

Letters to the Editor

Daycare chaotic long waiting list

The York Daycare Centre has been remarkably successful during this past year. Internally, our methods of government and staffing are well organized and the enrolment is at a maximum feasible level. Our immediate problem, as a result, is how to deal with this success? As our 1970-71 Survey indicated, there is a continuous demand for daycare on this campus of considerable proportion. The survey showed a figure of 219 children who would definitely take advantage of any available daycare. The demand has since grown, (in part due to the survey) such that this year the Centre was swamped with applications, most of which had to be turned down. Our waiting list has long consisted of over 100 names, resulting in our refusal of all further application.

With these refusals in mind, and because our own quarters are only marginally adequate, we have made contact with various individuals on campus interested in the construction of a properly designed centre. Such individuals or groups include: the masters of Calumet College and College G; potentially Grad. 4 residence, and most recently, the CYSF proposal for a large daycare unit in the proposed University Centre.

While such active interest is gratifying to us, we are ourselves at saturation point in terms both of physical and administrative workload, and are therefore unable to treat the demand for presighted planning with adequate competence. The officers of the Daycare Centre feel this is regrettable in view of impending demands, as our considerable experience should be valuable in any future development. As things are, however, no individual among us has the time available.

In addition, we feel that, in order to further justify its existence in the university, Daycare operations should be functioning as a resource — observational and training programs for psychology and education students are two obvious possibilities.

There are many in the university who recognize the pressing nature of this situation and we therefore feel the time has most urgently arrived to ask the question — who will organize and administer such developments? Surely someone must. As things now stand, we foresee a proliferation of makeshift, inadequate centres, a reduplication at needless expense of every step we ourselves have taken! In short, without proper coordination there will be four or five isolated, struggling centres all with independent lines of communication, different policies, and so on; in other words — administrative chaos.

We suggest that now is the time for the university to decide whether it wants to spend money now to save later, or wait and spend twice for half the efficiency. For example, there are public funds for Daycare, but who is going to search them out? There is a definite need for both "service" (to handle the many staffers who spend as much as 1/3 of their paychecks on baby-sitters) and "co-operative" systems, a need for more specialized infant care, as well as a large need for a nursery-school program for older children. But who is going to make the calculations, do the paperwork, act as liaison between these centres and the academic researchers? We can only answer that none of us is able.

The solution we urge the university to adopt is the creation of a "daycare liaison service". One qualified administrator, plus his secretary, are all that should be required to bring order into the burgeoning issue of expanded daycare. The question is not — will daycare expand? The answer to that seems ... by hook or by crook. The real question to be answered is — shall this expansion be orderly, or chaotic and wasteful!

In any case, those of us holding down administrative positions now are at the breaking point as a result of trying to cope with demands, negotiations and inquiries far beyond our bailiwick. We must have assistance from the university.

We are eager to see York become a leader in university daycare, and shall be trying to assist it further by way of information, consultation, proposals, etc., but must surely announce at this time that we ourselves can no longer direct such daycare expansion.

Bill Gairdner
Elody Scholz
Jean Simmons
Shirley Holloway

Stong uptight over student gov't's

The students of Stong College would like to take this opportunity to express their disapproval of the performance to date of the students of this university, in general, and the student governments in particular.

Let it be known that Stong College is the only College on this Campus with a full compliment of Council of the York Student Federation representatives plus one. Let it also be known that of these four Stong representatives to CYSF, three (3) sit on a six (6) member executive (these three positions being vice-president, commissioner of communications and commissioner of academic affairs) which at present has only five (5) functioning members.

Let it further be known that of all the vacant positions on council, less than half were filled in the recent by-elections. Those people who cared to run were all acclaimed, including the vice-president. It might also be noted that in the General CYSF elections last February, Stong was one of only two colleges who had enough people interested in CYSF to hold an election, rather than an "acclamation".

Finally, let it be known that Stong College was the first to ratify the CYSF budget, not in this month just past, but in March — seven months ago!

It is the request of this College that you petty politicians cease your games and make an effort to do something constructive. It is suggested that you ratify the CYSF budget for a start, as the council is on the verge of bankruptcy.

If it appears that we at Stong are delivering an ultimatum, it is because, in effect, we are. If the aforementioned suggestion is not acted upon post-haste, this college will approach the president of York University and request that he exercise his authority to release said budget in lieu of College approval.

Steve Dranitsaris
Marg Jennings
Larry McGuire
Larry Hoffman
Nick Rolls
Joseph Monaco
Joseph Pillo
Bill Cook
Rick Brady

An open letter to my sister thief

This is an open letter to one of my sisters.

Dear Sister,

Last Thursday night I was one of

the five women you ripped-off around 9:30 p.m. in the girl's lockerroom of the York pool. The next morning six dance students were taken for their wallets and purses while they were in the studio. I am writing for the other girls who lost their belongings as well as myself. Please return what you have no use for. Please return my notebooks and journal, my driver's licence and id cards, my scarf and gloves, my smell in the lining, my purse and everything in it except for the cash. Please return the notes that mean nothing to you and so much to me. You know where you can find me; or return it to the lost and found security. With pain I understand the meaning of being ripped-off and dispossessed.

Dear sister I remain yours truly and am waiting to see some of my stuff back please.

Dide Berku

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