

amounts. It is now worth fighting against the whole error-ridden philosophy of big government if we are to have a prosperous future.

Charity is a great thing, but it should be voluntary, not ordered by government.

David Pengelly

Media are "socialist"

Editor,
Recent complaints that the media are very socialist are, of course, correct. This is not to say that the reporters take their order from Moscow, but that they have accepted socialism without really understanding what it means.

In our society people generally agree that it is wrong to use force or fraud to get what you want. Force should only be used to counter the use of force against you. The basis of government is force. Rules are set up and force is used to punish those who break the rules. This is acceptable only when the rules protect people against the aggressive use of force or fraud.

Socialism however states that it is all right for the government to use force or fraud against some people if it benefits other people. Force is being used, not to protect people, but to plunder them. Our society is becoming a warring camp of pressure groups, each out to plunder the others. You see support for this every day in the papers. "More money demanded for day care. Government wage setting legislation

required. Tariff protection for our textile unions." All of these involve using the force of government to transfer money from one group of people to another, whether the donors wish to or not.

Laws are passed to force people to act the way the government wants. Many of the laws are aimed at actions which do not hurt anyone else. The people then change their behaviour to lessen the ill effects of the laws. The government, annoyed that people are not doing what it wants, then appeals court judgments or passes another law. In this way, the government takes more and control of our lives.

To stop this, we must realize that the purpose of government is to protect our freedom of choice, not to restrict it. Oppose the socialist's demand for the use of force to redistribute income. If you feel strongly about some social imbalance, the best thing to do is join or form a charity and ask for voluntary donations. Asking for government to use force to take the money only leads to a totalitarian government. Socialism has been proven to provide a lower standard of living for its people and less individual freedom. We don't want or need socialism.

David Pengelly

Bring back the Beetle!

Editor,
Oh where oh where have the sculptures gone, oh where oh where can they be?

Like all other York students, each morning as I arrived on campus, I was met with what seemed like

Lucifer sent creations in front of the Ross Building. Colours meshed with wood and wire to form pieces of art reminiscent of early gothic or was it byzantine lego. There was a Volkswagen bug on a hill and what seemed like a representation of a solar eclipse or at least an amusement park ride on the boulevard.

Now, they are gone and I miss them. I do not know why, but somehow being met by only grass and concrete as I ride in on the York University express bus leaves me feeling, well, rather empty.

Sure, I made fun of these "pieces of art" and often attempted to put them down or verbally assault their contribution to campus life. I realize now that I simply never understood. I was naive. They belong on campus as ants belong at a picnic.

This is another classic case of not knowing what you have until it is gone. I have learned my lesson. Never again will I belittle campus art. Never again will I chuckle under my breath as I gaze at metal and wood joined together in blissful harmony. I am truly sorry.

I believe I speak for all of the York University population who like me derived a perverse pleasure from the sculptures when I say: BRING BACK THE BUG!

Mark Eklove.

What? Me censor?

Dear Editor,
Objection to Mr. Andrew Clarke's recent article on the Samuel Beckett Theatre. As the Artistic Director it is my duty to uphold the reputation of Stong College. Our theatre season is designed to accommodate those students who are interested in seeing student plays on campus. There is a moral code of ethics in society which eliminates the unnecessary need of vulgarity, racism, and obscenity towards large groups of people. The University is composed of these people, and they outnumber those students who wish to see such controversial plays that Mr. Clarke seems to promote.

Furthermore, our contract does not say: Management serves the right to "censor" plays line by line. It says "Management serves the right to 'approve' all scripts and productions." It is my job to know what plays are going on in the theatre, and what they are about. The choice of the word "Censor" is a bit dramatic. Stong College has a responsibility towards the University, and that is what we are govern by, like it or not, there is no choice in the matter. The

clause in our new written contract is not a new policy. Last year we were under a verbal contract agreement that was breached by a number of directors (including Mr. Clarke). Therefore, we introduced the written contract to make my job easier, and give Directors a responsibility.

We are not a private theatre, we are a College theatre. We owe a responsibility towards our College, our audiences, and our University. Mr. Clarke misquoted and misinterpreted my statements. The audiences of York University will be the arbitrators of what is the Samuel Beckett Theatre. Last year we had a season of nine shows with full audiences, and this year we will have the same turn out with our seven play season. Bring along a copy of Penthouse and read it between acts—if that is what you want to see Mr. Clarke.

Megan Thompson



Student tells consequences of academic dishonesty

Two weeks ago a Faculty of Arts student was caught plagiarizing when he handed in a paper written by someone else. The professor assigned a penalty of failure in the course and placed a record of the offence in the student's file. Last week the student recorded his thoughts for Excalibur.

I took this course on the recommendation of a TA I know, who felt that I had potential in this field. Because of the kind of person I am and the kind of standards I've set for myself, I thought that the paper I originally wrote for this assignment was of very poor quality. I've never handed in a paper late or asked for an extension, and false pride prevented me from asking for one this time. I placed a tremendous amount of stress on myself and there were also some problems within my family. So I borrowed a paper from a friend. I can only attribute it to a moment of weakness.

My academic record has basically been straight A's, and this goes back to high school, to Grade 13, except for a C in Natural Science in first year. When I handed in a paper that wasn't mine, I knew it was wrong, I knew I shouldn't have done it, and I really wanted to ask for the paper back before it was graded. But I was scared. If I confessed, I wasn't sure what the professor's reaction would be. I imagined the worst, and that the professor would say right there: "That's it!" Obviously, in hindsight, I should have gone to the professor.

