

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 Central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 4 p.m.

CYSF surrenders without fight, charges York student

One very revealing aspect of National Student Day that Excalibur missed, was a comment made by one of CYSF vice-presidents, Stan White, in regard to a tuition fee increase soon to be announced by the government.

Stan White chaired the workshop on the quality of education and international students. During the discussion period, I asked him and other panelists what action they felt was needed to stop the tuition fee increases.

Although White assured the audience that he opposed any fee increase, he also explained that regardless of whether he organized a fight against them it wasn't relative to the actual increase.

He went on to explain that if the tuition fee increase was "only" \$100 for example, (or 15 per cent) he wouldn't be too concerned.

His rationale was that he didn't think students or the public would understand why a \$100 increase wasn't justified. I think Stan's ideas run contrary to all students' interests. Firstly, he plays the government's game by accepting the \$100 increase. The government gets what it wants. And what makes Stan think that the government won't continue to increase fees the following years if it sees that students don't fight back? Further

increases are probable considering the Henderson Report's recommendation of 65 per cent tuition hikes over three years.

Secondly, he gives credence to the government's justification for the increase since fees have not increased for four years. Any tuition fee hike will add to the high costs of education borne by students and thus limit those who can least afford it from attending university.

The government's goal to shift education costs onto students makes a fraud of the notion of equal opportunity to education irrespective of income. The Ontario Student Awards programme has become more restrictive. The loan ceiling went up \$200 to \$1,000 this year and international students face fee increases from 250 per cent to 300 per cent come January.

Thirdly, it is the responsibility of CYSF to defend students' interests. In this case, CYSF must try to educate students about the issues, not surrender without a fight.

If students want to prevent post-secondary education from becoming a privilege, we have to fight back. This means organizing ourselves, and then mobilizing our ranks at Queen's Park to demand "No to all tuition fee increases!"

David Johnson
York Young Socialists.

Article constructive Aldridge to stay on

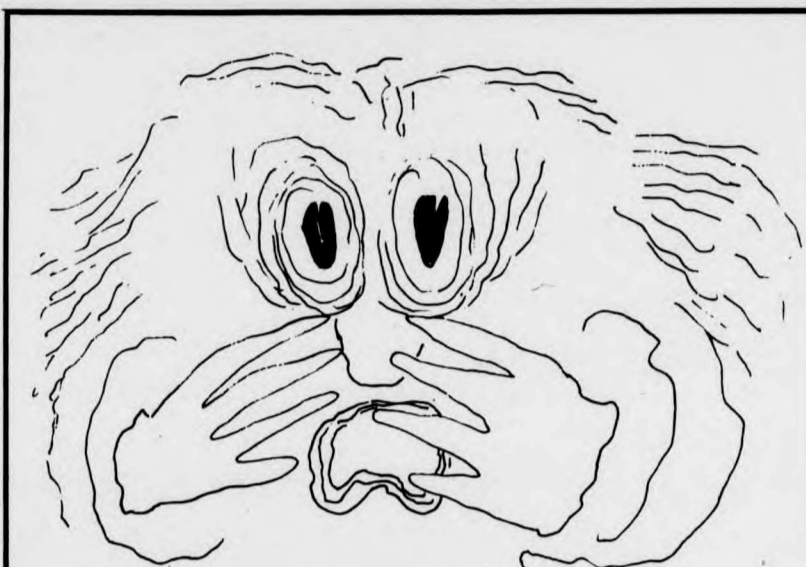
Please accept my congratulations for your "sports briefs" column of November 11, 1976. In discussing our football situation, it would have been so easy for you to be hypercritical; that you chose to be constructive in your article speaks highly of your reporting. There is no question that we face a challenge in fielding a competitive team but it is a challenge we will attempt to overcome.

While this year's team did not win a game, I'm sure that followers will

agree that there was improvement every game and team spirit was always good. In short, I think it was a good experience for our student athletes, a building year which will serve as a good foundation for the future. I believe that Dick Aldridge has done well and I'm pleased to say that he will be back next year to build on his beginnings of this year.

Frank Cosentino
Chairman and Director
Department of Physical
Education and Athletics

As the campus turns warren clements



Don't be afraid to read this letter

In a recent issue, you mentioned a number of phobias (Harbinger column), but inexplicably declined to tell your readers about triskaidekaphobia.

No, it's not a newly-isolated virus; nor is it the chemical additive in a new instant dessert. It's the morbid fear of the number thirteen. (Did I hear someone jump?)

Everyone is familiar with claustrophobia, the fear of enclosed spaces. And most people recognize hydrophobia, the fear of water, and acrophobia, the fear of heights.

