

Students deserve employment with campus business

Dear Editor,

While tuition increases and government funding decreases, students more and more require some form of part-time income. Students have rent to pay, they have to buy food, books, pay for transportation; they are not just big kids, they're adults. School is not their only financial consideration.

At a time when students are feeling incredible financial pressure, businesses that make a lot of money from them should in some way contribute to them, especially when their business is located right on campus.

But if you're one of many students who find themselves strapped to the point you need a job, you're probably out of luck at York.

Despite the fact York has several cafeterias and pubs, a large Student Centre with a Food Fair, and a mall of its own, employment opportunities are sadly lacking.

I, like many others, was unable to find full-time employment during the summer, due to the recession. So

before I started in September, I put in much effort to find part-time work at York, as the small loan I received from the government would hardly keep my dog in Milkbones.

I applied to all the Pubs, to the bookstore, I applied to the library, I went to the Financial Aid Office, I went to the Career and Placement Centre, I went to Human Resources. I received no response to my applications.

After a while of continually phoning and dropping in on the manager, I got a job working at "Company's Coming", a small coffee shop in York Lanes. I received no less than minimum wage for my time (\$5.85 an hour, \$6.00 an hour starting October 1)

This may seem like peanuts, but my financial position was such that I could not afford (literally) to be choosy.

Then, after less than two months, my employer stopped giving me hours. When I inquired he explained

that he now had his nephews working for him and that "family comes first." When I pointed to another employee he had just hired, he said it was because he needed more "flexibility."

In other words, because I'm not his son, and because I'm a student, he doesn't want me.

Now, not only is that very unfair, but it's downright ungrateful. Here he is, doing bumper business almost entirely from York students and faculty, and he can't even be bothered to employ a student because of "flexibility."

In my opinion, businesses located at York, especially those in the Student Centre and York Lanes should be required to hire at least half of their staff from full-time York students who wish to work on a part-time basis due to need.

After all, these people are making a lot of money from the students here.

Businesses need employees, and students need money, so, hey, let's work something out.

Matt Jeffery

Beer ad on back cover of Excal "misguided"

Dear Editor,

RE: "Labatt ad offensive to women," Nancy Fisher, October 23, 1991.

I congratulate Nancy Fisher for bringing this issue to the attention of the York population. In fact, I berate myself for not having seen this ad which has sparked Ms. Fisher's outrage. There will undoubtedly be a great number of students and staff who may see this complaint as trivial, perhaps saying, "it's just a cartoon after all". However, I would like to impress on people that it is just this laissez-faire attitude that allows the perpetuation of derogatory attitudes in society such as the one represented in the ad in question. For instance, the misguided perception that teen beauty contests are supposed to demonstrate a young women's intelligence and poise rather than that they are vehicles for the continued male perception of women as "sex objects."

I would however like to take this issue one step further. This ad has once again made its way onto the back page of *Excalibur*, and I would ask the reader, "Have you noticed not only the negative representation of women (yet again) but the lack of

representation of the cultural diversity of York, and undoubtedly, of many other Canadian universities?" If you don't feel incensed on behalf of women, then perhaps you will feel outraged on behalf of those members of our population who have so pointedly been declared non-representative of the higher education population.

Of the 56 or so people in the cartoon, 10 are most certainly women, of which 6 have been lasciviously portrayed; and there is only 1 character who is non-white, and questionably so.

I realized that I only contribute \$4.00 per year to the financial support of *Excalibur*; however I have no choice in the matter. If I did, I certainly wouldn't choose to support a paper with such questionable attitudes.

I suspect that either the preoccupation with government education subsidy levels has dominated peoples' attention of late or else the level of social apathy on campus is even lower than I had suspected. Since the contest, that the ad is promoting, will have closed by the end of October, I

expect this to become a dead issue. This would conveniently free up the *Excalibur* advertising staff from responsibly dealing with the matter.

However, if the staff of *Excalibur* are responsible and are concerned with promoting positive attitudes in the community, perhaps they will make a point of drawing this contentious issue to the attention of potential advertisers, such as Labatt's. A little more thought and attention could avoid any misunderstandings and certainly would go a long way in improving relations between all factions in the community, i.e. men and women of all cultural and racial backgrounds.

Claire Kellow
First Year

Ad defensum pro beerum adum

Dear Editor,

Sometimes I am truly amazed with what people do in their obviously large amounts of spare time. Take for example Ms. Nancy Fisher who must have spent the good portion of her day poring tediously over the Labatt's Blue Light "Spot the Bear" contest drawings.

