who "feels good" about being with mature students. In regards to Hobden's accusation that YAMS "resent showing kindness to an 18-year-old," I would suggest that to acknowledge that some of us do not wish to "mother" 18-year-olds is not to say that any

of us are unwilling or unable to be kind.

As with other York organizations, YAMS exists as an alternative for students. YAMS members come to the lounge when they wish to find peers with which they can converse about certain common experiences and interests. We are not elitist or exclusive nor are we lost souls biased against the youth of the university. If one was to logically extend Hobden's arguments to other clubs, it would be reasonable, but false of course, to claim that members of ethnic or religious groups collect together because they dislike or wish to avoid "the cross section of the university."

If Barzca, or anyone else, feels more comfortable in the company of her peers, should she not have the right to be with them without being condemned as a "misfit"?

Karen Apfel
President, YAMS

Clearing the dinner table is basic politeness

Dear Editors:

While I'm not about to defend the quality of the food and service of the Marriott Food Corporation, nor the fairness of forcing residence students to opt into some sort of meal/scrip plan, it would be nice if the opinion pieces you printed were a little more consistent and a little better thought-out in their description of Marriott horrors.

Specifically, in Stephen Moses' opinion column of November 9, he complains of the "skimpy portions" served only two paragraphs before mentioning that "students are allowed to have unlimited seconds". While these seconds won't taste any better than the firsts, they will make complaints about the amount of food available somewhat foolish.

And while I'm soapboxing Mr.

Moses' article, I might as well comment about the Winters Dining Hall request that trays, glasses and the like be placed in a specific location after left-over (but assumedly skimpy) mounds of unpalatable food are scrapped off them, and Mr. Moses' indignant reaction to this "effort to cut costs and increase profits".

Where I was raised, clearing off the dinner table was considered proper behavior, not an irrational demand on the part of the person who'd have to wash the dishes. Heck, even MacDonald's expects you to throw your refuse in their garbage cans and then place your tray in the stack above it! While it may seem excessive to Mr. Moses, it seems polite and not too taxing to me.

Sincerely
Spike Jones

Kippel could use library recall service or get help

Dear Editors:

Hey students of York! Don't spent hours of "needless roaming the library in search of books that can never be found." Get organized earlier! Jeff Kippel's article on undergraduate students lacking access to library books (November 2) probably was intended to rally undergraduates together to petition the library to cease 100 day loans to graduate students and professors, but served only to expose Mr. Kippel's unfortunate lack of organizational study and research skills. As an ex-York student, I too was frustrated over books that were missing and therefore unattainable, but his complaint over 100 day loans is unfounded, given that these books can be recalled and made available to all students and faculty within 10 days. Because Mr. Kippel knew of this recall service, it is most likely that his complaints of the library system are more an expression of his having left his papers to the last minute, rendering the recall service little solution to his plight.

Essay topics are assigned early in the term. Why wait until November to start looking for books? Yes, Mr. Kippel, you are perceptive — graduate students do have a heavier workload, and professors do conduct extensive amounts of research which serves to maintain the respected reputation of the university that you chose to attend. But what purpose is served to blame them for your poor organizational strategies? Your article is a cry for help. I encourage you to visit York's Counselling Centre to discover the study skills workshop which are offered to help you recognize where the problem really lies, support you in your efforts to change in order to improve your experience at university. Good luck!

Sincerely,
J. L'Heureux
Ex-York student

Escort service lacking

To the Editor:

I am writing with regard to a recent experience I had that left me extremely disappointed with the escort system at York. As a first year female student, I have found the signs and warnings against walking alone after dark rather intimidating. One source of comfort, however, has been the knowledge that a service designed to guard student safety is being offered.

My first occasion to use the service was Thursday November 16. I called the escort number for a ride back to my residence from across campus at 10:30 p.m. After waiting 45 minutes, I asked the person I had been visiting to call and see what the problem was. I was told that they wouldn't be much longer.

After 35 more minutes, at which point I was on the verge of asking a total stranger to give me a ride (the weather that particular night made it impossible for me to easily walk the required distance), the service was again called and this time hell was raised. The red van arrived 13 minutes later at 12 midnight, a total of one and a half hours after I called.

It was explained to me that only one van was in operation because the other two had broken down. This situation was unacceptable. If, on this particular night, we had not been experiencing extremely terrible cold weather, making the distance I had to go unsafe without a hat, I would have walked for sure. This is exactly what we do not want. It is also relevant to point out that when considering the safety of students, no one can say that sitting alone in the same spot for one and a half hours does not make you a "sitting duck."

There is no point in offering a service that students would rather not use because of the inconvenience. We are dealing with the safety of the students and I think that it is highly negligent of those people responsible to have allowed the vans to get in such condition that they could no longer be used. I realize that money does not grow on trees and everyone has a place where they think the available money should go, however, I think those students who have been attacked on campus would agree with me, STUDENT SAFETY HAS TO COME FIRST!

Deneena Davis

Ski clubs' ideological basis: fun, pleasure, thrill seeking

Dear Editors:

As co-president of the York University Ski Club (recreational branch) we were concerned and disappointed by a letter you printed which was written by Susan Mills.

In her letter she stated that there were no clubs or groups which served to bring York students together. This statement is simply unfounded and untrue. It seems obvious that Mills has neglected to seek out groups which could serve such a purpose for her and her fellow students. There are clubs which are activity oriented and whose ideological basis is fun, pleasure and thrill seeking. These clubs operate alongside groups which have political, religious and racial concerns. Clubs that operate along such lines serve a definite purpose and do fill an obvious niche. Mills is right in her belief that such clubs do not serve to bring students together. By generalizing such an argument to all York Clubs is not only unfair, it's blatantly untrue.

Off hand, and at the risk of omitting other clubs that act to bring students together, there exists the Outing Club, Karate Club, Parachuting Club and the club we are affiliated with the York Ski Club. Possible, it is the fact that Mills so enjoys doughnuts and dogs that prevents her from being able to participate in such activities. If this is not the case for Mills then we, as we're sure other such clubs will, welcome Mills to join our club and come skiing with us when we get some snow. Maybe we can salvage a portion of her university years from the doldrum she seems to be in. Until we get some snow we suggest that Mills look more closely at the wide range of services York clubs have to offer before making such an obtuse and misguided presumption.

Hoping to bring Mills together with other York Students,

Yours Sincerely,
YORK UNIVERSITY SKI CLUB
Richard Litvack
Kelly Cooper

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