But what about rhabdophobia — the fear of being beaten? Or lissophobia, the fear of becoming insane? And for the man who can't make up his mind — pantophobia, the fear of everything.

If microbes turn you into a quivering mass of nerves, you're probably a bacillophobic. Likewise, chionophobiacs steer clear of snow, and gephyrophobiacs dread the thought of crossing bridges.

Some of the more crime-ridden American cities are populated by harpaxophobiacs — those who fear robbers. Sirodromophobiacs would cringe at the initials CN or CP, since they fear railroad travel. And climacophobiacs watching Hitchcock's Psycho would have their worst fears confirmed — a phobia about staircases.

The bugaboo for laliophobiacs is speech; kinesophobiacs' hobgoblin is motion; and eremophobiacs shrink from the thought or being lonely.

Other aversions include ailurophobia (fear of cats), achluophobia (fear of darkness), domatophobia (fear of being in a house) melissophobia (fear of stinging insects), and doraphobia (fear of touching animals' fur).

Had enough? Afraid to hear any more? You've got aversiophobia — and have nothing to fear but fear itself!

Warren Clements,
Cut-rate etymologist

Students think Marx was a capitalist

When are the students in most of York's general education programmes going to realize that one cannot learn through silent acceptance of all that is taught?

Too many tutorials are populated by a majority of students who are afraid to voice their opinions. Do you really think you can learn just by listening to all that is said and participating?

An even greater number of students seem disappointed when they learn that they should write an essay on the basis of their own opinions. So many students get 'honked off' when they learn that they can't ace an essay by filling it with reams of footnotes, which proves that you are letting someone else do the thinking for you. When you graduate armed with a degree, will you really feel proud of yourself when you have to refer to a book to find out what your opinion is on a subject?

I have seen tutorial leaders make the most absurd statements in a desperate attempt to get some discussion going; e.g.; "Marx was, after all, a Capitalist" and some twenty students would nod their heads sagely and not say a word. Are we really that stupid?

If you are a Science student and feel you are being forced into a humanities course, you really don't deserve to call yourself a student. The same applies to an Arts student who can't cope with a Nat. Science when these courses are taught at a pretty substandard level anyway.

Have you ever tried getting interested in something? Can you call yourself a student? Have you tried discussing a theory in a tutorial when you think it is a lot of bull? Have you tried putting your foot in your mouth lately? You might like it, it doesn't taste that bad really; at least you can say it's yours.

Rene Schmidt.

Harbinger's column

Pills and alcohol don't mix

York university boasts many pubs, in fact, more drinking seats on campus than lecture seats. Casual drinkers, and there are many of us here at York run high risks with alcohol, often without our knowing. Because we are a society with a pill-taking lifestyle, drug-mixing becomes an ever present danger.

Taking several drugs at once (prescription or non-prescription) or mixing drugs with alcohol (itself a drug) can set you up for a reaction. The results can be hardly noticeable, perhaps your sore throat lingers, or you may feel dizzy. Or, in rare cases, the mixture can cause vital body functions to falter, leading to coma or death.

Below is a chart which will help you identify potentially hazardous combinations. When in doubt, avoid

drinking alcohol when you're taking medication of any sort. Also, it's a good idea to check with your doctor and pharmacist about possible effects of combining drugs.

Drug	Possible effects when mixed with alcohol
Aspirin	Possibility of stomach irritation and gastrointestinal bleeding
Anticoagulants (Warfarin, Dicumarol, Coumadin, Phemidione)	Can act to either increase or decrease blood thinning effects
Anticonvulsants	May increase or decrease drugs effect
Anti-depressants (Aventyl, Elavil, Norprmin, Tofranil)	Causes deep sedation and severe drop in body temperature. Can cause death
Anti-diabetics Insulin	Produces mild to serious symptoms of low blood sugar. Can lead to shock.
Oral	Causes drowsiness, severe nausea and vomiting.
Antihistamines	Causes drowsiness, respiratory depression and loss of consciousness in severe cases.
Codeine (222's, 242's)	Causes respiratory depression, dizziness and drowsiness.
Darvon	Causes dizziness, drowsiness. Large amounts may cause death.
Sedatives, sleeping pills and minor tranquilizers (Valium, Librium, Miltown) barbiturates	Produces severe effects on the central nervous system. Can cause coma and death.
Penicillin, Ampicillin	Effectiveness of drug reduced or destroyed.
Antihypertensives (Guanethidine for controlling blood pressure)	Causes dizziness and fainting spells.