When the professor asked to see me, I knew right away that all my guilty feelings were coming to a climax. When I went to the office, before she accused me, I told her what I had done. I said, "I know why I'm here, and it wasn't my paper." It was the professor, the TA, and me. And although I had confessed and fully realized the gravity of what I had done, I sat in the office for a half hour, begging the professor not to excuse me, but maybe to pardon me, or give me a chance to show my ability as a good student.

I knew that I was in deep shit. I knew before I handed in the paper

that my conscience was tormenting me. I knew that I would never do it again. Obviously, I respect the professor's position; she doesn't know me, and I don't blame her for thinking the worst. My record speaks for itself, but it doesn't excuse me.

I was so shaky when I left her office that the first thing I did was go to the Dean's Office to see Dean Traves. Although he doesn't know me, I had received letters from him congratulating me on my record. But he wasn't there. I didn't know what to do. I saw one of my friends, and I had to tell him. I had to tell someone. I thought I was going to pass out.

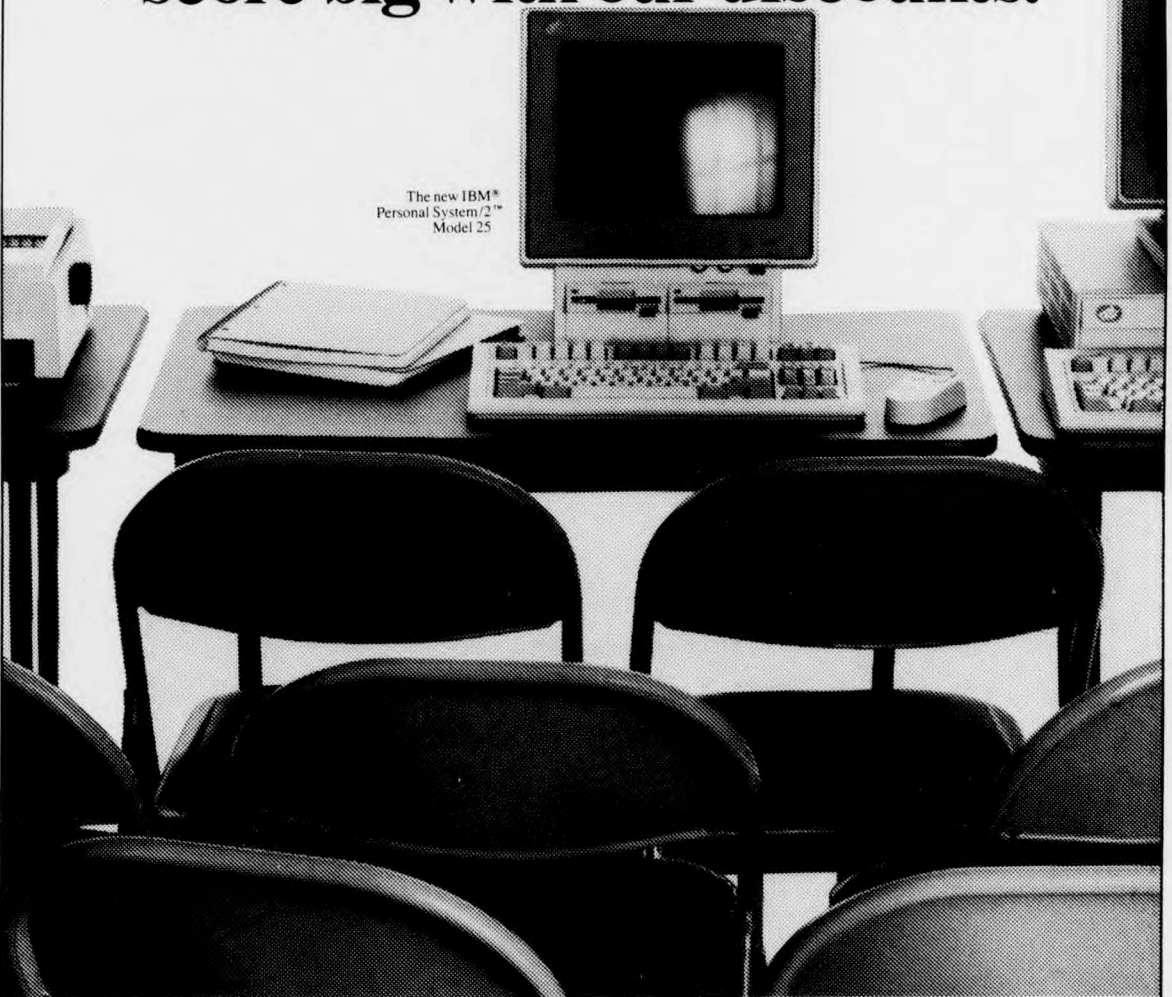
Then I went home and basically I sat at my desk. I called my brothers, my parents, my girl friend, to tell them what I had done. For a period of 10 or 12 hours I was sitting at my desk just think about the mistake I made and the consequences it's going to have for the rest of my life.

As far as my academic life is concerned, by aspirations for law school were ruined—I was admitted last year, but I decided to stay on and take more courses in Arts. I was completely upset with myself, disappointed with myself, pissed off with myself, and I pitied myself for what I had done. For a 10% paper I've jeopardized my life's ambitions. I'm going through a sense of hell that is a conscientious, good student's worst possible nightmare.

As far as the bigger picture goes, I've always been a confident guy who knows what he has to do—but not in the Machiavellian sense. Friends and family have said: "This guy's going somewhere; he's bright and ambitious." To say that my confidence has been shattered is an understatement—everything's been shattered. I'm having a hard time dealing with it now; that's why I've decided to get some professional help.

Before, I was enjoying my studies so much, I was think of staying in Arts. Even if I had decided against law school, I would have had the choice to go. But this mean's I'll never be able to go; it's deprive me of the choice.

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