Ms. Fisher will ceaselessly fight to get these ads removed on the basis of a lack of proportionately drawn women. But let's not stop there. How about having the ads removed on the basis of lack of Blacks, Native Canadians, disabled people and other minorities in these cartoons? Once she's done that, maybe she should conduct a study correlating the number of male ballot fillers to an increase in violent crime. And let's not forget the women filling out these ballots. Surely they must be aware that they are unwittingly continuing the suppression of females by European White su-

premacist males. Could all this happen just because Ms. Fisher couldn't spot the little bear?

Through this contest Labatt's has attempted to make our otherwise dreary lives at York a bit more exciting. Why take that away from us, Ms. Fisher?

I have a suggestion for you Ms. Fisher. Instead of just criticizing something without offering any alternative solutions, channel your anger/frustration/boredom to more useful purposes such as possibly joining a committee dedicated to the improvement of safety for women on campus. You have the possibility this way to do some real good instead of vehemently and uselessly attacking such an absurd and obviously trivial drawing.

Sincerely,
G. Joshua Schreier

Continued on page 8

Letters

What's wrong with business ties?

Dear Editor,

Your alarmist editorial, "Who's on top: the caste system on campus and why we should break it" in the October 16 *Excalibur* is filled with many accusations about York's Board of Governors which are not backed up by supporting evidence.

This wariness would diminish if some of the points presented in this editorial were a little more flushed out. When you cite the OFS report describing York's Board of Governors and its large representation of CEOs and business leaders, the following questions popped up in my mind:

Is this necessarily bad? Students tend to be suspicious of "the establishment," but what kind of job are they actually doing? If they are fulfilling their duties, what's the problem? Representatives from business can be of great assistance when it comes time to fundraise. Where is money more likely to come from to help build new buildings on campus—the private sector or a cash-strapped provincial government? The governing body of Brock University, the Board of Trustees, helped raise over four million dollars two years ago to build a school of business. As a result, students have more room to study and learn.

Your editorial makes the Board of Governors sound like a totalitarian

lot. Being a new student and an hour drive from Toronto, it is difficult for me to just accept this assessment. What have they done recently which could be considered stifling to the university community?

The editorial bemoans the lack of active participation by arts, municipal government and labour representatives on the Board of Governors. Again, there is no evidence presented to further this claim.

Is there in fact a proven record of people from these professional backgrounds being blackballed from a position on the Board? The same question is asked regarding the low number of women participating.

Some may be attracted to your suggestion that students and faculty should have greater control of the Board. Let's face facts, this will not happen. The Ontario government contributes a hefty chunk of its budget towards education. It only makes sense to have citizens from the province administer control. Unfortunately, in the real world we cannot have our cake and eat it too.

Your editorial presents many bold accusations, but without further elaboration and concrete evidence to support these claims it is difficult to take too seriously.

Sincerely
Brian Tracy Kelly
Consecutive Education Program
Barrie Satellite Campus



PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH OPEN FORUM for STUDENTS

3:00-4:00 pm, Wednesday, November 13, 1991
The Senate Chamber, S915 Ross Bldg

The Presidential Search Committee invites interested students to provide the Committee with your view regarding York's leadership needs in the next 5 - 10 years. While your thoughts and comments are invited on all aspects of the search for a new President, we would particularly welcome your views on the following questions:

- What are the key **internal** issues, challenges, and opportunities that will be facing York in the next five years, and with which the new President will have to deal?
- What are the key **external** issues, challenges, and opportunities that will be facing York in the next five years, and with which the new President will have to deal?
- Recognizing that no one candidate will possess all of the desired qualifications to an equally strong degree, what should the Committee seek in potential candidates for President, in terms of:
 - * academic and professional qualifications
 - * administrative and management experience and abilities
 - * personal qualities and style
 - * "fit" with York University
- Based on the achievements of York University to date, what goals and aspirations do you have for the University over the next five years? What are your expectations of a President in working to achieve those goals?

John F. Bankes, Chair
Presidential Search Committee



We will publish, space permitting, any letters up to 400 words. They must be typed, double spaced, and accompanied by the writer's name and telephone number. Material deemed libelous or discriminatory by the staff of *Excalibur* will be rejected. Letters may be mailed or delivered to *Excalibur* • 426 Student Centre • York University • 4700 Keele Street • North York • Ontario • M3J 1P3