

letters

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Rough night

Editor:
I am responding to Craig Hildebrand who, in the March 8 *Excalibur*, responded to my letter of the week before.

Mr. Hildebrand seems to be mistaken about the night's events. He also seems to have missed the point. He neglects to mention that all the witnesses were Cock & Bull staff, that there were only 10 minutes left in the dance to which "some 200 people had paid admission" (certainly not for 10 minutes entertainment), and that it was my friend who called the police.

I indeed bit a man, but this was while trapped and manhandled in a tangle of bouncers after being punched three times in the head for trying to lift one of the five men off my friend who lay on the floor under this heap.

I indeed claim Hildebrand and his crew are roughnecks. No one could be hurt by my friend drinking a beer which I, unaware of his grace period, purchased for him after being admitted unhampered only minutes before. Ten minutes is not worth a fight. Hildebrand missed the point. If he feels he and his cronies are properly and justly doing their job he will not feel threatened by my suggestion that pub patrons keep an eye on their employees—he will welcome it.

—Rob Edelman

Stale gas

Editor:
Please find attached a copy of my letter to the President of York University, Dr. Ian Macdonald.

Dear Sir:
It is encouraging to hear that York university is treating the "C.S. gas incident" that occurred February 23 as a "serious matter." The official statement is that "steps are being taken to monitor this situation to protect the health and well-being of members of the York University community." What I would like to know is: what "steps" are being taken and where does the "seriousness" of this matter lie?

Not only does this incident reflect the idiocy of the culprit(s) but also the vulnerability of students and teachers in classrooms, particularly on the first floor of the Ross building.

So, not only did we have one or more idiot(s) running around throwing gas bombs on a beautiful day like February 23, 1984, but we also have

a serious structural problem. Simply put, there are no emergency exits in any of these classrooms. Is this York administration taking steps to correct this serious and potentially disastrous structural flaw?

From the several responses that are floating around York University, this does not appear to be the issue.

1) Official York Statement: "Steps are being taken to monitor this situation . . ." What does this "monitoring" mean?

2) University provost's response: the "real question" for him is the *credibility* of a letter delivered to *Excalibur* justifying the incident (*Excalibur*, March 1, p. 3).

3) One professor's response: he immediately demanded and received a change of classrooms. I trust that this is not representative of the faculty's response. Would "get me out of here" be the only response that York's faculty recommend in the face of this potentially dangerous situation?

4) Entrepreneurial response: someone (from York?) has decided to cash in on this incident by printing T-shirts for those who survived the "gas attack."

5) The CBC response: York University was likened to a "war zone." We can understand this characterization, given their interest in sensationalism.

6) *Excalibur's* response: they very successfully described and presented the facts of the incident. Somehow, their sense of journalism and editorship dictates the exclusion of raising and addressing the one basic fact that needs to be asked.

What would it take for this York administration to realize that the construction of emergency exits is one of the many "real questions" and "serious matters" to be dealt with immediately? Understandably, one element that neither you nor anybody in this university can control is the unpredictable and sometimes idiotic human behavior that we have witnessed. But what is in your power:

- a) to ensure the construction of emergency exits in these classrooms;
- b) to install a PA system to direct "traffic" in case of panic;
- c) to ensure that members of this university know where the various exits are located.

Failing to do any of the above, may I recommend that you place a huge sign at the entrance of this University saying ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK.

—Stan Amaladas
Dept. of Sociology

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