

## LETTERS

cont'd from p.4

and using dental dams rather than condoms.

While the article explicitly acknowledges that "sexual assault is not ever the fault of the victim," some of the precautions suggested unintentionally replicate patriarchal edicts against women's independence.

The warning "Do not walk alone at night" fails to acknowledge that many women *must* walk alone at night on our way to or from work or school, and that some women are simply unwilling to have our basic right of mobility so drastically restricted. When we do walk alone at night, however, we can plan our routes to increase our safety, and develop an awareness of potential dangers, one of which may be the male acquaintance who offers to "escort" or "protect" us.

Similarly, the suggestion "Do not go out alone with strangers" places unreasonable restrictions on women's social activities and reinforces the myth of rape as a crime committed predominantly by strangers. Women can, however, increase our safety by having control over our own transportation whenever we go out with others.

Lastly, I'd like to elaborate on some of the information Ms. Pennypacker provided in her article. The article states that the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre provides "counselling services to women and men." While men who have been sexually assaulted or abused are welcome to make use of the Crisis Line (597-8808), the T.R.C.C.'s primary focus is women, and so it does not have the resources to provide face-to-face counselling for men.

However, men who do wish face-to-face counselling can find support through groups such as Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse, operating out of the 519 Church Community Centre (392-6880).

Again, I wish to commend Ms. Pennypacker for discussing these important issues, and I encourage her to keep writing.

In Sisterhood,  
Jan Darby

Volunteer Counsellor, T.R.C.C.

## Salman responds

To the editor,

Re: "Five rules of sarcasm for Nensi" (Mar. 4)

Mr. Kelso, what are you . . . nuts? Where do you get off writing stuff like this? Me "STOP! THINK!?" What a HORRIFIC suggestion! Get a life, dude!

It does my heart a world of good to know that you think I have what it takes to write for that bastion of journalistic integrity the *Toronto Sun*. Wow, me? A gossip columnist! Neato nifty!

As for your rules . . . I don't ask too many questions in my articles and opinion pieces! Or do I?

In your letter, you call me smarmy. What the hell does smarmy mean? You must realize I'm just a writer . . . and even I have no idea what that means! What are you trying to prove by using words I don't know?

Fundamentally, you are saying, that is if I understand the fundamental basis of your argument, that I am using fundamental phrases in a fundamentally incorrect manner. If that is truly your fundamental belief then I fundamentally feel that it is your fundamental duty to act on your fundamental belief, thereby creating a fundamental action, which you have done. I am, at a fundamental level, grateful.

IN ORDER NOT TO CAPITALIZE important WORDS, I WOULD HAVE TO WRITE FOR THE AUDIENCE YOU SUGGEST: STUDENTS WITH NO MONEY,

NO FOOD, NO DECENT CLOTHES. I'M WRITING FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO NEED TO HAVE THE POINT MADE quickly AND bluntly. I AM BASICALLY A SIMPLE PERSON.

Regarding point five, what questions? What are you talking about? Would you like me to question your obsession with questions? Did you have a traumatic experience with a question mark when you were but a wee lad?

You are an opinionated, sarcastic, patronizingly-judgemental, condescendingly-caustic individual who sounds like someone with an open mind about all subjects. REMEMBER, if one opens one's mind to far . . . one's brain tends to fall out!

But, besides all of that, your piece was written with a charmingly stylish and razor sharp wit that would have cut a truly mortal man to shreds. I'd wager you meant to offend and not to complement, but to have the chair of the Creative Arts Board give me a piece of his mind, when he can ill afford to be giving any of it away, has made me happier than if the administration gave me a nickel for every socialist at York!

Your comrade in words,  
Salman A. Nensi

## Address "real student issues" quartet of concerned writers plead for York

To the editor,

After the commencement of this year's YFS election campaign, many students are more concerned about the threats to responsible government at York.

A government is elected to be responsible to the specific interests of the people it serves. We are told that students need a strong student union in order to achieve success on issues. What issues? Issues important to all students, or issues important to some students?

There appears to be a trend emerging wherein the vocal minority at York is gaining power and using it to further mobilize its supporters.

On the other hand, the silent majority at York has few mobilizers, few leaders. Here are some issues that should be addressed for the silent majority:

1) Increase funding for student athletics — Varsity athletics are the lifeblood of a university. The Ameri-

can universities have known this for a long time. That is why the U.S. has huge University football stadiums.

2) Increase awareness about the facilities available to students. One student recently said that he was in his fourth year before he realized that the ice rink was open for free skating — and he loves to skate!

3) Increase funding available for student clubs — these clubs should speak on issues like the Gulf War and abortion — not YFS. A diverse set of views should be encouraged among students. The current YFS stand just fosters bitterness, intolerance and creates dissension, not involvement among students. Let the clubs lobby on these issues, not YFS.

4) Make York competitive as a place to learn and grow. This is not the 60s. Certainly we need social change, but students are people too, we have our individual views, and we seek to grow by exchanging these views — not by accosting each other with them. While other student bodies

grow in diversity, we stagnate in enforced homogeneity. Let's change that.

5) Increase pride in York. The prime job of a "student union" should be to increase the happiness of students in their student life. This can be done through numerous little things; i.e., forcing administration to improve the quality of service to students and taking initiatives to make York a cleaner, safer place.

We are disturbed that some candidates are continuing to support the destructive stance of YFS. We hope that the silent majority will GET OFF THEIR BUTTS and act in their own interests by voting against these candidates.

We need a new, mature and responsible agenda from YFS. We do not need a stale, gradiose, and irresponsible attempt to subvert REAL student interests.

Doug Clark  
Greg Maio  
Chung Ko  
Hanish Malavia

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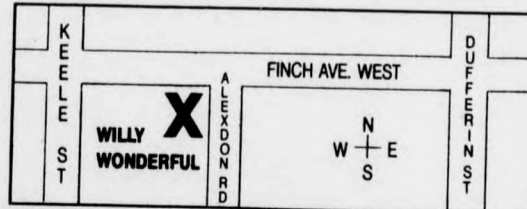
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