

Letters to the Editor

False fire alarms

Sir:
Firemen from North York have been required to answer several false alarms at York over the past months. Recently at 2:30 in the morning an alarm was initiated maliciously from the 13th floor of a campus building. You can be assured the other residents and particularly the fire-fighters were not too happy about this; the latter for some reason take false alarms seriously. Some resident students apparently don't regard the alarms with much more than a "who gives a damn" attitude. For some, these nonsensical people have no conception of the implications of such foolhandy pranks. Do they realize these alarms systems and response procedures have been provided primarily for their protection. I sincerely hope they never have the experience of being involved in an actual fire, where their lives are dependent on the immediate response of a professional fire

department, who may at the time be responding to a false alarm on the 13th floor of some building.

There is another reason that firemen don't like false alarms. There is the element of danger in riding a speeding fire truck through the highways and byways of North York, during all types of weather at any time of day and night.

During one response to a false alarm at York, a fire truck was involved in an automotive accident, and a young man in his early twenties in a car hit by the fire truck was killed.

The authorities are still seeking the name of the individual(s) who was recently involved in pulling a fire alarm in one of the campus buildings. If this persons or persons are found and proven responsible, singularly or by group they are all liable to a \$500.00 fine and over one year's imprisonment.

The next time you decide to play a practical joke with a fire alarm think of the seriousness and implications of your action. In other

words don't pull fire alarms in jest, the life you save may be one of your friends or kinfolk.

Bob Richards
Fire Prevention Officer

Epitomy of ignorance

Sir:
Recently, in your newspaper, one of your reporters put together a story on Radio York's public affairs show. It seems to me that your paper either didn't read this story before putting it to press, or you just like printing garbage. Radio York's public affairs department attempted to produce a show dealing with a subject with a highly difficult nature. The topic was apathy in general and student apathy in particular. In my opinion, the producers and writers of the show accomplished their task quite successfully.

As one of those very apathetic students of whom so much of the discussion centered, I feel an almost deep sense of embarrassment after realizing the widespread effect of my folly and that of the others of my inclination. Your article criticized the fact that the program did not center enough on universal apathy and the universal struggle of students to cast off the chains of an unjust and tyrannical society. To me, this article seemed the epitomy of ignorance.

What Radio York's public affairs department tried to do, was primarily to focus on student apathy here at York, and secondly, they attempted to give an insight into the lack of participation and involvement everywhere. Correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that there was no mention to Chicago, and so your reporter's comment on this point was wrong. It further seems to me, that since there was no talk about the 'wonderful' work of the so-called left of New Left, Excalibur must have felt that they had been neglected in one of their chief idols.

Well, Excalibur, all that I can say is that you are either so dense that you missed the whole point of the show, or it was just too much for your minds with its prejudice and bigotry to fathom.

Better luck next time, Excalibur. And Radio York, keep up the great effort.

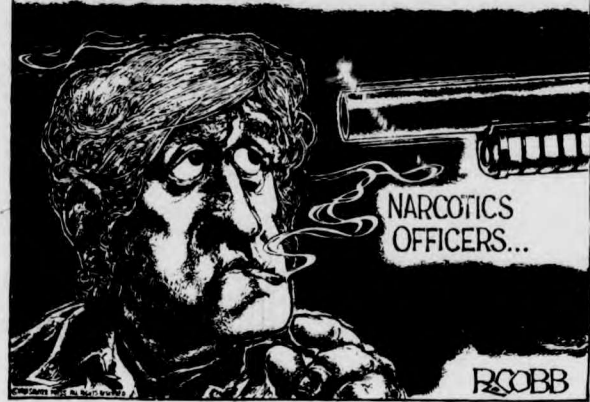
E. Villeneuve

The criticism in the editorial last week was intended to be constructive. The editorial was also meant to be supplemental to a Radio York program which we felt was incomplete for a number of reasons. We think that is how most people, including Radio York station manager Bob Wolfe, saw the article.

Yes, there were several references to Chicago (ie. Democratic convention protest, 1968) -- both spoken and sung.

-the editor

A RISING NEW CAUSE OF SEVERE BRAIN DAMAGE:



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Sir:
It was reported Monday that outrageous demands on the part of graduate students seriously threaten the financial stability of the psychology department and may lead to depletion of all university resources, if such demands are not squelched immediately.

On Nov. 5, a student representative of the graduate students in the social psychology area of the department of psychology asked the chairman of the committee for that area for stationery and secretarial facilities so that the two student representatives of the committee could keep the other students in the area properly informed as to the activities and decisions of the committee. Student rep suggested that about 3 ditto masters per week should be sufficient.

Calculating (mentally), chairman concluded that 12 ditto masters and 250 ditto sheets per month would be required, which he estimated would cost about \$5 per month. Chairman promised to look into the matter and agreed to let the first report to the students be covered by the department. This involved 3 ditto masters and 75 sheets of ditto paper costing a little over \$1 which the Department is arranging to finance.

The following morning, chairman informed student rep that, after consulting with the director of graduate studies in psychology, he had decided against granting further use of departmental facilities for the purpose requested. Student rep pointed out that as communication seemed to be one of the more important requirements for smooth faculty-student-departmental operation, \$5 per month for supplies and services seemed a trivial consideration in relation to the end served. Chairman performed some more calculations (mental) and multiplying \$5 by 12 months and the product by 9 (for 9 years in psychology) arrived at a staggering total of \$540.00. Student rep's request was denied.

Note: The academic year at York has 8 months.

Note: The annual operating budget for the Department of Psychology is approximately \$750,000.

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Name withheld
by request

Present the facts

Sir:
I read with considerable interest the comments in Critical University: I, Structure of the learning situation, in the Oct. 23rd edition. While agreeing with the

need for a great deal of change in the university and its relations with students, and with teachers, I find it difficult to accept the inaccuracies and distortions which are so prevalent in that document.

This kind of writing, so prevalent in university newspapers, makes one wonder just why do the writers attend University? It seems to me that its underlying assumption is basically that university students are ignorant fools who must be "informed" by the superior knowledge and insight of the writer. If the University is obsessed with "training students in attitudes that will make them useful to the businesses, governmental departments and educational institutions," why is the writer so bright and how did he escape this type of indoctrination? Presumably if he could throw off the effects of massive indoctrination, perhaps others can do so as well.

It would appear that what we need is not more indoctrination, but a presentation of the facts of the university situation and its relationship to business, government and other institutions of modern industrial society. Distortions and half truths will not help the student in his effort to improve the quality of his education or of his life as a member of society.

Wilson A. Head
Atkinson College

Discover humanity

Sir:
Some believe there must be alternatives to our love of money, and power. What choices do you see, except: struggle as fast as possible to grab as many possessions and pleasures as possible before World War III, 100 percent pollution, world-wide starvation, etc? Is the thought of the "finger over the button" to atomic bombs any more frightening than one optimistic planner? In our interlocking economic system which is debt and credit over-extended at every level, what happens if Detroit produces one million cars too many for 1970? Some believe there are alternatives, to the current Western profit-pollution-poverty way of life. Some are working, each in his own group and area, to offer alternate value systems. Other objectives will allow us to discover our humanity. Can you say 'No' to the car as your symbol of sex and status? What have you done today to help save the world -- and yourself?

Mrs. Bernice Lever
Atkinson I

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